

PARISH OF ST MARY IMMACULATE & THE HOLY ARCHANGELS
KELVEDON ST. BERNARD COGGESHALL ST JOHN HOUGHTON TIPTREE
(Twinned with St Joseph's Mission, Besters, KwaZulu-Natal)

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

12th March 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

His face shone like the sun.

First Reading	Gn 12:1-4
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 32:4-5.18-20.22
Second Reading	2 Tm 1:8-10
Gospel	Mt 17:1-9



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT: During cycle A of the readings (St Matthew's Gospel) the Lent Sundays focus in a special way on those preparing for Baptism at Easter and on certain Sundays there are special prayers and blessings that may be used for them. Today's first reading sets before us Abraham's journey –setting out into the unknown on the basis of a promise from God. The Gospel is the story of the Transfiguration – enlightenment as to who Jesus really is. In his Lenten message for 2011 Pope Benedict said, "The Gospel of the Transfiguration of the Lord puts before our eyes the glory of Christ, which anticipates the resurrection and announces the divinization of man. The Christian community becomes aware that Jesus leads it, like the Apostles Peter, James and John 'up a high mountain by themselves' (Matthew 17:1), to receive once again in Christ, as sons and daughters in the Son, the gift of the Grace of God: 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' It is the invitation to take a distance from the noisiness of everyday life in order to immerse oneself in God's presence. He desires to hand down to us, each day, a Word that penetrates the depths of our spirit, where we discern good from evil (cf. Hebrews 4:12), reinforcing our will to follow the Lord."

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Michelle Bryant, Samantha Upton, Margaret Britain, Paul Britain, Vanessa Dann, Angelina Barber, June Jezierski, Mrs Van Stolk Senior, Denis Wood, Hayley Hetzel, Julie Trueman, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Hopwood* & any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember *Lee Saunders, James Dey, Timothy Short, William McDivit, Eric Wilding, Evelyn Moore, Mary Crozier, Patricia Fredericks, Mary Enkel* and *Violet Gillen* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES:

- Stations of the Cross: unless otherwise stated - Tiptree Sundays 5.15 p.m.
- Lenten Course: St Peter's, Coggeshall, Wednesdays 8th - 29th March 11.00-12.00 noon. This year we will be reflecting on a selection of poetry made by Jane Morley in 'The Heart's Time'. Participants will need a copy of the book. Several copies will be available on loan or they can be obtained via Amazon for about £7.
- Bible Study on St Paul's Letter to the Colossians: Tiptree URC Tuesdays 8.00 p.m.; St Luke's Thursdays 11.00 a.m.
- Ecumenical Lent Course: Kelvedon. There will be sessions on Tuesday mornings at the URC 10.30 a.m. and again on Wednesday evenings at St Mary Immaculate at 8.00 p.m. This year we will be reflecting on monologues from various people on the fringes of the Passion, e.g. the soldier who fashioned the cross, or Judas, taken from a DVD of the BBC series '*Tales from the Madhouse*' broadcast a few years ago.
- Individual aids to daily prayer and reflection: 'My Day by Day' (adults £1.00; children's £0.55); 'Bible Alive' (£2.50).