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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

18th March 2012

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### ***FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT***

*God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.*

First Reading: 2 Ch 36:14-16.19-23

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136:1-6

Second Reading: Eph 2:4-10

Gospel: Jn 3:14-21



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT:** Today is also called 'Laetare' Sunday from the opening words of the Entrance Antiphon. This dates back to the selection of readings in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Missal where St Paul compares Abraham's child by Hagar and by Sarah with the earthly and heavenly Jerusalem. We are children of God by adoption, chosen heirs to the heavenly Kingdom. We become citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem by grace – that is God's grace or free gift. It is a grace won for us by Christ's self-offering on the Cross. This theme is tailored to the 'second scrutinies' that take place today where there are adult candidates for baptism at Easter - a formal examination and series of blessings. They are appropriate today too for the baptism of Gosia Antczak's new baby during our 11.00 a.m. Mass.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember **Francesca Ciarvella, Teresa Taylor, Larry Kelly, Martin Dann, John Oliver** and **Catherine Upson** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**PRAYER NEEDS:** Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **Hayley Hetzel, Bill Sullivan, Trisha Parkin, Deborah Lee, Hilda Hawes, Pam Lowth, Hanni Kyan, Sheila Faulkner, Karen Kelly, Sarah Costello, Donovan Buahin, Mike Gibson, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Eddie Price, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Holder, Paul Brittain, Audrey Hopwood** and any unknown to us.

**FR CLIFFORD BEECROFT: Memorial Mass.** Since Fr Beecroft's funeral took place in Berkshire the Bishop has organised a Memorial Mass to take place at St Mary Immaculate & the Holy Archangels, **Kelvedon this Friday at 7.30 p.m.** to enable former parishioners here, and in other parishes where he served, and also the clergy of the Diocese who remember him to gather in prayer for him. Since he took early retirement from ministry in the Diocese in 1977 the numbers are likely to be small so I would encourage other parishioners to come and remember him in prayer perhaps as a 'Lenten extra.' Fr Beecroft commissioned the carving of the statue of St Bernard at Coggeshall, personally laid the linoleum flooring in Kelvedon, and more importantly secure the site for our church at Tiptree, so to some extent we all benefit from his legacy. The Diocesan Archivist would welcome a photo of Fr Beecroft, so if anyone has a photo of or with him (e.g. wedding album), please let me know so I can scan it and send him a copy.

**REDECORATION OF SANCTURY AT KELVEDON:** This started on Tuesday and since the painter is not available on Monday may continue into Wednesday. For this reason it seems best to allow Thursday for straightening out the Church and so Mass & Exposition will be in the Presbytery front room until Friday. Please note that there will be no Mass on Tuesday as I am at a conference outside Manchester Monday-Wednesday. There will also be no Mass or Stations on Thursday as I am giving a talk on the 'Seven Last Words of Christ' at Our Lady Immaculate, Chelmsford at 8.00 p.m.

**PRAYER GROUP:** The Prayer Group will meet for the last time before Easter on the **29th March**. After Easter it will be replaced by the '**Saints Course**' for 6 weeks starting on the **19th April**.

**CONSULTATION ON MARRIAGE:** At Masses last weekend, we received a Letter from Archbishops Vincent Nichols and Peter Smith on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It is a statement of our Catholic faith about marriage and issued in the light of the forthcoming consultation by the Government on changing the legal definition of marriage. In the light of this letter, you are asked to consider signing the Coalition for Marriage's online petition which can be found at [www.C4M.org.uk](http://www.C4M.org.uk). It reads: **"I support the legal definition of marriage which is the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. I oppose any attempt to redefine it."** The Archbishops also say that after Easter there will be a more detailed leaflet on the Government's consultation itself, for distribution in parishes, to assist Catholics in making their own response to the consultation. Visit the diocesan website: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net) if you would like to access the website for news and information. The Letter on Marriage is currently available on the website to read or click on a link to listen to Archbishop Nichols reading it.

**LENTEN STUDY GROUPS: Coggeshall:** Monday evenings at 7.45 p.m. starting Monday 27th February. This year there will be a series of presentations on the mission of the Christian Church in different parts of the world. The topic this week will be: Monday 19th March – ISRAEL + PALESTINE Speaker: Revd Mones Farah. These will take place at Christchurch. **Tiptree:** There will be Bible study looking at some of the events leading up to the Passion; this will take place at the URC on Tuesday evenings at 8.00 p.m. repeated at St Luke's on Thursday mornings at 11.00 a.m. This week we shall look at the Pharisees (Matthew 22:34-46) under the guidance of John Leaworthy. **Kelvedon:** Tuesday evenings 7.30 p.m. at the URC. The format will be a 'York Course' with a study booklet. The theme this week will be 'Competing Creeds?' Do consider taking part in one of these study courses along with our friends from the other Churches as part of your Lenten spiritual growth. **LENT LUNCHESES:** Continue at Christchurch, Coggeshall, Thursdays from 12.00 noon. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

**SEDER SUPPER:** Every Lent in Coggeshall we join with other Christians to prepare for Holy Week by joining in a Seder Supper or Passover meal. This year it will be hosted by St Peter's and take place on Thursday 29th March at 7.30 p.m. If you would like to take part please sign up on the list at the back of St Bernard's for catering purposes.

**EUTHANASIA/ASSISTED SUICIDE:** Lord David Alton has drawn our attention to the Motion being put forward by Richard Ottaway, Conservative MP for Croydon South, a hard line advocate of abortion, population control and assisted dying, advising that he has been given time for a House of Commons debate on assisted suicide. Although the date has not yet been fixed, it is anticipated that the debate will occur in March (possibly 27th). The Motion will be seconded by the Labour MP, David Winnick whose views are the same as Mr.Ottaway's. Visit [davidalton.net/2012/02/03/baby-steps-towards-euthanasia-why-the-council-of-europe-is-right/](http://davidalton.net/2012/02/03/baby-steps-towards-euthanasia-why-the-council-of-europe-is-right/) which sets out the reasons why we should register our opposition to this Motion and encourages us to contact our MP's asking them not to vote for Mr Ottaway's Motion.

**LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION:** Our Service of Reconciliation for Lent will take place on **Wednesday 28th March at 7.30 p.m.** Fr David Prior from Witham will be helping with Confessions. If you are not able to make this there will be Services of reconciliation at **Lexden on Friday 30th at 8.00 p.m.** and **Monday 2nd April at Witham at 7.30 p.m.**

**GODSPELL:** St Benedict's College Creative and Performing Arts Department present 'Godspell' on Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Manning Hall. To book tickets (£4 adults, £3 children/students) call 01206 594222.

**LENTEN REFLECTION:** A chance to see the multiple award-winning French film '*Of Gods and Men*' which centres on eight French Cistercian monks in Algeria who must decide whether to stay at their Monastery following a deadly attack by an Islamic fundamentalist group at the Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford on Sunday 25th March, 7.00 p.m. Followed by refreshments and discussion. If you are unable to attend then there will be an opportunity on the **27th March** with a repeat on **28th March**, starting at 7.15 p.m. at the Community Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, 74 Howe Close, Colchester CO4 3XD. All welcome on either day. For more information call 01245 604108.

**MINISTRY OF WELCOME:** The **Ministry of Welcome** plays a key role in our parish life in welcoming visitors and our regulars as they enter our churches each Sunday to join us for the celebration of Mass. Due to some ministers retiring in Kelvedon and Tiptree shortly, we are looking for new replacements (minimum age 16). The Welcomers would only need to fulfil their duty approximately one Sunday in every four. If interested please contact Fr Gordon or Michael Wigley.

**THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER BILLERICAY:** Warmly invite you to join the **9.00 Choir** from The Most Holy Redeemer, Billericay and **Champagne Flutes** for a feast of seasonal music. The Programme will include music by Palestrina, Mozart, Tavener and Saint-Saens. The Lenten Recital will take place on **Sunday March 25th at 7.00 pm** in the Church with refreshments afterwards. Admission is free with donations going to local Charities.

**FINANCE:** The Offertory collection for **Sunday 11th March - £675.35.**

**50TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS: THEME 'The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another.'** In preparation for the Congress, a meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th March, 7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. in the Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood for those who are attending this International event in Dublin. The meeting will be an opportunity to come together to share our hopes and expectations of the Congress and to begin our spiritual preparation as a Diocese for this important occasion in the life of the Church. For further information, please contact Sr Nuala on 01277 265219 or email [srnuala@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:srnuala@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING:** At SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, will take place this month on **Sunday, 25th March 7.30 to 9.00. Adoration 7.00 - 7.30 p.m.**

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Psalms for Morning Prayer: Week 4**

<b>SUNDAY</b> 18th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>'Laetare' or</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 5.15 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	All Parishioners <i>Baptism: Michael Dominik Antczak</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Desmond Kewell (anniversary)
<b>MONDAY</b> 19th March	Kelvedon* Kelvedon*	9.00 a.m. 7.30-8.30 p.m.	James Sheldrake RIP <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b> 20th March <i>St Joseph</i>	Kelvedon Tiptree	NO MASS 11.00 a.m.	<i>Rosary &amp; Eucharistic Adoration</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 21st March	Kelvedon Kelvedon*	7.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	<i>Stations of the Cross</i> Fr Clifford Beecroft RIP
<b>THURSDAY</b> 22nd March	Kelvedon* Kelvedon	10.00 a.m. 8.00-9.00 p.m.	Private Intention <i>Parish Prayer Group</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b> 23rd March	Kelvedon Kelvedon Kelvedon	9.00 a.m. 5.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Private Intention <i>Stations of the Cross for Children</i> <i>Memorial Mass for Fr Beecroft</i> <i>with the Bishop as principal</i> <i>celebrant</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b> 24th March	Kelvedon Kelvedon	10.00 a.m. 2.00 p.m.	Private Intention <i>Baptism: Lily Ellen Mallows</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 25th March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 5.15 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	All Parishioners Violet Gillen (anniversary) <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Fr Clifford Beecroft RIP

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

\*Due to redecoration of the sanctuary area Mass & Exposition will take place in the front room of the Presbytery on these days.

Liturgical Rotas 25th March	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Ann Ross Derek Hand	Michael Wigley	Edwina Abram
KELVEDON	Pat Richardson Jadwiga Smith	Peter Morgan	Elizabeth Maxted
TIPTREE	Sheila Barralet Isobel Kersey	Michael Wigley	Mary Branney