



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

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## May 10th, 2020 : FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Sunday Mass

9.30am Int. For the People

### Weekday Masses

Monday EASTER FERIA  
9:30am Int. + Alan Deveney  
Tuesday ST.PANCRAS  
9:30am Int. The Poole & Powell families  
Wednesday EASTER FERIA  
9:30am Int.  
Thursday FEAST OF ST.MATTHIAS  
Friday EASTER FERIA  
Noon Int.  
Saturday EASTER FERIA  
9.30am Int.

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

Fr.John writes :

Dear Parishioners,

I always think that at Christmas our homes take on a special significance for us : at that time of celebration they represent warmth and comfort, they are the setting for our feasting and hospitality, they are, in a season when it is often cold and dreary, a kind of refuge, a place of escape and security. We appreciate our homes then in a special way.

Maybe something of the sort is true at this time of the pandemic, when we have for what

seems many weeks been largely, even exclusively, confined to our homes. Maybe we've got rather fed up of being there, and longed to be out and about. Or maybe we have found our homes to be indeed places of comfort and security, a refuge, somewhere which we have come to appreciate and value in a new and deeper way.

I think our homes, so warm and comfortable and secure, are something for which we find ourselves thanking God again and again. They are a wonderful gift which He makes available to us. And we want to see that they are places free from rancour and argument, strife and all forms of selfishness. We want to model our homes increasingly on the Holy House at Nazareth - that home which offered Our Lord comfort and security, love and peace, in his early life amongst us. We ask Mary and Joseph to be with us, spiritually, in our homes. And that Jesus may be with us there, as he is indeed wherever we are.

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I know you are all missing not just the 'live' Mass ( I'm very glad that so many of you are able to get a Mass on the internet during the pandemic ) but also that you are missing being able to just come into church to pray, to light a candle, and to adore Jesus present in the Tabernacle. The Bishop assures us that the Bishops' Conference, led by Cardinal Nichols, is putting pressure on the Government to allow the churches to re-open, and he hopes that this may come about next month. It may well take longer for the Mass to be celebrated publicly again. We will, though, have to take precautions. Hand sanitizer will need to be available at the door, and the church will have to be sanitized at the end of each day. I'm not sure what exactly that will involve. Apparently we will

receive directions from the diocese when the time comes. May it come soon!

Meanwhile we must remain faithful to God, our prayers, the Church, and try to see this both as a time when our faith is tested, and when we can deepen our love and awareness of God.

Your friend and Parish Priest,  
Fr. John

### **A Letter**

*Dear Fr. John,*

*In your last Newsletter you say that memory seems to be working overtime and you'd love to know if we are experiencing the same. Yes, memories and feelings which have been dormant in me for many years have been revived by the current situation. I have tears in my eyes when I hear of the deaths of the brave people in the NHS front line, as I did when I heard of the deaths of my comrades. But my memories as a civilian in Cassino have also come strongly to mind. In a battlefield situation in which the civilians were caught in Cassino, all infrastructure collapses. There are no shops, no police, no transport, there are no hospitals. How do you explain the feeling of utter helplessness when you hear the screams of agony of the wounded and there is nothing you can do but to cry with them, as I did with my Mother. There are no pain killers, no medical necessities. Doctors can only show sympathy, but lack medication. Surgeons lack the means with which to operate. You are left to treat your own wounds as best you can. You are left to bury your own dead. And how do parents calm their children who are hungry and there is no food, who are petrified and there is no shelter. And it was under those terrifying conditions that faith developed in people who had none, and strengthened in those who had. It was not in the hope that God would spare us if we professed belief, but it was due to awareness of the evil that surrounded us. A feeling that God was suffering, and we wanted to share in His suffering. Our plea was 'Forgive us O Lord'. So yes, Father, my memory is working overtime.*

*God bless you, Tony.*

**Anniversaries this week** Sr. Bernadette (2001), Audrey Flynn (2018), Madge Hallinan (2000), Mary Moore (2003), & John Davy (2003). R.I.P.

**Congratulations** To May Bunt (Mother of Sue Hudson), who has just celebrated her ninetieth birthday. In normal times May gets down to the 9.30am whenever she is well enough, and it is always good to see her. We wish her many more happy birthdays!

**Christian Aid** Anne Poole writes 'Christian Aid Week this year takes place May 10th-17th. Information is available on the Christian Aid website.'

**Elsie Castle RIP** We were sad to hear of Elsie's death recently. She died, strengthened by the Last Rites, at the Mill Lane Home, where she has lived for the past two or three years. She was a great character, and a devout Catholic. She often spoke of the years when she worked at the Convent, and of her affection for the Sisters. Her funeral will take place at the Crematorium of the Seven Hills on Friday May 22nd. We send our sympathy and the assurance of our prayers to Olaf and Christopher.

### **MARY'S MONTH OF MAY**

The Holy Father urges us to be faithful in using the Rosary during this special month. He says 'Dear Brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection, I send you my blessing. Francis.'

Pope Francis also suggests a prayer which we might use at the end of the Rosary :

*O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at the foot of the cross  
were united with Jesus' suffering,  
and persevered in your faith.  
Protectress of God's people, you know our needs,  
and we know that you will provide,  
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,  
joy and celebration may return  
after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of divine Love,  
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father,  
and do what Jesus tells us.  
For he took upon himself our suffering,  
and burdened himself with our sorrows,  
to bring us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*