



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF  
The Presbytery, 8, Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT  
Tel.01394 282561 e-mail frjohnfelixstowe@gmail.com

Parish Website: stfelixfelixstowe.uk Helping Hands - 07342722521

## May 17th, 2020 : SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Sunday Mass

9.30am Int. For the People

Ascension into heaven, he charged them to go out to the whole world to proclaim his Gospel.

### Weekday Masses

Monday EASTER FERIA  
9:30am Int. +Harry Luddington  
Tuesday EASTER FERIA  
9:30am Int. +Elsie Castle (B&AL)  
Wednesday EASTER FERIA  
9:30am Int.+Bryan Hall  
Thursday SOLEMNITY OF THE  
ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
7.0pm Int. For the People  
Friday EASTER FERIA  
Noon Int. +John King (JY&NP)  
Saturday EASTER FERIA  
9.30am Int. +Elsie Castle (JY&NP)

As it was a real sadness and deprivation for you not to be in church to celebrate the Resurrection at Easter, so too it will be a real sadness not to be in church for Mass on Ascension Day. It is of course a Holy Day of Obligation, so do make a special effort to watch a live-streamed Mass, and if you are not able to do that, well at least read the readings for the day in your Mass book and make an act of Spiritual Communion

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

I think that as always we will find the Ascension an event which gives us great encouragement and comfort - and not least in this time of anxiety and frustration. Before he parted from his disciples, Jesus promised that he would be with them always, to the end of time. We are reminded that he is with us, always, and not least in these difficult days as the 'lockdown' continues, even if in a slightly modified form. During these past seven weeks there has been much loneliness, as well as anxiety. But we are never truly alone, for Jesus says to us 'I am with you'. He also says to us 'Do not be afraid'.

Fr.John writes :

Dear Parishioners,

The weeks of Eastertide always seem to go by very quickly, even in this year's extraordinary circumstances.. And so on Thursday, when we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, we will come to the end of the first part of Eastertide - the great forty days during which the risen Lord appeared to his disciples. We can easily understand why he appeared for that prolonged period - so that there could be no doubt in their minds that he was indeed alive, risen wonderfully and gloriously from the dead. He wanted them to be quite certain of this before, prior to his

And then we are encouraged too by Our Lord's ascending to the Father, there to plead his saving work by which we are set free. There at the heavenly Altar he intercedes for us, as we, by his command, reflect that offering at the earthly Altar. It is good to be reminded that our Great High Priest is praying for us, and that he has promised that we shall one day be with him in that very place where he makes intercession for us now.

With all good wishes,  
Your friend and Parish Priest,

Fr.John

**Anniversaries this week** Lloyd Fenton (2010), John King (2014), and Bob Fisher (2018). R.I.P.

## MARY'S MONTH OF MAY

The Holy Father has produced a second Prayer to Our Lady for us to use during this month of May, when there remains much anxiety regarding the Coronavirus pandemic.

'In the present situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick, and the victims, may be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, and health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic efforts, and grant them strength, generosity, and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Beloved Mother, help us to realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless

situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer. Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress, and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

## THE SAINTS OF EAST ANGLIA

### I : A LAND OF SAINTS

Some have remarked on the fact that East Anglia has been relatively mildly affected by the Coronavirus : maybe one cause of this has been the protective prayers of East Anglia's Saints. For it is indeed a Land of Saints. There are the Patron Saints of the diocese : Our Lady, St.Felix, St.Edmund, and St.Etheldreda. And then those other saints who lived within its boundaries, St.Fursey, St.Botolph, St.Walstan, St.Withburga. The East Anglian Martyrs in later times, and those holy women Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe of King's Lynn. It will be good to remind ourselves of who these elder brothers and sisters of ours in the Faith are and what they accomplished, because they continue to be a source of inspiration to the Church of today, and powerful intercessors in the heavenly court.

The principal Patron of the diocese of East Anglia is, of course Our Lady. Not that she walked the fields and beaches of East Anglia, as the other patrons did, but because her National Shrine lies within the bounds of the diocese, at Walsingham. And what a great privilege and singular honour it is for our diocese to have within it the place where Mary herself appeared in 1061. Our Lady requesting the building of a Holy House, to which pilgrims could come and have a visual reminder that the Incarnation took place at such a house in Nazareth, when the Word was made flesh in the womb and in the house of Mary. A reminder too that Mary herself became a House - a house in which for nine months the Maker of the World lived, having taken from Mary our human flesh. Mary of Walsingham, Mary of East Anglia. Our Mother who watches over us with great tenderness