



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF  
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## June 21st, 2020 : TWELTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Mass

9.30am Int. For the People

### Weekday Masses

Monday FEAST OF ST.JOHN FISHER  
& ST.THOMAS MORE  
9:30am Int. +Bridget & William  
Tuesday ST.ETHELDREDA  
9:30am Int. +Elizabeth Geoghegan  
Wednesday SOLEMNITY OF THE  
BIRTH OF ST.JOHN BAPTIST  
9:30am Int. +Mary Hopkins  
Thursday FERIA  
Friday FEAST OF THE DEDICATION  
OF THE CATHEDRAL  
Noon Int. +Ann Bracken  
Saturday FERIA  
9.30am Int. +Daniel Emberson

**The above are all private Masses, since the Government will not allow public services to take place in churches at present.**

ST.FELIX CHURCH IS OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER  
DAILY (EXCEPT WED.PM & THURS)  
11.0am - Noon  
2.0pm - 3.0pm

Fr.John writes ;  
Dear Parishioners,

It was a joy last Monday morning to open wide the doors at St.Felix - and most of the people who came in to say their prayers and maybe light a candle said how good it was to be back. People

have been very good about volunteering to spend an hour welcoming people, but the numbers of people availing themselves of the opportunity to come into church have been small. Partly, I think, because not everyone knows that the building is open again, and partly because people are still rather nervous. We have taken all the precautions laid down by the diocese, and I really think that it is quite safe to use the building. Maybe we will see more people coming into the church during the week just beginning.

As we look ahead we may feel that we are looking into something of an abyss. It seems that many people are going to face unemployment and an inevitable lowering of their standards of living. There is likely to be an increase in real poverty. The effects on the education of our young people is deeply troubling. And many people face a degree of mental trouble as a result of loneliness and anxiety. We are not going to come out of all this suddenly, quickly, painlessly, as we do when awakening from a bad dream.

And yet there are traces of a silver lining. Only today a man was telling me how the people in his road just used to nod to each other, but now speak to each other. Acts of kindness towards those in need of help have abounded. There has been a real selflessness and self sacrifice on the part of the medical and nursing professions and of many others too. And maybe some people have been led to think more deeply about the meaning and purpose of life, and have come to appreciate things which they formerly took for granted. It has been not just a sobering thought, but a sobering situation. Whilst taking very seriously the damage and privations brought about by the virus,

it is right too not to lose sight of those elements of a silver lining. This life on earth has always been a mixture of good and bad, pleasure and pain, hardship and delight. Only when the Kingdom of God is fully inaugurated, and there is 'a new heaven and a new earth' will perfect bliss be achieved. Until then we must struggle on and struggle through, never losing sight of the promise made to us of future joy and peace in heaven.

Your friend and Parish Priest,

Fr. John

## PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Janet Mitchell (2000), John Milford (2006), Halina Schoeberl (2016), and Austin Ryan (2000). May they Rest in Peace.

**Mass of the Chrism** This of course should have taken place at the Cathedral on the Tuesday in Holy Week, and just before lockdown began we were already making arrangements for a coach to go from the parish here. The Bishop has now decided that he will bless the Holy Oils for this year at the live-streamed Mass from the Cathedral next Sunday - the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul. This live-streamed Mass, celebrated most Sundays by the Bishop, takes place at 10.0am. So if you watch next Sunday you will be able to be present at the Mass of the Chrism - virtually - after all!

**Money Matters** Several parishioners, concerned for the well-being of the parish, have asked me whether money is still coming in. And in answering them I have to express some anxiety. A few envelopes come through the Presbytery door in the course of each week, but not very many. The number of standing orders or direct debits is very low indeed. Early on in the lockdown I gave the code for paying your contributions into the bank direct, and I think I ought to repeat this :  
Bank : HSBC Sort Code 402106  
Account 11513869  
Of course it may be that people are saving up what they would be putting into the collection, and intend to make a big payment when normality returns. But do please take this matter very seriously. We must try to still make ends meet.

## THE SAINTS OF EAST ANGLIA

### VI ST. WALSTAN

In the official list of Diocesan Saints, which prints out their collects, the individual saint's name is followed by the descriptive word 'King', or 'Bishop', or 'Abbot', or 'Missionary'. But the name of St. Walstan is followed by 'Farm Worker', which rather marks him out as rather special.....

St. Walstan lived in the eleventh century, and was said to be the son of a prince, who renounced wealth and position to live a life of great simplicity. This may be a later embroidery of his story, but certainly he lived and worked as a farm labourer near Norwich, in the parishes of Taverham and Costessey. (The nineteenth century Catholic church in the latter is dedicated in his honour.) Walstan was renowned for his goodness and generosity to those in need, as well as for his personal holiness. He is said to have been given a cow which bore two calves, and that when he died these calves pulled a cart bearing his body, to be buried in the place where they came to a halt. This was in the nearby village of Bawburgh. There a cult developed in the parish church, and flourished until the Reformation, when his shrine was destroyed. Farmers and labourers are said to have resorted to his shrine on May 30th each year, seeking his blessing upon themselves and upon their animals, and it is alleged that this continued even after the destruction of the shrine.

I visited Bawburgh church a few years ago, and was very sad to see no mention of St. Walstan - no picture or icon, let alone a reconstructed shrine. In a field just below the church is the saint's Holy Well : this had been given a roof, but there was no Christian symbol - not even a cross on the apex of the roof. I wished very much that the site was in Catholic hands!

It is good that amongst the saints of East Anglia there is one who led a very simple, ordinary, life - like our own. It reminds us that we can achieve holiness without heroic deeds and a position of influence. Holiness comes by a purposeful and sustained loving of God and of those around us, in whatever state of life we find ourselves.