

**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

19th February 2017

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

Love your enemies.

First Reading	Lv 19:1-2.17-18
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 102:1-4.8.10.12-13
Second Reading	1 Cor 3:16-23
Gospel	Mt 5:38-48



SEVENTH SUNDAY: Chapter 19 of Leviticus, from which our first reading is taken, is called the 'Holiness Code' – we are called to be holy as God is holy. Our Lord's words in the Gospel seem even more demanding. We are to be perfect – not just holy. He goes beyond not hating or bearing a grudge to loving our enemy. How can we fulfil this command? "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect". The word 'perfect' ('teleios' in Greek) means made in such a way as to fulfil its purpose ('telos'). A chisel and screwdriver look alike in some ways but have different purposes. One is strong and designed to cut away material with heavy blows. The other is designed with a finer blade and to withstand being twisted. They are not interchangeable. Each of us has a unique part to play in God's plan with our own gifts and talents. Being perfect does not mean being like someone else although we can draw inspiration from others. It requires us to discover God's purpose for us – he has already given us the natural potential and supernatural graces we need to fulfil that purpose. If we are not perfect it is because we are applying our energies in the wrong direction. Holiness for us comes from the harmony with God that seeking his will brings and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. Seeking his will through prayer is all the more important when we feel hatred or vengefulness in our hearts.

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 *Anna Murphy, Ron Everitt, John Bell, Isabel Chittock, Adrzej Matrejek, Kathleen Boyton, David Fox, Anne Stokes, Doris Samuels, Margaret Sawyer, Frances Taylor* and *Martha Fairweather* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASS VARIATIONS: Due to a meeting in Leeds Mass on Wednesday will be at 8.00 a.m. and no morning Mass on Thursday. On Saturday all the clergy of the Diocese with the Stewards of the Gospel from each parish are to meet the Bishop at Brentwood so there will be no morning Mass or confessions this Saturday.

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE: The death of Mr Richard Picket (Jean Wardrop's father). His Requiem Mass will take place at kelvedon 1.30 p.m. on Monday 27th February followed by burial in Bristol.

CRONE FAMILY: Jane and Desmond are moving to Clare this week but hope to be with us from time to time. We owe them many thanks for the various roles they have fulfilled in our parish over the past seventeen years and wish them well in their new home. This does leave a gap in our ecumenical relationships in Coggeshall where Jane has been our chief representative. We need one or preferably more people to help out. **Please see the flyer outlining the areas Jane has identified.**