



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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June 7th, 2020 : SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Sunday Mass

9:30am Int. For the People

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am Int. +Edith Pritchard (FM)
Tuesday FERIA
9:30am Int. +Marjorie Dawson (FM)
Wednesday FERIA
9:30am Int. +Lois Lazell (FM)
Thursday ST.BARNABAS

Friday FERIA
Noon Int.
Saturday ST.ANTHONY OF PADUA
9.30am Int.

The above are all private Masses, since St.Felix, like all other Catholic churches, remains closed for the duration of the Coravirus epidemic, by order of the Government. Scandalous.

Fr.John writes :

Dear Parishioners,

The Book of Psalms - the 'hymn book' of the Old Testament - is sometimes called 'The Prayer Book of Jesus'. Our Lord would have learnt the psalms at Mary's knee, and so imbued was he in their spirituality that he quoted twice from them when hanging on the Cross. The Psalms are of the greatest help to us in our life of prayer. Pondering on their words is one of the easiest and best forms of meditation. Recently I've used several psalms which have contained the direction to 'Praise God'. Which has led me to wonder just what 'praise' is : what does one have to do? What does it mean to

'praise' God? Praise is a word which we meet very often in religion. But what IS it?

Fundamental to praise, I think, is Thanksgiving. When we are giving thanks to God for his gifts and goodness towards us, we are praising him. It's partly why thanksgiving matters so much, as I've written here before. By it we are reminded of the extraordinary generosity of God, of whom we say in the refrain of an old hymn 'Who givest all'. It would be awful if we found more things to grumble and complain about than things to give thanks for! When we are giving thanks to God, we are celebrating his greatness and his loving kindness, and yes, we are praising Him.

But I think that we are also offering praise when we are simply contemplating, with awe and wonder, the mystery of God's being, and the wonderful way in which he has revealed himself to us, and brought about our salvation. Simply contemplating God in his majesty and glory - with a fitting humility - is to give him praise. Saying, with heart and mind 'How great thou art!'

Today is a prime day for contemplating and praising God, on this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. What we contemplate is the fact that God has revealed to us a fundamental truth about himself - namely that within the divine Unity, there is a trinity of Persons - the Father, who made the world, the Son, who redeemed the world, and the Holy Spirit who is in the world, moulding and sanctifying. Yet another hymn speaks of us being 'lost in wonder, love, and praise' when in our mind and heart we contemplate God. May it be so,

Your friend and Parish Priest, Fr.John
THIS WEEK

Monday 11.0am Fr. John hopes to attend a virtual Meeting of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, by means of Zoom.

Friday 3.45pm Funeral of Kathleen Dearnaly, at the Crematorium of the Seven Hills.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Sr. Clare Cook RJM (2005), Florence O'Donnell (2000), Rita Pahlas (2007), Nora O'Brien (2004), Michael McKeon (2013), and Norah Liffen (2014). R.I.P.

THE SAINTS OF EAST ANGLIA

IV ST. ETHELDREDA

The third of the three Secondary Patrons of our diocese is St. Etheldreda, who died in the year 679. She was a daughter of King Anna of East Anglia, and is thought to have been born at Exning in Suffolk. She was married at an early age to a nobleman, Tondberht, but was widowed shortly afterwards. She retired to the Isle of Ely, her dowry, but afterwards was remarried, for political reasons, to the young King of Northumbria, Egfrith who was only fifteen, and several years younger than her. She had retained her virginity, and he agreed that she should continue to do so. Later she left him to become a nun, and retired once more to Ely where she founded a religious house on the site of the present Ely Cathedral. She lived an austere life there, until her death as a result of a plague.

Seventeen years after her death her body was found to be incorrupt, and later her shrine became a notable place of pilgrimage. That shrine was overthrown in 1541, but a relic of her body, an arm, miraculously survived, and is venerated today in the Catholic church in Ely. Maybe we should have a parish pilgrimage there sometime? It is good that one of our Patrons should have been a religious - a reminder to us of the necessity of discipline and prayer in the Christian life.

SET IN FELIXSTOWE

I've known the classic book of ghost stories by M.R. James, *Ghost Stories of an Antiquary*, for nearly fifty years, but I didn't know until last week that the best-known of his stories, *Oh*

whistle and I'll come to you my lad! was set in Felixstowe - which James re-names Berstowe. The Globe Hotel, where the action takes place, is apparently the old Bath Hotel. M.R. James was the Provost of King's College, Cambridge, and used to come and stay at The Lodge, now called Cranmer House, which had been built by a wealthy Mr. Cobbold, who was Bursar of King's College.

THE RE-OPENING OF THE CHURCHES (For Private Prayer)

Last week I said in the Newsheet that the Bishop had sent out details of how we should prepare for the Re-opening (when the Government permits it), and of what must be in place. I said that I would give further details this week. When the churches re-open, they will :

1. Only be open for a limited period each day. Here, I'm thinking of 10.30am- Noon and 2.30pm - 4.0pm.
2. Social distancing will be assisted by tapes on the floor, and certain of the pews being roped off.
3. There will be no Holy Water in the stoops.
4. No devotional material - including hymn books - will be available. Only papers, such as typed-out prayers, and the Newsheet, which can be taken home after use, or destroyed.
5. There must be no touching of statues (a devotional practice much used by some of our parishioners) or crucifixes.
6. No toilets must be available.

VOLUNTEERS will be needed to assist with the daily openings. They will be asked to :

1. See that the sanitising of hands takes place when people enter and leave (sanitising liquid will be provided).
2. Issue masks to those who request them.
3. See that social distancing is observed.
4. At the end of the opening time clean the door-handles, and other surfaces which have been touched, with disinfectant (provided).

If you would be prepared to be a Volunteer when the time comes, please would you tell me? Then, when the time comes, I will be able to 'phone around those on the list of volunteers, and see what time might be convenient for them.