



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF  
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## December 29th, 2019 : FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

### Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm (St.F) Int. William & Margaret  
Robinson  
Sunday 9:30am (St.F) Int. For the People  
11:00am (Con) Int.TheSisters RJM  
(Craft Group)

### Weekday Masses

Monday 6TH DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS  
OCTAVE  
No Mass today  
Tuesday 7TH DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS  
OCTAVE  
No Mass today

hour before the first Mass at St.Felix on Wed.,  
Fri. & Sat.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm  
Sunday 9.0am to 9.20am  
or by appointment.

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

### The Mass today

The readings can be found on p.106 of the Parish  
Mass Book, and on p.98 of The Sunday Missal.

<b>At the 6.0pm Mass</b>	<b>Eucharistic Prayer 1</b>
<i>Sanctus &amp; Benedictus</i>	Parish Mass Book p.16
<i>(Angelus) Hymn</i>	128
<b>At the 9.30am Mass</b>	<b>Eucharistic Prayer 3</b>
<i>Gloria</i>	Hymn Book 527
<i>Sanctus &amp; Benedictus</i>	Parish Mass Book p.16
Hymns :	341, 128, 138, 154
<b>At the 11.0am Mass</b>	<b>Eucharistic Prayer 1</b>
Hymns	331, 128, 137

**Wednesday, January 1st  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
(New Year's Day)**

10.30am Mass of the Feast, St.Felix  
Int. +Edna McGuire (FM)  
11.45am Mass of the Feast, Convent  
Int. Catherine Perkins

Thursday ST.BASIL AND ST.GREGORY  
NAZIANZEN

No Mass today

Friday CHRISTMAS FERIA

Noon (St.F) Int.

5:00pm (Con) Int.

Saturday CHRISTMAS FERIA

9.00am (St.F) Int.

6:00pm (St.F) Int.+Hugh & Delia Brannan

### The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) is said a quarter of an

### THIS WEEK

**Fr.John is hoping to take a couple of days off at  
the beginning of this week.**

**Mon.** The Prayer Group resumes its weekly  
meetings a week on Monday, January 6th

**Sat.** Saturday Club resumes a week on  
Saturday, January 11th.

**Next Sunday** is the Solemnity of the  
Epiphany of the Lord. At the 9.30am there will be  
the Procession of the Three Kings at the Offertory,  
and a Visit to the Epiphany Crib at the end of  
Mass.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Jim McGuire (2006), Eileen Newland (2014), Terence Versey (2012), Johanna Norgan (2016), Pauline O'Reilly (2007), Marion Groundwater (2006), John Dimascio (2003), Francesca Warford (2009), and Mary Underwood (2015). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £603.02 was given at the Offertory, and £63.62 for CAFOD.

**Christmas** Many thanks to those who helped to make Christmas special at St.Felix, amongst then John Yelverton, who worked so hard in the Sacristy and Giavana and Sylvia who arranged the flowers. Also our Readers, Servers, Musicians and Cleaners.

I was grateful to Fr.Anthony Watkins, a retired priest who helps at Westminster Cathedral, and whom I have known for fifty years, who assisted me with the Masses: it meant that both the Parish Church and the Convent could have a full complement of these.

I was very grateful for the cards and presents which found their way to the Presbytery. You are most kind.

### **CHRISTMASTIDE**

It was sad and rather ironic to see the Christmas decorations being taken down in some of the shops on Christmas Eve, just, in fact, as Christmas was about to begin! It underlined, I thought the difference which there is between the Christian festival of Christmas and the secular 'Yuletide'. For us, Christmas is still in its early stages - until Wednesday we are still in the Christmas Octave, the eight solemn days which begin with Christmas Day. And then beyond the Octave, Christmastide goes on until Sunday January 12th, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. We should certainly keep our cribs in place until then. Some people of course do this until the old ending of Christmastide, the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2nd. In church, the Crib - which will be transformed into the Epiphany Crib for next Sunday, with the departure of the Shepherds and the arrival of the Kings - will be there until Monday, January 13th. Someone asked why we now have the Crib in the Lady Chapel, rather than under the Altar. Well I rather like the idea of it not being immediately

visible when one enters the church; one imagines that the stable at Bethlehem had to be sought out: that it wasn't in the middle of the town hall square. And then it is so good to have the Processions to the Crib on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. A kind of pilgrimage to the holy place which a crib always is.

### **DWELLING IN HIS LIGHT AND LOVE A Mediation from the Sisters of Our Lady of Walsingham**

'In those days before Christmas that are long and cold, there's a longing for light and warmth. We put up lights on our streets and outside our houses. We turn up the heating to make our homes cosy and warm. The deprivation of light brings an ever stronger desire for it. Is it so in our personal life story when we face a time of darkness? The light and love of Christ is long awaited at Christmas, yet the longing is there in everyday life too. The desire seems to be deeply imbedded in the human heart, and that longing for the fulfillment of love cannot be satisfied by anything earthly. St. Augustine said 'You have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it rests in you'. If we experience such a deep longing, how much more must God Himself long for us to dwell in his heart?

Pope Francis reminds us in *Gaudete et Exsultate* that God is the Father who gave us life, and who loves us without measure. Why don't we accept him and stop living our lives without Him? If we do so, the anguish of loneliness that so many experience today will disappear. Letting God dwell in our lives allows us to know the perfect will of the Lord, and "allows him to mould us like a potter" (Isaiah 29:16). So often we say that God dwells in us, but it is better to say that we dwell in him, and that he enables us to dwell in His light and love.

'St. James helps us to recognise the truth that 'all that is good, all that is perfect, is given to us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light (James 1:17). The love of God is shown most clearly in the fact that 'God has sent his only Son into the world that we might have life through Him (I John 4:9). He is the Light, and no darkness can overcome this light.