

St Hilda's Catholic Church, Stevenage

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Captain Tom and the Ripple Effects of Goodness

We recently celebrated *Candlemas*, or the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (2nd February). When Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem - to fulfil the Law by consecrating their first-born son to God - the old man Simeon, to whom the Holy Spirit had revealed that he would see the Messiah before he died, took the child Jesus in his arms, and said, "Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace... because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see" (Luke 1:29-31).

I'm sure many people were touched by the fact that Captain Sir Tom Moore was called home to God on this very day. This old soldier, aged 100, who lived just up the road in Bedford (and whose grandchildren have acquaintances in our parish) touched literally millions of hearts - at home and abroad - by simply walking in his garden to raise funds for the NHS! Something about his dogged determination to keep going, despite his frailty, struck a chord with so many of us. His actions remind us: *there are many Captain Toms in our society!* How many people there are who quietly but persistently seek to do good, to help others, and to reflect God's goodness - we pray that, like Captain Tom, their efforts may have ripple effects beyond anything they can imagine!

For many of us, the past year has been like a long Lenten experience, but the Church encourages us to renew our hope in the resurrection and not to be discouraged by the state of the world. "The Lord is waiting to be gracious to you; happy are all who hope in him." (Isaiah 30:18). May this season of grace prepare our hearts to experience the joy of Easter with new confidence, for our Saviour never abandons his people.

St Hilda's, Shephall

Confession 10am
9.30am Saturday

Confession 6.15pm
6.30pm Saturday

9.30am Sunday
11.00am Sunday

9.30am Monday
9.30am Tuesday

St Joseph's, Bedwell

**Saturday evening Mass
currently suspended**

10.30am Sunday
12.15pm Sunday
6pm Sunday

7pm Wednesday
+ Holy Hour & Confessions

9.15am Thursday
9.15am Friday

Transfiguration, Old Town

Confession 4.30-4.45pm
5pm Saturday

9am Sunday

9.30am Monday
9.30am Friday

Today you could be talking to someone who is trying their best not to fall apart.
So whatever you do today, do it with kindness in your heart.