



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF  
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## March 29th, 2020 : FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Sunday

Mass Intention : For the People

Monday LENT FERIA

Mass Intention : Michael Thomas

Tuesday LENT FERIA

Mass Intention : +Michael Hazell, P

Wednesday LENT FERIA

Mass Intention : For the medical and nursing professions

Thursday LENT FERIA

Mass Intention :

Friday LENT FERIA

Mass Intention :

Saturday LENT FERIA

Mass Intention :

As directed by the Bishops' Conference, Mass must not be publicly celebrated, and churches must remain closed during the duration of the Coronavirus pandemic. Mass is offered in church privately each day on behalf of the parish, and parishioners are encouraged to pray at home, and if possible to tune in to the Masses which are available on television and on the internet.

Please telephone the Presbytery if you or someone close to you needs Priestly ministry in the face of illness or death. Priests have been told how they are to administer the Sacrament of the Sick when this is necessary, and are more than ready to do so.

All parish activities, including Stations of the Cross, the Lent Course, Lent lunches, the Prayer Group, the Rosary Group, Saturday Club. Childrens' Liturgy, etc. are suspended until further notice.

**Fr. John writes :**

Dear Parishioners,

How are you managing? - I do hope that you have got the things you need. I think people are being very generous in their care for those who need assistance ; the present situation is certainly bringing out the best - and just occasionally the worst - in people.

It was with a very heavy heart that a few days ago I obeyed the instruction from the bishop to close the church. It had been difficult enough to have to deny people attendance at Mass, but then to refuse them permission to enter the church, to pray before the Tabernacle and to light a candle - this was very hard. But hopefully some good will come of it - every cloud has a silver lining : maybe not having the Mass and entry into the church will lead us to value those things more highly in the future. And maybe it will help us grow in sympathy with those people in the world who are regularly denied these blessings.

The Mass continues to be said each day at St. Felix. The priest of a neighboring parish told me that several of his people have asked him at what time the Mass is celebrated, so that they can be with him in mind and heart at the Altar. That hasn't happened here, but for the record, Mass is offered in our own church at 7.30am each day, using one or other of the side chapels. I think about you, and pray for you, at this daily Mass.

To non-Catholics, a priest saying Mass on his own would seem to be a nonsense. Non-Catholic Christians see the Eucharist as just a fellowship meal , and so if there is no fellowship - no one present that is - there is no point. We Catholics see the Mass as being primarily the offering of a sacrifice - the sacrifice which Our Lord offered on the Cross, for the salvation of the

world. We hold before the Father (offer) Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament and his saving work, asking that by virtue of this sacrifice we may be healed and reconciled to God. And this sacrifice the priest can certainly offer on his own : he can plead Our Lord's saving work for himself and for his people without anyone else being present.

I know that many of you are availing yourselves of the opportunity to watch Masses on television, and by an internet link : this is a very good thing to do. Don't forget that this Sunday the Act of Re-dedication of our country to Mary is being made. The wording of the Re-Dedication is on our parish website, and if you watch a televised Mass on Sunday, you will be able to take part in the Rededication with others. I will be making it on your behalf at the end of the Mass I say on Sunday. We are asked to say the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary at 7.0pm on Saturday evening.

We hear of the economic consequences of the present situation, and the Church is suffering from these too, with the usual Sunday collection not being taken. Standing Orders of course continue, and a handful of people are very thoughtfully putting their weekly collection through the Presbytery letter box, which is much appreciated. Do please try to do this. Alternatively you can pay your collection directly into our bank account - the details are : Bank HSBC Sort Code 40 21 06 Account 11513869 . You may want to establish a Standing Order (using these details), which would be a wholly good thing.

This is certainly a time of testing for us all - a testing of our love for God and of our love for our neighbour. As regards our love for God, are we continuing to pray, to read his word, to entrust ourselves to Him? We must not allow ourselves to lose touch with him through our normal practices being denied us. We must hold firm.

With my prayers and good wishes,  
Your friend and parish priest,

Fr. John

## PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Leslie Styles (2004), John Mitchell (2015), Eileen Wilson (2008), Peter O'Connor (2013), and William Twomey (2015). May they Rest in Peace.

**Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea).** Julian Wong writes 'I am very pleased, blessed and humbled to tell you that I have been appointed as Regional Maris Stella Chaplain for Felixstowe and the Haven ports, covering Ipswich, Lowestoft, King's Lynn, Mistley and Hawich ports. I officially start on Monday 30th March 2020. It is a huge responsibility and it is a full time post. As most of you know already, I have been a volunteer ship visitor for about 5 years, but over the last year my role has expanded to almost that of a Maris Stella Port Chaplain. The previous Maris Stella port chaplain has moved to a new position within Stella Maris (previously known as The Apostleship of the Sea). Please keep me in your prayers and please support Stella Maris which now has a port chaplain in almost every port around the world, providing practical, spiritual, and pastoral support to seafarers. Thank you and God bless.' Fr. John adds : Congratulations to Julian on his appointment, which I know he will fulfill with diligence and competence. I look forward to working with him.

### Series for Lent

#### *THE FIVE WOUNDS OF CHRIST*

##### 5. The wound in the heart

On the little brass door of the tabernacle set in the Sacred Heart Altar in St. Felix is a depiction of the Five Wounds of Christ. In the four corners are shown the wounds in the hands and in the feet, and in the centre of the door is shown the heart of Jesus, wounded by the lance which was thrust through Our Lord's side as he hung on the Cross. It is fitting not only anatomically but also spiritually that the heart should be there at the centre, because it was the love of Jesus, the love of his Sacred Heart, which moved him to suffer and to die for us.

That heart of love was wounded by the lance. And just because of that burning love of Jesus for all people, his heart continues to be wounded not only by all actions of aggression and hatred, but also by the simple but wrong actions of thinking and speaking unkindly, and acting ungenerously - sins which all of us commit. As we keep this holy season of Lent - under such unusual circumstances - we must endeavour to bring gladness and not pain to the heart of Jesus.