

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

18th December 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed
to Joseph, son of David.*

First Reading Is 7:1-10-14

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23: 1-6

Second Reading Rm 1:1-7

Gospel Mt 1:18-24



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ‘God is with us’. This is the meaning of the name given to the one who is to come by the Prophet Isaiah. In the Gospel St Matthew tells us that this is fulfilled in the child Mary is expecting. Yet the angel tells Joseph that his name is to be ‘Jesus’, which means ‘God saves’. This is not a contradiction. In Hebrew culture names are not just labels but have a meaning. The name ‘Jesus’ tells us of God’s purpose. He is coming into the world not just to spend time with us but to transform us bring the healing and spiritual wholeness – reconciliation and union with God – that we call salvation. The name ‘Emmanuel’ tells us how he will accomplish this. God does not simply issue a decree forgiving us, or heal us by an external act, as it were, a hand reaching down from heaven to pluck us out of the mire. Instead he becomes one of us, sharing our human nature to the full, except for sin, even to accepting death on the cross. This is the meaning of the word ‘Incarnation’. He shares our fleshly mortal nature so that through union with him we might share his divine and immortal nature. This is spelled out in the Collect or opening prayer at the Day Mass of Christmas:

“O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature
and still more wonderfully restored it,
grant, we pray,
that we may share in the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.”

A shortened version of this prayer is said quietly by the priest at every Mass when he adds a drop of water – symbolising our humanity – to the wine in the chalice – symbolising the divinity of Christ.

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **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 **William Neary, Margaret Moffat, Cyril Payne, Agnes Morden, Alice Lewry, Johanna Swaffield, Nuala Peddell, Joan Shepherd, Mark Ryan, Anthony Fraley** and **Robert Pinder** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

WE REGRET: To announce the death of **Mrs Lilian Vera Taylor** of Oak Road, Tiptree. Her Requiem Mass will take place at Tiptree on Thursday 29th December at 11.00 a.m. followed by burial at Messing.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Please see back page for full details. Confessions will be heard on Christmas Eve in Kelvedon 9.30-10.00 a.m., in Coggeshall 10.30-11.00 a.m. and in Tiptree 11.30-12.00 noon.

GK CHESTERON SOCIETY: Watch The Surprise, a wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton. Friday 23rd December 9.00-11.00 p.m. online www.ewtn.co.uk or on sky 589.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: We have begun the preparations for this year's Christmas children's Mass and as usual, we are calling upon all children that would like to take part to come forward and let us know they are available and willing to help. Ministries available are: lectors, welcome, choir, offertory, collection and laying baby Jesus in the manger. For more information please contact Angie Hart after Sunday Mass or email her on: mahart66@outlook.com as soon as possible. Thank you!

LIVE NATIVITY: This lovely occasion was attended by 100+ from the parish and beyond – lots of photos on our Facebook page. We owe a big thank you to **Michael Staines** and his family who put so much hard work into organising and ensuring it could go ahead as planned despite an electrical fire that meant they have been living in a hotel for the past month. Our thanks also go to our children, the narrator and musicians, those who provided the animals, St Mary's School, Kelvedon, for the loan of the chairs and those who helped with the general organisation and catering. A special thank you to Agness O'Brien who is stepping aside from her role in leading our parish social group.

PARISH CRIB SCENES: Bishop Alan writes: "In each of our parish churches at Christmas, a crib scene depicting the Nativity helps us to focus on the Incarnation of Christ and His love for the whole of humanity. Traditionally, a collection in aid of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has been associated with these crib scenes and I would very much like to encourage this tradition and to retain these crib scenes until the Presentation on 2nd February each year."

CAFOD YEMEN EMERGENCY CRISIS APPEAL: Advent is a time of prayer and reflection as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. I especially ask over the coming weeks that you remember the people of Yemen. **CAFOD** is a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) – a coalition of leading aid agencies which has launched an appeal to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The civil war between the Houthi ethnic group and supporters of Yemen's government is now into its second year. The UN estimates that the conflict has killed more than 10,000 people, with 6,000 people killed this year alone. The resulting humanitarian crisis is significant. More than 7 million in Yemen do not know where their next meal will come from. CAFOD's partner in Yemen is providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water, medical care and shelter. You can find updates on the situation and **how we are responding to this crisis**. If anyone would like to support this appeal, they can **donate online** or send in donations to **CAFOD**, which will be used towards responding to this crisis.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA: Sunday 28th May - Saturday 3rd June 2017 led by Fr Francis Coveney: £829 per person – based on a group of 40 pilgrims. 4 nights half board + 2 nights full board. Full services of a Tangney Tours courier. Further details including booking form can be obtained from the back of the Church or from Tangney Tours. Please send completed booking forms to Gill Didino, Tangney Tours, Pilgrim House, Station Court, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 8AF. Telephone 01732 88 66 66.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:
Morning & Evening Prayer: Week 4**

SUNDAY 18th December <i>4th of Advent</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Coggeshall Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 1.00 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Frieda Smith RIP All Parishioners <i>Baptism: Francis Kemp</i> Sidney Doyle RIP
MONDAY 19th December	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Edmund Ward & Family
TUESDAY 20th December	Kelvedon Tiptree	8.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Private Intention <i>Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration</i>
WEDNESDAY 21st December	Kelvedon	7.30 p.m.	Eugene William Read RIP
THURSDAY 22nd December	Kelvedon	10.00 a.m.	Private Intention
FRIDAY 23rd December	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Special Intention (Marie Sullivan)
SATURDAY 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Kelvedon Coggeshall Tiptree Kelvedon Tollesbury (St Mary's) Kelvedon	9.30-10.00 a.m. 10.30-11.00 a.m. 11.30-12.00 noon 6.30 p.m. 9.00 p.m. 12.00 midnight	<i>Confessions</i> <i>Confessions</i> <i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass for Families: All Parishioners Mass of Midnight: Adrian Scott (ann) Midnight Mass - carols from 11.30 p.m. Private Intention
SUNDAY 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	Coggeshall Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	All Parishioners Winnie Mitchell Lynn RIP

Sacrament of Reconciliation: this Saturday as above

Liturgical Rotas 25th December	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Jane Crone Sean O'Leary	Neville Bridgman	Maria O'Leary
TIPTREE	Celia Butt	Eileen Roberts	Mary Branney