

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

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

15th December 2013



### ***THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

*Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*

First Reading: Is 35:1-6.10

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10

Second Reading: Jm 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** The Scriptures liken the coming of the Messiah to the rising of the sun and just as this is foreshadowed by the lightening of the sky and fingers of pink from the sun still below the horizon so today the Church lightens her penitential purple vestments into a lighter shade of rose. The entrance antiphon and first reading speak of the joy that cannot be contained at the dawning of salvation. The new age has already dawned with the birth of Christ two thousand years ago. Our Lord points to evidence that the hopes and expectations are already being fulfilled in his healing of the sick. Great though he is John the Baptist belongs to the end of the previous era – the curtain raiser or forerunner. We celebrate Christmas because we recognise the truth that we are part of this new age and to reaffirm our faith and hope until he comes in glory.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember **Anthony Said, Agnes Bamford, Margaret Moffat, Cyril Payne, Agnes Morden, Alice Lewry, Jo Swaffield** and **Nuala Peddell** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

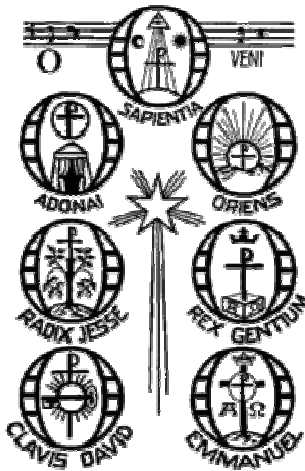
**PRAYER NEEDS:** Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **Julie Hillyard, Kay Smith, Halina Pieckielon, Helen Felgate, Isobel Kersey, Julie Trueman, Audrey Thurlow, Hayley Hetzel, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Hani Kyan, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Eddie Price, Anne Entwistle, Paul Britain, Audrey Hopwood** and any unknown to us.

**ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION:** On **Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.** we welcome **Fr Tom Lavin** from Lexden who will help with confessions at our Advent Service of Reconciliation. Many people like the opportunity to confess to a visiting priest so do take this opportunity. If you are not free on Wednesday you might like to go the Service at **Witham on Tuesday 17th at 7.30 p.m.**

**ATTENTION CHILDREN: CHRISTMAS POEM COMPETITION:** To celebrate the birthday of Jesus on December 24th, we are **inviting all the children** in the parish to write a short poem (12-20 verses) to baby Jesus in the manger. What baby Jesus means to you? What would you like to tell him on his birthday on behalf of all the children in the parish? A poem will be selected by a panel to be read on the Children's Mass on December 24th by the author, or by somebody else if so he/she wishes. All poems must be delivered by hand to Fr Gordon or by email to [mahart66@hotmail.com](mailto:mahart66@hotmail.com) by **Wednesday December 18th**. A certificate and small gift would be given to the winner. Please, help us to make Jesus' birthday celebrations special!

**VACANCY:** Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School is seeking to appoint a class teacher willing to teach either Key Stage 1 or 2. The post would suit an experienced teacher or a newly qualified teacher willing to support the strong Catholic ethos of our school. Visits to the school are welcomed. Contact Mr. Parascandolo (Headteacher) on 01268 785741 or for an application form see school website [www.olorcps.net](http://www.olorcps.net) Closing date: Monday 6th January 2014 (12 noon). Interviews: week commencing 13th January 2014.

**THE 'O' ANTIPHONS:** The *O Antiphons* developed during the Church's very first centuries. The writer Boethius (+525) mentions them. By the 8th century they were in use in Rome. There are seven of these special antiphons, and their texts spring from the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures, the Prophetic and Wisdom Books. They are found in the Liturgy of the Hours or older Roman Breviary, which clerics, religious, consecrated virgins, and others use for daily prayer.



The *O Antiphons* are short prayers sung before and after the *Magnificat*, the great prayer of Mary in Luke 1:46-55 when coming visit to Elizabeth her cousin the Virgin praised God for His favor wondrous deeds. The *Magnificat* is sung during Vespers, evening prayer. The *O Antiphons* begin on 17 December, seven days before the Vigil of Christmas (24 December). The seventh and last antiphon is sung at Vespers on 23 December. They are called the "O Antiphons" because they all begin with the letter-word

"O": they address Jesus by one of His Old Testament titles. They are fervent prayers asking Our Lord to come to us. The carol "**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**" is simply a reworking of the seven *O Antiphons*. When you sing it, you are joining yourself to a vast throng of Christians stretching back across centuries and spanning the whole of the earth who prayed as all Christians do, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20). The Latin versions of each of the titles of the Messiah are: *Sapientia* (Wisdom), *Adonai* (Lord), *Radix* (Root), *Clavis* (Key), *Oriens* (Dawn), *Rex* (King), and *Emmanuel* (Emmanuel). **Take the first letters of each of the titles**, starting with the last and working back to the first. You spell: *EROCRAS* or "*ero cras... I will be (there) tomorrow*". *Fr John Zuhlsdorf.*

**FINANCE:** Offertory collections for **Sunday 8th December - £505.74.**

**ST BENEDICT'S COLLEGE OFSTED PRESS RELEASE:** St Benedict's Catholic College was delighted with the outcome of its recent OFSTED inspection, carried out at the end of November. The college was judged to be good in all areas, with provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development being outstanding. GCSE results are significantly above the national average and progress and attainment in the important subjects of English & mathematics are also significantly above average. The report notes a relentless drive to ensure that students of all abilities and backgrounds achieve equally. Inspectors were particularly impressed at the consistently positive relationships within the college and how proud students are to belong. 'Above all,' the report states, '*the very high level of professionalism of staff provides a constant reminder of how people should relate to one another.*' As one student commented to the team, '*We are united in this school*'. The consultation with parents found that virtually all would recommend St Benedict's to other parents. The report highlights many other great strengths of the college and in her letter to parents the principal, Mrs Jo Santinelli, thanked them for their continued support. She commented '*it is wonderful to be part of a community in which parents, students, staff and governors work together for the benefit of all our young people*'.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:  
Psalms for Morning Prayer: Week 3**

<b>SUNDAY</b> 15th December 3rd of Advent 'Gaudete'	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Peter Hall RIP All Parishioners Private Intention
<b>MONDAY</b> 16th December	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Church in Czech Republic
<b>TUESDAY</b> 17th December	Kelvedon Tiptree Kelvedon	8.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 7.30-8.30 p.m	Private Intention <i>Rosary &amp; Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 18th December	Kelvedon Kelvedon	9.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Private Intention <i>Reconciliation Service</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 19th December	Kelvedon Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Private Intention <i>Prayer Group will resume again in January</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b> 20th December	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Private Intention
<b>SATURDAY</b> 21st December	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Private Intention
<b>SUNDAY</b> 22nd December 4th of Advent	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Mary McGonagall (anniversary) All Parishioners Antonia Royo (anniversary)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.  
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction**

<b>Liturgical Rotas 22nd December</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Ministers of Welcome</b>
<b>COGGESHALL</b>	Lanette Bridgman Neville Bridgman	Neville Bridgman	Clare Gallant
<b>KELVEDON</b>	Helena McNally Steve Smith	Giulia Horrocks	Marie Sullivan
<b>TIPTREE</b>	Sue Petchey	Sue Petchey	Jude Cody