

**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

26th February 2017

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

Do not worry about tomorrow.

First Reading	Is 49:14-15
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 61:2-3.6-9
Second Reading	1 Cor 4:1-5
Gospel	Mt 6:24-34



EIGHTH SUNDAY: Are we worried about the future? Some people live for today and give no thought for tomorrow – we tend to regard them as lacking prudence or feckless. We can think of Dickens' Mr Micawber living beyond his means in the constant hope that something will turn up. Others are so focussed on what might happen that they miss out altogether on the present moment. It is these to whom Our Lord speaks today. No one can prolong his life simply by worrying about it. God knows we have needs and we must entrust ourselves to his care. If we do so he will take care of us. That is not to say that we should not take ordinary precautions. We should not wait at an empty table for a meal miraculously to appear. Flowers may not weave clothes. Birds may not build barns. Flowers do push out roots to gather moisture and nutrients. Birds build nests and spend their days looking for food. What they do not do is worry about what is not in their control. One of the objectives of Lenten fasting is not to focus on our self-discipline or discomfort but to detach ourselves from obsession with material things.

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 *Jean O'Neill, Audrey Thurlow, Olive Rivers, Maureen O'Keefe, Vincent Rooney, Peggy Le Good, Peggy Sitkowski, Adam Czesivkovski, Mary Rand, Margaret Riley, William Farley, Rose Farley* and *Daphne Currie* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

FUNERAL: Requiem Mass on Monday 1.30 p.m. at Kelvedon for Richard Picton RIP.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES: The various courses and Stations of the Cross will run from next Sunday unless otherwise stated.

- Stations of the Cross: unless otherwise stated - Tiptree Sundays 5.15 p.m.
- Lenten Course: St Peter's, Coggeshall, Wednesdays 8th - 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).

FINANCE: Offertory collection for **Sundays 12th/19th February - £821.50 and £737.20.**