

**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 March 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

A spring of water welling up to eternal life.

First Reading	Ex 17:3-7
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 94:1-2.6-9
Second Reading	Rm 5:1-2.5-8
Gospel	Jn 4:5-42



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT: Today's readings focus on the life-giving nature of water. First God gives the Israelites in the desert a spring to drink from. Then Jesus offers the Samaritan woman by the well a spring of living water – the gift of the Holy Spirit. In a hot climate water is always welcome but often involves hard work to raise it from a well or to transport in jars. How much more welcome is the clear cold water from a spring! "This is the gift of the Holy Spirit, who transforms Christians into 'true worshippers,' capable of praying to the Father 'in spirit and truth' (John 4:23). Only this water can extinguish our thirst for goodness, truth and beauty! Only this water, given to us by the Son, can irrigate the deserts of our restless and unsatisfied soul, until it 'finds rest in God,' as per the famous words of St. Augustine", Pope Benedict XVI.

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 *Clare Wilding, Henry Jezierski, Halina Pieckielon, Ciarvella Francesca, Dennis Smith, Teresa Taylor, Larry Kelly, Martin Dann, John Oliver* and *Catherine Upson* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES:

- Stations of the Cross: Tiptree Sundays 5.15 p.m.
- Lenten Course: St Peter's, Coggeshall, Wednesdays to 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).

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL MUSIC: Present a concert by the Southend Girls' Choir and Chorus Sirenum, together with the Brentwood Ursuline School Chamber Choir at Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 25th March at 7.30 p.m. For further information visit www.brentwoodcathedralmusic.org Tickets can be purchased online at www.eventbrite.co.uk by putting 'The Combined Girls' Choirs Concert' into the Search Engine. Or email us at music@dioceseofbrentwood.org or by phone on 01277 265288.