



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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May 31st, 2020 : SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

Sunday Mass

9:30am Int. For the People

Weekday Masses

Monday MARY, MOTHER OF THE
CHURCH

9:30am Int. +Joan Runnacles (P&CR)

Tuesday FERIA

9:30am Int. Brian & Monica Macdonald
(D&M,P&C)

Wednesday ST.CHARLES LWANGA

9:30am Int. +Joan Runnacles (M&D)

Thursday FEAST OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

Friday ST.BONIFACE

Noon Int. Tom Nock

Saturday OF OUR LADY

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 epidemic, by order of the Bishops' Conference.

Fr.John writes :

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the last Sunday of Eastertide, which we keep as the Solemnity of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord had promised the Apostles at the Last Supper that the gift of the Holy Spirit would be given to the Church, and fifty days after his resurrection, on the Feast of Pentecost, the promise was fulfilled.

On the first day of Eastertide, Easter Sunday, we heard of Our Lord's encounter with Mary Magdalene in the Garden of the

Resurrection. He told her to go and tell his disciples that he was risen. She did this, and as St. John records she told them that 'she had seen the Lord'. Note that she didn't make an abstract statement such as 'Jesus is risen'. Rather she gave a personal testament of what she herself had seen and heard - 'I have seen the Lord'. The personal testimony is always more powerful than the abstract statement.

I think it is worth remembering this as we celebrate Pentecost, and are renewed in our desire and obligation to make known the mighty works of God. Our stating to ourselves and to others that the Holy Spirit has come to the people of God, and is the life-giving breath in the body of the Church is not enough. We must tell ourselves and others what this means and has meant to US personally. How WE have been aware of being guided in the course of our life, so gently and so quietly, by the Holy Spirit within us; of how WE have received the fruits of the Holy Spirit, Love, Joy, Peace, when we have earnestly asked for them, enabling us to forgive others, and put others first, and face life with confidence; of how WE have been nudged into prayer and Mass attendance by the Holy Spirit. (And if we haven't been aware of the working of the Holy Spirit in our life and in our soul, it will be because we haven't been alert and responsive to what He has been doing within us).

Our Lady, whose special Month of May ends today, sang 'My soul glorifies the Lord'. Today we join in her song afresh, praising God for the wonder of the gift of the Holy Spirit, first given to us at our Baptism : the Holy Spirit who guides and strengthens us day by day, bringing to us the grace given in the Sacraments, renewing our faith, and drawing us ever closer to the Father and

to one another. It is a great sadness that this year we can't come together to praise God at the Altar on this great feast. But the reality of His gracious presence in our lives is unaffected by any lockdown or catastrophe.

With all good wishes,
Your friend and Parish Priest Fr. John

Anniversaries this week Joyce Irvine (2001), Rose Gaffney (2001), Janet Sims (2009), Peter Love (2009), Sr. Bridget Carberry RJM (2017), and Joan Hazell (2004). May they Rest in Peace.

Pentecost National Rosary Rally This is taking place today, all over the country. The Rosary is being offered for the ending of the Coronavirus epidemic, for those who are giving assistance to others during it, and for the relief of the many and varied problems which it is bringing to individuals and to society.

The Diocese of East Anglia has been allotted the time 2.0pm to 3.0pm : the Bishop will be leading the Rosary, 'live-streamed' at 2.0pm. Do join him if you can, but certainly please try to say the Rosary (with you family if possible) at some time between 2.0pm and 3.0pm. A wonderful way to end this Month of Our Lady!

THE SAINTS OF EAST ANGLIA **III** *ST. EDMUND, KING AND MARTYR*

Our Lady of Walsingham is the Primary Patron of the East Anglia diocese ; last week we thought about the first of the Secondary Patrons, St. Felix, its first bishop. Next we come to St. Edmund, who, until St. George ousted him in the later Middle Ages, was patron of all England!

Who exactly was St. Edmund? He lived AD 841 to 869; a Saxon, he was brought up as a Christian, and became King of East Anglia when still in his 'twenties. A Viking invasion took place in 869; Edmund led his army against the invader, and was defeated and captured. He refused to either renounce the Faith, or give up his people into the hands of the cruel and harsh pagan invaders. As a result he was scourged, shot with arrows, and beheaded. His death and burial are thought to have taken place at Hellesdon, near

Norwich, but in the early tenth century his remains were taken to the town which came to be called Bury St. Edmunds, There, in the following century, King Cnut ordered a stone church to be built, and founded a house of Benedictine monks. The cult of St. Edmund, King and Martyr continued to grow, and Bury became one of the great pilgrimage centres of Mediaeval England. It is claimed that at the Reformation the body of St. Edmund was secretly buried somewhere near the site of the Abbey, and may yet be discovered.

It is good that one of the patrons of our diocese presents us with such a striking example of great courage in professing the Catholic Faith. He inspires us to persevere, and to stand firm against the many temptations which we face.

MARY'S MONTH OF MAY

Our Lady's month of May usually comes to a climax and a conclusion with the Feast of her Visitation on May 31st. This is one of the most joyful days in the Church's Year, when we recall Mary visiting Elizabeth, and both of them being overcome by joy and praise at the wonderful things which God was doing for them, as they prepared for motherhood : Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, Mother of John Baptist.

This year, however, the great Solemnity of Pentecost falls on May 31st, which means that we will not be celebrating the Visitation liturgically. It's disappointing, but we are not left without consolation! - for on the following day, June 1st - this Monday - occurs a new feast, which was only introduced a couple of years ago, the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. How good to meditate upon the way that Our Lady is loving Mother of all God's people : a Mother we can turn to in our every need.

CHURCHES RE-OPENING

The Bishop has sent a letter to the clergy saying that it is now time for us to make preparations for the opening of our churches for private prayer - no mention of public Masses yet. In next week's Newsheet I'll give details of what he says needs to be done. Some volunteers will be needed!