



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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October 18th, 2020 : 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm (St.F) Int. For the People
Sunday 9:30am (St.F) Int. +Raymond Smith
11:00am (Con) Int. +Bernard Davies
(FM)

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am (St.F) Int. + Bruce Stewart-Hess
Tuesday FERIA
9:30am (St.F) Int. Dion Allen
Wednesday FERIA
9:30am (St.F) Int.
Thursday ST.JOHN PAUL II
No Mass today
Friday FERIA
Noon (St.F) Int. Edward Allen
Saturday FERIA
9.30am (St.F) Int. +Michael McGuire (FM)
6:00pm (St.F) Int. For the People

All Masses continue to be at St.Felix'. Members of the congregation are required to wear face masks during Mass at present : the Celebrant must wear a face mask when administering Holy Communion.

ST.FELIX CHURCH IS OPEN
DURING THE RESTRICTIONS
HALF AN HOUR BEFORE ADVERTISED
MASSES
AND ALSO 4.0pm-5.0pm
ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, & FRIDAY

The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) is said a quarter of an hour before Mass on weekdays.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 4.0pm to 5.0pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

On request

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 10.30am Distanced Meeting of the Parish Liturgy Committee, in the Hall.

Friday 2.30pm Distanced Meeting of the Parish Finance Committee, in the Hall

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Maureen Newman (2007), Nellie Raffe (2007), Peggy Colson (2016), Raymond Smith (2017), Gordon Herries (1994), Elsie Fordham (2001), Veronica McDonald (2003), Arthur Burgess (2009), Alice Gotch (2004), and James Dunne (2010). R.I.P.

Money Matters Last Sunday £403.20 was given at the Offertory, and £36.00 for CAFOD. £348.48 was given in the retiring collection, which was for the CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal. This weekend there will be a retiring collection for Foreign Missions.

Congratulations to John O'Mahony, who is celebrating his ninetieth birthday this weekend. We wish him good health and further longevity.

Chandelier Most people seem to be pleased with the new chandelier in the St.Joseph Chapel, and already a parishioner who wishes to be anonymous has offered to pay for a similar one in

the Sacred Heart Chapel. So now we must keep our eyes open. A second one must, of course, be of the same quality as that recently hung : only the best for St.Felix!

Fresh as paint Several people have asked about the scaffolding still on the Presbytery. It was put up to facilitate the repainting of the house - ladders are no longer deemed to be sufficiently safe. But it was discovered that some rotten wood needed replacing, and some re-pointing of the brickwork had to be carried out. The shabby-looking front door has been painted too : the black gloss may make you feel that you are in Downing Street!

FAITH AND DOUBT

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that we would be keeping the Feast of St.John Henry Newman (1801-1890), and since then I've been thinking about the second reading appointed for the Office of Readings on his feast. It is taken from his famous account of his religious development, the *Apologia*, and in it he writes of the inner serenity and assuredness which he had reached after becoming a Catholic, a state of 'perfect peace and contentment'. Further, he says 'I have never had one doubt'.

I think many of us would envy that state of mind, that untroubled faith, that sense of certainty. For many of us faith is often a struggle, and perhaps we find ourselves saying to Our Lord with the man in the Gospel 'Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief'. We know that deep down we do believe, indeed we have received the precious gift of faith. But on the surface, as with a rough sea, there can be considerable turbulence.

Thinking about Newman's untroubled and assured faith, I've asked myself whether it was easier to believe in the nineteenth century than it is now, in the twenty-first. And in at least one way, I think it was. Then, the vast majority of people in western Europe adhered to the Christian Faith. Some of course, but comparatively few, did not, and within the fold of believers there would be varying degrees of both commitment and certainty. But most people did sign up to the Christian Creed. And I think that this must have been a great help in believing. There would be

little of the 'standing alone', the isolation, which Christian believers sometimes experience today. It is always much easier to espouse a cause, to hold to some truth, which people around us are all (nearly) unanimous in holding. We are supported by such widespread and general acceptance of the same truths which we espouse. It comes more easily and more naturally if those around us are thinking and doing the same.

It is very different at the present time. We may be the only one in our family who professes and practices the Faith. We may feel quite 'out on a limb', and this in itself can cause our faith to waver : maybe the others are all right, and I'm wrong? Wouldn't it be far more comfortable - and maybe right - to go with the crowd? It's not easy when we are surrounded by a sea of unbelief, indifference, and materialism which our not-so-distant forefathers didn't experience.

And then we are not only surrounded by unbelief, but by people of other religions, something which Newman and his contemporaries didn't have to come to terms with. I'm thinking particularly of the large numbers of Muslims in our society - a Faith which often seems more vibrant and flourishing than Christianity. Doubt creeps in : are they maybe right, and we wrong? Does it matter what one is? Are all religions the same, of equal status and truthfulness? Is Jesus really unique? Has He a legitimate claim on our allegiance? These can be troubling questions, and can subtly undermine our adherence to the Christian Faith by sowing doubts and uncertainties in our minds.

So yes, I think it is more difficult to be true to our Christian Faith today. Which means, I think, that if we are to be faithful to the Lord who lived and died and rose again for us, whom we have known personally in the course of our spiritual life, who has been there for us, and has allowed us to experience his love for us - then we have got to put more into our work of discipleship. We must deepen that relationship with Jesus by worship and prayer, by reading the Gospels, and being in the company of other believers. Deep in our hearts we know that our Catholic, Christian, Faith is true : we mustn't allow ourselves to be drawn aside into unbelief and false teaching.