



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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May 24th, 2020 : SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Mass

9.30am Int. For the People

Weekday Masses

Monday ST.BEDE THE VENERABLE

9:30am Int. +Maureen Quinn

Tuesday ST.PHILIP NERI

9:30am Int. Dom David

Wednesday STAUGSTINE OF
CANTERBURY

9:30am Int. Anthony Payne

Thursday EASTER FERIA

Friday EASTER FERIA

Noon Int. +Joan Runnacles (B&AL)

Saturday ST.WALSTAN

9.30am Int. Brian & Monica Macdonald

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 th Bishops' Conference.

Fr.John writes :

Dear Parishioners,

One of the best religious books I've read - many years ago, but unforgotten - had the title *The Stature of Waiting*. It was about Our Lord allowing himself to be handed over to his enemies, no longer being in charge, no longer taking the initiative, but waiting, powerless, as events unfolded around him. I suppose the 'stature' of waiting, of our waiting, is the sharing in that powerlessness of Our Lord at that time, sharing in the humility which such waiting both imposes and engenders.

At present we are experiencing Waiting in ways that are not familiar to us. It seems strange to

be waiting, queing, to go into a shop to buy food. And then in a broader way we are Waiting for a more normal way of life to return. Waiting to go to places, waiting to see people. Waiting, certainly, to being able to go freely into our churches and attend to Mass. Yes, waiting means not being in charge. Being dependent upon other peoples decisions. If accepted, it can help us to be less self-assertive, and more humble. And so more like the One we are seeking to follow.

These days between the Ascension of Our Lord, which we celebrated last Thursday, and Pentecost - the Coming of the Holy Spirit - which we celebrate next Sunday - form a very particular time of Waiting within the Church's Year. We put ourselves alongside the Apostles as they awaited the promised gift, which would enable them to go out to witness to the risen Lord, and would indeed transform them into new beings, full of faith and resolution. We use these days, from now until next Sunday, to reflect upon the great gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church as we await and prepare to celebrate his coming at Pentecost. We pray earnestly that as he came to us at Baptism, and increased his activity within us at Confirmation, so we will be directed and empowered by Him day by day.

With all good wishes,

Your friend and Parish Priest,

Fr.John

Anniversaries this week William Strachan (2016), Loris Squirrel (2017), Robert Fisher (2018), Betty Cuthbertson (2017), James Kanna (2003), Maureen Packer (2006), Percy Oliver (2003), and Christine Hodgson (2012). R.I.P.

Joan Runnacles RIP We were shocked and

saddened to hear of the sudden death of Joan, one of our oldest and most faithful parishioners. She was greatly loved and respected, having a lovely personality and a ready smile. We will miss her greatly - not least at the monthly parish lunch. Sadly there cannot be a 'normal' funeral at present, but there will be a memorial Mass in due course. We send our sympathy to Harry and to the family.

Congratulations to Brian & Monica Macdonald, who celebrate their Golden Wedding this week.

Catholic Womens' League Jenny writes :
'I know we do not have a section here in Felixstowe at present, but I thought I would like to pass on some news. The National Executive and Trustees decided to send £1,000 to each Branch to help support charities who are helping in various ways during this difficult time. Here in East Anglia we have matched the amount and we have sent donations to two food banks, a childrens' hospice, Wymondham Womans' Refuge, St.Martin's Housing , a community kitchen supplying emergency food, and FACTS here in Felixstowe. Teresa, Shanthini and myself are keeping all members and their families (present and past) in our prayers.'

THE SAINTS OF EAST ANGLIA

II ST.FELIX, FIRST BISHOP OF EAST ANGLIA

Last week I suggested that the Saints of East Anglia are interceding for us, and that this is one reason why our region has escaped reasonably lightly from the present pandemic. We recalled that Our Lady is the Primary Patron of the diocese, her special link with it being her appearance at Walsingham in 1061. Then the first of the Secondary Patrons is St.Felix, our own particular patron saint here. Who was he? He lived in the seventh century, so not surprisingly our knowledge concerning him is limited. What we do know is that he came from France, a Burgundian by birth, and that he was at Canterbury with Archbishop Honorius. The King of East Anglia, Sigebert, had been exiled to France, where Felix may have met him : when he returned to his kingdom, as a Christian he wanted to bring about the conversion of his people. He applied to Honorius, who sent Felix, now ordained a bishop

to lead the mission. According to St.Bede (whose feast we celebrate tomorrow) Felix remained Bishop of East Anglia for seventeen years, and presided over its conversion. He founded a monastery at Soham (now in Cambridgeshire) where he was buried, before his remains were translated to Ramsey Abbey.. Bede also tells us that Felix established his see at Dunnoch, which is usually taken to be Dunwich because it sounds rather the same. But some have questioned this, and suggested that Dunnoch may have been the original name for Felixstowe.....

MARY'S MONTH OF MAY

This week, a Meditation

'Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother..... and seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, this is your son". Then to the disciple he said, "This is you mother".'

Jesus SAW his mother ; he saw her, and he saw her need to be cared for and protected in the days ahead. When we are in great pain or distress, it's easy for us just to see ourselves - to be overwhelmed by our own misery and need. Our Lord, although in terrible agony, saw his mother - he saw her and he made provision for her. An example of the selflessness of Jesus - of his complete concern for others rather than for himself.

And he saw too the need of John, the beloved disciple. John, traditionally held to be a young man, would have depended upon Jesus as a kind of elder brother, there to guide and comfort him. John was now going to loose this support, and Jesus recognising his need gave him Mary, his own mother, to care for John and support him in the difficult days ahead.

Jesus saw Mary, and saw John, and recognising the needs of both of them was anxious, despite his terrible suffering, to supply those needs. Our Lord SEES us, too, and he wants to meet our needs - He wants to provide for us. We believe that when He gave Mary to John, John was representing the whole Church in every age. So that Jesus on the cross has given us, the People of God, his dear mother to pray for us and support us in our trials. Mary, caring for and supporting the Church, surrounding us with her maternal love.