



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF  
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## July 26th, 2020 : 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm (St.F) Int. For the People  
Sunday 9:30am (St.F) Int.  
11:00am (St.F) Int.

### Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA  
9:30am (St.F) Int.  
Tuesday FERIA  
9:30am (St.F) Int.  
Wednesday ST.MARTHA  
9:30am (St.F) Int.  
Thursday FERIA  
Friday ST.IGNATIUS LOYOLA  
Noon (St.F) Int.  
Saturday ST.ALPHONSUS LIGOURI  
9.30m (St.F) Int.  
6:00pm (St.F) Int.

**At present all Masses will take place at St.Felix:  
the Convent continues in lockdown for the time  
being.**

ST.FELIX IS OPEN  
HALF AND HOUR BEFORE ADVERTISED  
MASSES  
AND ALSO 4.0pm-5.0pm  
ON MON., TUES., FRI., AND SAT.

### The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) is said a quarter of an hour before the first Mass.

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, 4.0pm to 5.0pm

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request.

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

### THIS WEEK

**Monday** 10.30am Fr.John hopes to take part in a Meeting of the Diocesan Historic Churches Committee, by 'Zoom'.  
1.30pm Funeral Service for John Bistoquet RIP at the Crematorium of the Seven Hills.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** James Shevlin (2011), Roy Fenton (2001), Ronald Hockery (2002), Christiane Taylor (2004), and Maria Maher (2007). May they Rest in Peace.

**Covid Care** A big thank-you to those good people who have been acting as Stewards when the church is open, and to the people who so readily sanitize the pews after Mass. I feel that everyone is being very good and sensible about sanitizing their hands, and about distancing in church : a moment at which we have to take special care is when we come forward to receive Holy Communion, and when it would be easy to forget to keep the appropriate distance between the person in front of us and ourselves. A recent e.mail from Bishop's House reminds us that we are encouraged to use face-masks in church : we may perhaps question the desirability of this, but it maybe gives confidence to others, and for that reason alone we may want to mask ourselves.....

## SEVEN THINGS WHICH ARE DISTINCTIVE ABOUT ROMAN CATHOLICISM

**II. We are deeply aware of the fact that we are part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, travelling together towards the heavenly kingdom.**

I think maybe a fundamental difference between Catholicism and Protestantism is that the Protestant thinks first and foremost about his or her own personal, individual, private, relationship with God, whereas the Catholic thinks first and foremost about his or her relationship with God in terms of his or her membership of the Church. The Protestant is primarily an individual ; the Catholic is primarily a part of the whole people of God, and only after that an individual. This Catholic understanding is inherited from God's ancient people the Jews. They too thought of themselves as first and foremost being part of God's Holy People : part of the whole body chosen and loved by God, and walking together in his ways.

As Catholics, we know ourselves to be part of a great family, into which we have been born by Baptism. A few days ago an extreme Protestant stopped me in the street, and asked me if I had been 'born again'. 'Yes', I replied. 'When?' he demanded. 'When I was baptized'. 'Baptism means nothing', he announced. I'd been caught by surprise: what I should have said, of course, is that Jesus himself said 'Unless a man is born again of water and the Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God'. And what Our Lord was most obviously referring to here is Baptism. There at the Font we are 'born again' into God's holy people, the Church. We become part of a family, with privileges and obligations, as in any family.

The Family of the Church, in which we are saved by life-giving Sacraments and by the teaching of Jesus - the teaching which the Church has cherished and preserved ( and at a very early stage recorded in the Gospels) is a family of which part is here on earth, and part is now in heaven. A vast and universal family. Within the family are the Saints of God, our elder Brothers and Sisters, who both inspire and pray for us. And this Family has a Mother - Mary the Mother of Jesus. Jesus

shares his blessed Mother with us : she watches over us, and makes intercession for us. The Church was founded by Our Lord - part of his great plan and purpose for our redemption and sanctification. We rejoice to be within its fellowship, and to receive within this context such great and precious gifts.

### LATER THIS WEEK.....

..... we keep the feast of two Saints with long names - St.Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), and St.Alphonsus Ligouri (1696-1787). Probably the former is the better known, as founder of the Jesuits, and of a distinctive and valuable way of praying. St.Ignatius was a soldier, who underwent a conversion whilst recovering from war wounds. He loved reading novels, romances, but found that the place where he was staying didn't have any of these - only a Bible and a Lives of the Saints. To pass the time, he read what was available, and was transformed by it. What was the way of praying which he advocated? Well in its bare essentials, he taught that in prayer we should use not just our mind, but our imagination and feelings. Take an incident in the Gospels, he said : imagine the scene, imagine that you are part of the scene. Hear the sounds, see the picture, feel the objects. Try to enter into the scene. And then notice some of the main points about the incident : what are they saying to you, about God and about yourself and others? He also spoke much about discernment : the thoughts and intentions we have, are they coming to us from God, or from the enemy?

St.Alphonsus lived in a different age, and his life followed a different course. He was an Italian bishop - St.Ignatius was a Spaniard - and he founded the Redemptorist order. Like Ignatius, he was an important spiritual writer, and in his writings and in his preaching he aimed at simplicity and intelligibility. How good. He was also known for his gentleness and approachability. We remember him not least for his beautiful eucharistic hymn *O bread of Heaven* , and it will be a sadness not to sing it at the end of his Mass on Saturday. It ends with that beautiful couplet

*For how can He deny me heaven,  
who here on earth Himself has given?*