



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF  
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## January 26th, 2020 : THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm (St.F) Int. For the People  
Sunday 9:30am (St.F) Int.  
11:00am (Con) Int. +Myrtle Shevlin

### Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA  
No Mass today  
Tuesday ST.THOMAS AQUINAS  
9:30am (St.F) Int.  
Wednesday FERIA  
10:30am (Con) Int.  
Thursday FERIA  
No Mass today  
Friday ST.JOHN BOSCO  
Noon (St.F) Int.  
5:00pm (Con) Int.  
Saturday FERIA  
9:00am (St.F) Int.  
6:00pm (St.F) Int. For the People

### The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) is said a quarter of an hour before the first Mass at St.Felix, Tues.& Fri.

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday at 10.0am Benediction at 10.30am

### 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.128 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.697 of The Sunday Missal.

<b>At the 6.0pm Mass</b>	<b>Eucharistic Prayer 2</b>
<i>Sanctus &amp; Benedictus</i>	Parish Mass Book p.16
( <i>Angelus</i> ) Hymn	863
<b>At the 9.30am Mass</b>	<b>Eucharistic Prayer 3</b>
<i>Gloria</i>	Sacred Heart
<i>Sanctus &amp; Benedictus</i>	Parish Mass Book p.16
Hymns :	707, 803, 908, 898
<b>At the 11.0am Mass</b>	<b>Eucharistic Prayer 1</b>
Hymns	924, 820, 648

**Today our Readers are going to be commissioned for their ministry during the coming year. This will take place after the Homily, at each of the three Masses**

### THIS WEEK

**Today** 6.0pm Ecumenical Service for the ending of the Church Unity Octave, at the Salvation Army Citadel, Cobbold Road  
**Monday** 10.30am Fr.John attends a meeting of the Diocesan Historic Churches Committee, at Cathedral House, Norwich.  
4.0pm A meeting of the Parish Finance Committee, at the Presbytery  
( The Prayer Group are not meeting this week or next.)  
**Tuesday** 2.30pm Mass at the Seafarers Centre  
7.30pm Meeting of the Parish Advisory Council. All parishioners welcome. Agendas on the Font Cover.  
**Thursday** 10.30am Fr.John attends a Deans' Meeting at Poringland.  
**Saturday** 9.0am Saturday Club, for young people of Primary School age, St.Felix  
**Next Sunday** We celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas). Candles will be blessed and held in honour of Christ our Light at the beginning of the 9.30am Mass.

## PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Eileen Whitlum (1996), Barbara Strong (2009), Sr.Etheldreda Wallis (1994), Nigel Gorham (2013). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £531.07 was given at the Offertory and £75.09 for CAFOD.

**The Film on Global Healing** This film, produced by the CaFE organisation to draw attention to caring for the planet as 'our common home', was shown one evening before Christmas in the Hall. A number of people who would like to have seen the film were unable to do so because they did not want to be out on a winter evening. And so the Convent kindly suggested that the film might be shown there on an afternoon, and this has now been fixed for **Friday February 14th, at 2.0pm**. If you didn't see the film at its first showing, then do try to come along then. It is very challenging, and it addresses problems of which all of us should be aware. The planet is, as Pope Francis wrote, 'our common home', and I think most of us feel uneasy about the threats which now face it. We must all seek to become better stewards of the world which God has entrusted to our care.

## MATTHEW MEETING

When I first wrote about the Year of the Word, I said that we would seek to do two things in this parish. The first was to take part in the reading of St.Matthew's Gospel which the Church in England and Wales has undertaken, a chapter each week. For this, the weekly sheet is appearing, saying which chapter we are seeking to read that particular week, with the 'key passage' printed out there, and a few points to think about. A good number of parishioners seem to be taking and using these sheets week by week.

I also said that we would seek to hold a 'Matthew Meeting' every few weeks, at which those who wish to do so can meet together to discuss what they have been reading. The first of these 'Matthew Meetings' is going to be held in the Hall on Sunday February 16th at 3.0pm. The

format will be a quarter of an hour talk on St.Matthew's Gospel - a kind of introduction to the book - followed by half an hour or so for discussion. We will then end by having tea together. Do please put this in your diary.

## SEX WITHIN MARRIAGE

It was reported in yesterdays *Daily Telegraph* that the Anglican bishops had issued a statement saying that 'sex belongs within heterosexual marriage', which in turn brought about an interview on the BBC *Today* programme. It was interesting that the newspaper thought this restatement of age-old Christian teaching newsworthy, and that the BBC felt it merited comment. On that interview, the female interviewer expressed surprise that the Church, which was being so up-to-date over a pledge to reduce carbon emissions from church buildings, should be so old-fashioned as to say that sexual acts should only take place between married heterosexual persons. It was clear that the Church is expected to come into line with current social practice - in other words that such practice should dictate the Church's teaching.

What dictates the teaching of the Church? It is rather a question of who does so. Our Lord Jesus Christ dictates what the Church teaches. It is his Church, not ours. And we believe that that teaching of Jesus is not to be modified or changed. It is the truth, the truth absolute and eternal. This is why the teaching of Jesus is a rock upon which we can build. It isn't relative, it is absolute.

And what Jesus taught about sexual activity is very clear. In the Gospel He says that adultery ( which is sex between two people at least one of whom is married to someone else) and fornication ( which is sex between two unmarried people) is wrong. Sex rightly belongs within marriage, between two people who have made a serious and life-long commitment to each other. Sexual activity is then an outward and physical expression of that loving commitment. Therefore sex between two people who are not married to each other, or who are of the same sex, is always wrong. If we sit loose to the teaching of Jesus, then how can we call, ourselves Christians?