



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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April 19th, 2020 : SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Mass

9:30am Int. For the People

Weekday Masses

Monday	EASTER FERIA
9:30am	Int. +Mary Lapenna
Tuesday	EASTER FERIA
9:30am	Int. +Jenny Allen
Wednesday	EASTER FERIA
9:30am	Int. +Vincent Brannan (P&CR)
Thursday	SOLEMNITY OF ST.GEORGE
9.30am	Int. +Marjorie Yelverton
Friday	EASTER FERIA
9.30am	Int. +Vincent Brannan (M&BM)
Saturday	FEAST OF ST.MARK
9.30am	Int.Mirih Sochoc

The above are all private Masses, since St.Felix, like all Catholic churches, remains closed for the duration of the Coronavirus pandemic, by order of the Bishop's Conference.

Fr.John Writes :
Dear Parishioners,

Appreciation of those who are helping others at this difficult time - members of the medical and nursing professions, those who are ensuring the supply of food, all volunteers, the kind friends and neighbours of the vulnerable, and so many many others - appreciation of these people is rightly forthcoming. We owe them so much. But some might be saying in their hearts or even openly - "But what is GOD doing to help us? He's not doing much good - it's other people who are coming to our assistance and keeping us going". To say that, of course, is to forget that

the way in which God works most commonly is through people : He inspires and empowers the good which they do. So that yes, God is very active indeed in showing us his love and mercy in the present situation THROUGH all those kindly and heroic actions for which we are rightly grateful. Far from having abandoned us, or proved indifferent to us in our need, God, through those he inspires and empowers, is supplying our needs in a most generous way. This Octave day of Easter is traditionally called Low Sunday, and known more recently as Divine Mercy Sunday. I think that in all the generous and selfless actions that we are witnessing we are experiencing that Divine Mercy in a wonderful way.

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Maybe a certain phrase in today's Gospel reading has a particular resonance for us this year : 'the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews'. At present the doors of our houses are closed, not for fear of the Jews, but for fear of contracting or spreading the Coronavirus. We are being forced to keep ourselves very much to ourselves - although thankfully modern means of electrical communication are keeping us in a close but limited touch with one another.

The important thing in the Gospel, though, is the fact of the closed doors didn't prevent the risen Christ from entering the place where the frightened disciples were : he 'came and stood amongst them', St.John records. And having come amongst them, he did two things. First he 'showed them his hands and his side', where the wounds made by the nails and the spear were a guarantee that this really was the body of the Lord, risen and triumphant over death. Here was a wonderful

proof and assurance of the fact that death had not had the last word - that Jesus had returned from the dead, alive for ever, and able to shepherd his people through death and into the green pastures of eternal life. The living Christ amongst them, overcoming their fear. Christ the victor, whose Easter triumph we are now celebrating. No wonder the disciples were 'filled with joy' when they saw Jesus, and looking upon his wounds knew for certain his identity. It is possible for us, their successors, those who have received their testimony, to likewise be filled with a joy that will overcome the fear and apprehension which we are currently feeling.

And then the second thing which Jesus did when he came into that room with closed doors was to repeat his greeting 'Peace be with you'. And it seems to us that this was more than a conventional greeting, more than an ancient form of 'hello'. But rather that he was bringing to them, sharing with them, his own peace of mind and heart. In a rather vacuous chorus we used to sing 'Peace perfect peace is a gift of Christ the Lord'. Trite, maybe, but true. Peace is a gift which the Lord can bestow, through the Holy Spirit. Peace, inner peace, to displace our fear and anxiety. It is a most precious gift, and one which all people, knowingly or unknowingly seek for. None of us wants to have a mind which is troubled and unsettled. But not all people know where to find this gift. We, disciples of the Lord do know where to find it, even if sometimes we are rather slow to ask for it. Jesus is our peace, and if we come close to him and put our hope and confidence in him, then when we ask for this gift it will be given to us.

Perhaps like me you are finding that you do not have quite as much spare time as you expected. It is amazing how the hours slip by. And yet, yes, of course we have got more time on our hands than usual. I think we must be firm with ourselves and make sure that some of the extra time is given to Our Lord, seeking to get to know him better, to spend more time in his presence, and to get down to asking for the gifts which we need - not least that gift of inner peace - and, of course, be open to receive them.

Your friend and parish priest

Fr. John

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Bernard Moran (2006), Cornelius Lane (2002), Mary Harney (2000), Vera Pawlowski (2006), and George Friel (2010). May they Rest in Peace.

APF Missio - Red Boxes Barbara writes : A big 'thank you' to all Red Box holders. Last year we doubled our donations from £691 in 2018 to £1,220 in 2019. This is due to a large number of new box holders following the appeal by Deacon Chris Brighten and to the continuing generosity of our existing box holders. I normally empty boxes in April and October. If anyone would like their box emptied please let me know and we can arrange a doorstep exchange. Otherwise I will empty them as usual in October.. Barbara Lamberton Fxt. 279373.

Stella Maris - Apostleship of the Sea Barbara continues 'Good news! We have a new Stella Maris Port Chaplain. It is Julian Wong, who has been a ship visitor for four years and has been acting Stella Maris Chaplain since Pat Ezra took up her new role in January. Please keep him in your prayers and also all seafarers whose lives must have been made even harder by the coronavirus pandemic.'

A Mass for the Sick & their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care The General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference writes : The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick and their families are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with those who are thus involved, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in his cathedral, which will be live-streamed. **Every Thursday at 7.0pm.** By visiting the Bishops' Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk) you can find links for live-streaming these Masses. The Cardinal will be celebrant this first Thursday.'