

**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

28th December 2014

HOLY FAMILY

The child grew, filled with wisdom.

First Reading: Gn 15:1-6;21:1-3

Responsorial Psalm Ps 104: 1-6.8-9

Second Reading: Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40



HOLY FAMILY: Almighty God has set before us the Holy Family as a model and example of love, yet we know that every family is unique and made up of frail human beings. We are not called on to copy the Holy Family in externals but rather to learn from the message and dynamic of love both human and divine. In his exhortation 'The joy of the Gospel' Pope Francis wrote, "**272.** Loving others is a spiritual force drawing us to union with God; indeed, one who does not love others "walks in the darkness" (1 Jn 2:11), "remains in death" (1 Jn 3:14) and "does not know God" (1 Jn 4:8). [Benedict XVI](#) has said that "closing our eyes to our neighbour also blinds us to God", [\[209\]](#) and that love is, in the end, the only light which "can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working". [\[210\]](#) When we live out a spirituality of drawing nearer to others and seeking their welfare, our hearts are opened wide to the Lord's greatest and most beautiful gifts. Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God...This openness of the heart is a source of joy, since "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). We do not live better when we flee, hide, refuse to share, stop giving and lock ourselves up in own comforts. Such a life is nothing less than slow suicide. **274.** If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realize that every person is worthy of our giving. Not for their physical appearance, their abilities, their language, their way of thinking, or for any satisfaction that we might receive, but rather because they are God's handiwork, his creation. God created that person in his image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory. Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives. Jesus offered his precious blood on the cross for that person. Appearances notwithstanding, every person is immensely holy and deserves our love. Consequently, if I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life. It is a wonderful thing to be God's faithful people. We achieve fulfilment when we break down walls and our heart is filled with faces and names!" Our own family life and relationships face us with this challenge in a very real and concrete way!

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **Delia Cooch, Kay Smith, Julie Trueman, Audrey Thurlow, Hayley Hetzel, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Hani Kyan, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Eddie Price, Anne Entwistle, Paul Britain, Audrey Hopwood** and any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember **Bernard Vesmilio, Rachel Evans, John Barrett, Mary Shah, Leonard Chamberlain, Michael Vickers, Ted Godden, Patricia Carr, Kate Warner, Alexandra Hutley, John Moffet, Ronald Barnes, Doreen Rooney and Joseph Martin** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

VOCATION MASS: Monday 29th December, Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury (Patron Saint of Pastoral Clergy). All are welcome to a Mass which will be offered for Vocations to the Priesthood, and at which Bishop Alan will preach. 11.30 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, 71 Wickhay, Basildon SS15 5AD.

THOMAS MERTON - RESTLESS PILGRIM: The 31st January 2015 is the centenary of Thomas Merton's birth. To mark this occasion, **Father Brian O'Shea** parish priest of St Thomas of Canterbury, Grays, will give a talk on the above title on **Monday 26th January 7.30 p.m. at Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood.** For further information please contact the Adult Religious Office on 01277 265255 or email are&fm@dioceseofbrentwood.org

SHORT OF IDEAS FOR A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?: Here are some thoughts Pope Francis shared with Vatican employees just before Christmas: Employees must take care of their families, he said. Their focus should not just be to provide an income, but to give all family members "time, attention and love." "The family is a treasure, children are a treasure," he said. He told everyone to ask themselves "Do I have time to play with my children or am I always busy and I have no time for them?" Playing with one's kids is so important and "it's so wonderful. It is sowing the seeds of the future," he said. Among the other things the pope listed that people must take the time to do in their lives:

Take care of your relationships with others, transforming one's faith into good works through one's actions and words, especially toward the elderly, the homeless, the sick, the hungry and "the foreigner, because this is what we will be judged for."

Watch your mouth, "purifying" one's vocabulary of "offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."

"Heal the wounds of the heart" by forgiving people who have wronged you and repairing the wrongs "we have caused others."

Be mindful of doing a good job by working "with enthusiasm, humility, competence and passion with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."

Heal oneself of "envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our inner peace and turn us into people who are destroyed and who destroy."

Pray to God for "the wisdom to bite your tongue in time, to not say insulting things that then leave a bitter taste in your mouth."

Take care of letting go of all "rancour that leads us to revenge and from laziness" that causes a sort of "euthanasia" of one's very being.

Stop pointing fingers, which only fuels pride and stop "complaining continuously, which leads us to desperation."

Pope Francis said he understood why it was so easy to speak poorly of others, especially when it is done as a way "to defend yourself. I understand these situations. But it ends up very badly. In the end we are all destroyed, right? And this is not needed." "Let's imagine how much our world would change if each one of us began right here and now and seriously took care of ourselves and generously took care of our relationship with God and our neighbour." He asked that people look at others, especially those most in need, with God's eyes -- with "eyes of goodness and tenderness, the way God looks at us; he is waiting for us and he forgives us."

FINANCE: Offertory collection for **Sunday 21st December - £885.00.**

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:
Morning & Evening Prayer: Week 1**

SUNDAY 28th December <i>The Holy Family</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Winifred McPherson (anniversary) All Parishioners John Barrett (anniversary)
MONDAY 29th December <i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i>	NO MASS		
TUESDAY 30th December	NO MASS		
WEDNESDAY 31st December <i>St Sylvester</i>	NO MASS		
THURSDAY 1st January <i>Mary Mother of God</i>	NO MASS		
FRIDAY 2nd January <i>Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen</i>	NO MASS		
SATURDAY 3rd January <i>Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	Kelvedon Kelvedon	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Private Intention <i>Tridentine</i> : Intention Yasuko Patsy
SUNDAY 4th January <i>Epiphany</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Stella Bushell (anniversary) Roma Royal RIP David Bartlett (anniversary)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction**

Liturgical Rotas 4th January	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Ann Ross Jane Crone	Neville Bridgman	Mollie Blackwell
KELVEDON	Tom McNally Patricia Pike	Helena McNally	Gloria Streat
TIPTREE	Isobel Kersey	Michael Wigley	Jude Cody