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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

30th December 2012

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### ***THE HOLY FAMILY***

*Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.*

First Reading: 1Sm 1:20-22. 24-28

Responsorial Psalm Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-2. 21-24

Gospel: Lk 2:41-52



**THE HOLY FAMILY:** Today's Feast was introduced just over 100 years ago and was part of a wider flowering of devotion not only to Our Lady but also St Joseph and a counterbalance to increasing trends in society to devalue family life in favour of individualism on the one hand and an emphasis on the wider community on the other. The family has always been the bedrock of society even if its shape has varied from the small nuclear family to a large extended family. It is the place where we learn what it is to be a human being and how to relate to other people. We know that not every family matches the ideal – perhaps a parent is absent, or the relationships and example are not what they should be – but this should not cause us to lose sight of the benefits that can come only from the loving embrace and example of two parents. Each family is unique both in its problems and in its joys but we can all learn from the example other families offer us. This is especially true of the Holy Family. The crib scene reminds us of birth in hard circumstances and a strange place. The Holy Family had to cope with the danger brought by Herod and a time of exile in Egypt. There are the hidden years of Jesus' childhood – hidden from us but known to the extended family and village community at Nazareth. Today's Gospel reminds us that even Mary and Joseph had to come to terms with adolescence and the growing independence of their Son, just as Our Lord in his human nature accepted the continued importance of obedience - listening to and respect for his parents' wishes.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember **Leonard Chamberlain, Ted Godden, Kate Warner, Alexandra Hutley, John Moffet, Ronald Barnes, Joseph Martin, John Griffin, Mary Shah, Michael Vickers, Doreen Rooney, Hilary Rowley, David Bartlett** and **Peter Eary** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**PRAYER NEEDS:** Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **Roland Birch, Marion Simmons, Colleen Furse, Audrey Thurlow, Hayley Hetzel, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Hilda Hawes, Pam Loath, Hani Cyan, Sheila Faulkner, Karen Kelly, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Eddie Price, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Holder, Paul Britain, Audrey Hopwood** and any unknown to us. If anybody knows of names to be added or deleted from the sick list please let Fr Gordon know.

**MANY THANKS:** Many thanks to all who helped in so many ways over the Christmas period, not only our musicians, readers and altar servers but those who worked behind the scenes from the Children's Liturgy group, or in cleaning and adorning our churches. On a personal note, thank you for your many personal greetings, cards and gifts.

**ST STEPHEN'S GUILD FOR ALTAR SERVERS:** On Wednesday, the Feast of St Stephen, **Magda** and **Adam Antczak** were enrolled as members after a year's probationary service and received their medals.

**MASS VARIATIONS:** I shall be taking a short break this week so there will be **NO** Mass Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. As usual there will be an additional Mass according to the 1962 Missal on Saturday at 12.15 p.m. with Exposition extended to 12.00 noon.

**STATEMENT BY ARCHBISHOPS VINCENT NICHOLS AND PETER SMITH ON THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SAME SEX MARRIAGE CONSULTTION:** The meaning of marriage matters. It derives that meaning from its function as the foundation of the family. The union of one man and one woman for love and mutual support and open to procreation has over the centuries formed a stable unit we call the family. Marriage is the enduring public recognition of this commitment and has been rightly recognised as unique and worthy of legal protection. The government has chosen to ignore the views of over 600,000 people who signed a petition calling for the current definition of marriage to stay, and we are told legislation to change the definition of marriage will now come to Parliament. We strongly oppose such a Bill. Furthermore, the process by which this has happened can only be described as shambolic. There was no electoral mandate in any manifesto; no mention in the Queen's speech; no serious or thorough consultation through a Green or White paper, and a constant shifting of policy before even the Government response to the consultation was published today. We urge everyone who cares about upholding the meaning of marriage in civil law to make their views known to their MPs clearly, calmly and forcefully, and without impugning the motives of others. We urge all parties to ensure their Members have a free vote. It is not too late to stop this Bill.

**SIGNED MASS FOR THE DEAF: Sunday 17th March.** "As you know, I organise Masses in sign language (BSL) across the Diocese to enable those for whom BSL is their first language to access the liturgy in that language. By signing at a parish Mass we also raise awareness among the hearing the parishioners of the beauty of BSL and the challenges faced by those who are deaf and hard of hearing. **Fr Frank Jackson** is one of our priests with good signing skills and will say and sign the Mass. People who are deaf will sign the hymns while the congregation sing and join in the signing if they wish. A deaf person will sign the readings and hearing signer will do a voice over for those who do not understand signing. Hence, the usual reader for that Mass can have the day off. To facilitate the signing, I usually write BSL (British Sign Language) friendly prayers of the faithful. If you are able to welcome us, nearer the time I will contact you about the music so we all know the hymns. We are usually offered refreshments, as some people will have travelled a long way but I do not know if this is feasible in your parish. Refreshments also enable the people who are deaf to socialise and allows us to meet some of the congregation." **Sister Margaret Duffy.** If you know of anyone who would benefit from this – not just from our own parish – please do pass the message on. It may be that some deaf people from other Christian traditions would also like to join us on this occasion.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** The Children's Liturgy team is appealing for new volunteers to join the team. We have a small newly formed team doing a great job as they learn. However, ideally we'd like to aim to maintain the number of volunteers between 6 and 8 people sharing the rota, and at the moment, we have two vacancies. If you would like to participate more actively in our parish life and have fun at the same time, please contact **Nuria Green (01621-810967)** or **Angie Hart (01787-224383)** for more information.

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

<b>SUNDAY</b> 30th December <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Winnie McPherson (anni.) All Parishioners John Barrett (anniversary)
<b>MONDAY</b> 31st December	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Intention Morris Taylor (sick)
<b>TUESDAY</b> 1st January <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>		NO MASS	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 2nd January <i>Sts Basil &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</i>		NO MASS	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 3rd January <i>Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	Kelvedon Coggeshall	NO MASS 7.30 p.m.	Private Intention
<b>FRIDAY</b> 4th January	Kelvedon	9.00 a.m.	Roma Royal RIP
<b>SATURDAY</b> 5th January	Kelvedon Kelvedon	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Peter Eary RIP <i>Tridentine: Private Intention</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 6th January <i>Epiphany</i>	Coggeshall Kelvedon Tiptree	9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Stella Bushell (anniversary) David Bartlett (anniversary) All Parishioners

Sacrament of Reconciliation: This Saturday; 10.30 –12.00 noon  
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Liturgical Rotas 6th January	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ministers of Welcome
COGGESHALL	Teresa Hall	Simon Hall	Maria O'Leary
KELVEDON	Tom McNally Patricia Short	Valerie Bartlett	June Jezierski
TIPTREE	Sue Petchey	Michael Wigley	Celia Butt