



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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November 15th, 2020 : 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Mass

Int. For the People

Weekday Masses

Monday	ST.MARGARET OF SCOTLAND
Int.	+Families, Friends, etc. of RJM
Tuesday	ST.HUGH OF LINCOLN
Int.	Ellen Harrington
Wednesday	FERIA
Int.	
Thursday	FERIA
Int.	
Friday	ST.EDMUND KING & MARTYR
Int.	+Those interred in the Mem.Garden
Saturday	PRESENTATION OF THE BVM
Int.	+Fr.Kieeron Connelly (FM)

be available to hear Confessions each day when the church is open for Exposition, 11.0am -Noon. Just approach him and say that you wish to make your Confession.

The Sick The Parish Priest is always available to visit the sick and administer the Sacraments to them, as requested.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

every day this week except Thursday & Friday
11.0am to Noon
'Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord'

No public worship is allowed to take before December 2nd.

Mass will be offered privately each day (except Thursday) at St.Felix at 9.30am and Intentions can be requested.

St.Felix' will be open for private prayer every day (except Thursday) 10.0am to 2.0pm

When entering the church you will be asked -in addition to sanitising your hands - to collect a 'wipe' from the table in the porch, and on leaving to use it to sanitise the place where you have been sitting. The 'wipe' should then be placed in the black sack in the basket at the back of the Nave seating.

THIS WEEK

Monday 8.0am Engineers begin to lay the new gas supply into the church.

Friday 10.45am Fr.John takes part in a Dean's Meeting by means of *Zoom*

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Sr.Pauline Callan (2001), Barbara Schmitz (2008), and Ellen Moran (2000). May they Rest in Peace.

Womens' World Day of Prayer Helen Riddell has been our representative on the ecumenical committee which organises the WWDP in Felixstowe for the past five years, and is now retiring from it. We are grateful to her for representing St.Felix during this time.. It would be good if we could continue to be represented,

Sacrament of Reconciliation Fr.John will

but that depends on whether one of our ladies is prepared to volunteer. It only involved three planning meetings each year. Is anyone prepared to volunteer, please?

THE TRENCH

Last week, as we kept - in however an abbreviated way - Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, we recalled the horror and the misery of twentieth century trench warfare, and remembered the terrible sufferings of the soldiers in those two great conflicts. But a part of my mind, I have to confess, was on a more local and more innocent trench - a trench which had been dug through my garden to accommodate a new gas supply, running from the garage to the old boiler house under the Sacristy. When the new hot water boiler was installed earlier this year, it was found that the old gas pipe was insufficient to supply enough gas for both the hot water boiler and the hot air system, and bearing in mind that we might yet have cold winters, it seemed best to have both systems capable of being operated.

The heating contractor had suggested that we could save money by digging the actual trench ourselves, and two of our most faithful men, Wilf and Dennis, gallantly undertook to do this. So last Sunday, together with three of their Martial Arts friends, Mick, John, and Martin, they dug through the clay underlying the garden to duly create the required trench. We are extremely grateful to them. Our excellent new gardener, Frankie, had already cut the turfs.

The only problem encountered was that when the trench reached a certain point outside my sitting room window, it encountered in its path a small brick domed structure, a foot or so below the surface. What could it be? Maybe part of a Roman Bath House? Or part of St. Felix's seventh-century Oratory? But somehow the brickwork didn't seem to date from the first or seventh centuries : more likely something to do with early twentieth-century drainage.....

A few days after the trench had been dug, the Treasurer and I went out to take another look at the mysterious structure, and there in the trench were a couple of hedgehogs, who had foolishly fallen into it! As I donned my oldest trousers and

a pair of leather gardening gloves, and descended into the trench to rescue them, I thought that here was a small parable of Our Lord's saving work : his donning our human nature, and descending into our world to save poor fallen humankind. Whether the hedgehogs were pleased to have been rescued was unclear. But then don't many people, seem indifferent to the wonderful salvation which our Blessed Lord has brought about for us?

SELF CONTROL

A few days ago a man who is just learning English asked me what 'self-control' meant. After a moments thought I said that it meant being able to say NO - No to whatever one believes to be wrong, and for the Christian, whatever is not in line with the teaching and example which Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us. I added that there does not seem to be a great deal of self-control about these days : so many people are governed not by what is 'right', but only by their own inclinations and desires.

But for living the Christian life, self-control is vital. We are Soldiers of Christ, and no soldier would be any use if he couldn't obey his orders, and practice self-discipline. The devil says things like 'Go on, you know you want to ; why shouldn't you? Everyone else does - why shouldn't you?'. The Christian has to stand firm, he or she has to seek, with God's help and with the encouragement of his or her fellow Christians, to stand firm. Who is in charge? - ourselves, obedient to Our Lord, or our whims and appetites?

HOW ARE YOU COPING?

I think many of us are finding these long months of the Covid crisis, whether locked-down or not, very trying, very difficult. We easily find ourselves feeling lethargic, not really interested in anything, not wanting to do anything, and tired and weary without having really done very much. It is a miserable time for all of us, and it is easy to become negative and jaded in our outlook.

I think it is vital that we don't let go of our life of prayer. Prayer is the sure way to keep in touch with God, who is the source of the help and strength which we need. May I again commend prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the Altar? Inner peace is to be found there.