

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

Monsignor Gordon Read

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Unless a grain
of wheat
falls to the
earth
and dies



It remains
just a
grain
of wheat

PARISH NEWSLETTER

25th March 2012

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground
and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

First Reading: Jr 31:31-34
Responsorial Psalm Ps 50: 3-4. 12-15
Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9
Gospel: Jn 12:20-30



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: Passiontide begins today, symbolised by the veiling of statues and crucifixes. This gesture is intended to remind us of the centrality of the cross. Without the cross there would be no redemption, the gate to paradise would remain closed to us and there would be no saints in heaven to help us by their prayers. This is why the cross is unveiled on Good Friday but the statues not until just before the Easter Vigil. Today's Gospel picks up on last week's theme: "When I am lifted up from the earth I shall draw all men to myself." The hour, of which St John so often speaks throughout his Gospel, has now come. This is why Jesus has come into the world. For St John Jesus remains in control throughout, despite appearances to the contrary. What appears to the world as the ultimate defeat is in fact his moment of triumph. As so often he illustrates this with a parable. A grain of wheat falling to the earth seems to be destroyed and to dissolve into the soil but only in that way can the new plant be born. The seed of his body planted in the tomb will be transformed into a risen body with new and different properties at the resurrection – a sign and promise of eternal life for all of us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember **Michael Matrejek, Edith Waite, Sr. Mary Celestine, Eileen Murphy, Timmy Browne** and **Sr. Catherine** 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.

CONGRATULATIONS: To **Michał Dominik Antczak** and **Lily Ellen Mallows** baptised last Sunday and on Saturday respectively. Our good wishes go to **Neil Clench** and **Joanne Robertson** who will be married this Saturday.

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 26th March - INDIA Speaker: **Mrs Jane Crone**.

LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION: Our Service of Reconciliation for Lent takes place this **Wednesday** at **7.30 p.m.** **Fr David Prior** from Witham will be helping with confessions. If you cannot make this, there is a service at Lexden on Friday at 8.00 p.m. and next Monday (2nd April) at Witham 7.30 p.m.

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.

WE REGRET: To announce the death of **Mrs Patricia Fredericks** of Glebe Road, Kelvedon. Her Requiem Mass will take place at St George's, Walthamstow, where they married, on 29th March at 12.00 noon, followed by burial at Manor Park Cemetery.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Because of a wedding rehearsal at 5.00 p.m. this will take place a little later at 5.30 p.m.

PRAYER BREAKFAST COGGESHALL: The next prayer breakfast takes place at St Peter's on Saturday 31st March 8.00-9.00 a.m. If you would like to attend please sign the list at the back of the Church for catering purposes.

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CAFOD: To celebrate the 50th anniversary of CAFOD and in recognition of the generosity of CAFOD supporters, the Government has agreed through UK Aid Match that they will match pound for pound every donation given to CAFOD during Lent. So every £1 we give, CAFOD will receive an extra £1 to help more of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged people. This is a great opportunity so please do your best, and thank you for your ongoing and generous support. *The Parish CAFOD Team.*

DAY FOR RENEWAL: The Passion - **A Reflection on Christ The Suffering Servant.** At SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX. 31st March, 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Bring a packed lunch. Tea/Coffee provided.

OUR PARISH AND THE 2012 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES: Find out how our parish community can relevantly engage with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Torch Relay and the Olympic and Paralympic Games at a special day of training for churches on Saturday 31st March at St Angela's School, St George's Road, London E7 8HU from 10:30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Learn about how best to put on a local party or festival, how to deal with social issues that may rise during the Games, how and what to volunteer for if you are keen to offer a few days of your time. To find out more or to register online visit www.morethangold.org.uk/your-church/.

FINANCE: Offertory collection for **Sunday 18th March - £727.47.**

YOUTH GROUP: On 16 March, around 30 young people from the parish took part in the *Stations of the Cross*, many had prepared their own prayers and all of them sang heartily. This was followed by film showing of the *Miracle Maker*, the award winning animated production about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus on a big screen. Everyone had lots of fun. Special thanks to Fr Gordon and to all those who made the evening a success.

EASTER ACTIVITIES: By way of reminder children who wish to enter the **Easter Quiz** must return their entries by **1st April** to pauline@mcaloone.com or leave them in the box at the back of the church in Kelvedon. Prizes for the top 5 answers will be announced at 11 o'clock mass on Easter Sunday.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Easter Egg Hunt – Come and join us for an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday after 11.00 a.m. Mass in Fr Gordon's garden. Please bring a basket/bag to collect your eggs.

ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY: Will be having an outing to two London churches on Saturday 31st March. Those wishing to come should meet at the church of Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane just before 11 am. There will be a tour of the church by the Parish Priest. We meet again at 2 pm at the church of Notre Dame de France (the French Church), Leicester Place. Contact the Secretary, Miss Isobel Parks on 01268 289678.

THE CRUCIFIXION JOHN STAINER: Bravissima presents John Stainer 'The Crucifixion' and Bob Chilcott's 'A Little Jazz Mass' Richard Nott (organ) Tim Smith (piano) Julia Wilson-James, Conductor St. Bede Church, Bishops Avenue Chadwell Heath RM6 5RS Saturday 31st March at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £10 & £6 available on the door. All proceeds will go to charity.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Our Lady help of Christians & St Helens-Westcliff-on-sea are planning a Lourdes pilgrimage to coincide with the Brentwood Diocesan Pilgrimage July 22nd - 27th 2012 (5 nights). We aim to follow the Diocesan pilgrimage schedule. Departs London City Airport and staying at the 4* Hotel Grand Hotel Moderne (closest Hotel to the Sanctuary only 50 meters to St. Josephs gates). Full board en-suite facilities to all rooms. £649 per person (based on 2 sharing). Discounted child fares. Single room supplements apply. Home for the opening ceremony of Olympic Games. Spiritual Director Fr. Joseph Whisstock. Telephone Sue Baillie 07979746707 for further details.

KELVEDON THE HERITAGE SOCIETY: The Tony Bonner Photo Competition 2012. You have until 1st May to enter our competition. The competition is open to all amateur photographers resident in Kelvedon and Feering. See notice board for full details.

WALK FOR WATER WITH CAFOD: 2½ mile leisurely walk plus trail for children, around Hanningfield reservoir on **Friday 13th April** to show solidarity with the 783,000 people that don't have access to clean water and sanitation. Suggested £5 donation per adult, children free. Meet at the visitor centre (Hawkswood Road, Downham, Billericay, Essex CM11 1WT) from 1.30 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. start. No need to book, just turn up or phone the CAFOD Brentwood office on 020 8502 9722 with any queries.

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. Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford on Sunday 25th March at 7.00 p.m. Followed by refreshments and discussion. Also 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.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:
Psalms for Morning Prayer: Week 1

SUNDAY 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
MONDAY 26th March <i>Annunciation</i> <i>(transferred from previous day)</i>	Kelvedon Kelvedon	9.00 a.m. 7.30-8.30 p.m.	Pro-Life Movements <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
TUESDAY 27th March	Kelvedon Tiptree	8.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Private Intention <i>Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration</i>
WEDNESDAY 28th March	Kelvedon Kelvedon	9.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Private Intention <i>Service of Reconciliation</i>
THURSDAY 29th March	Kelvedon* Kelvedon	10.00 a.m. 8.00-9.00 p.m.	Private Intention <i>Parish Prayer Group</i>
FRIDAY 30th March	Kelvedon Kelvedon	9.00 a.m. 5.30 p.m.	Private Intention <i>Stations of the Cross for Children</i>
SATURDAY 31st March	Kelvedon Kelvedon	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Eugene William Read (ann.) <i>Wedding: Neil Clench and Joanne Robertson</i>
SUNDAY 1st April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 5.15 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Fr Clifford Beecroft RIP Mrs Flanagan RIP <i>Stations of the Cross</i> All Parishioners

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

Ministers of Welcome	COGGESHALL Mollie Blackwell	KELVEDON Edna Morgan	TIPTREE Jude Cody
Finance Team	Tony Hinds and Tom McNally		