



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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December 6th, 2020 : SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. A Private Intention
Sunday 9:30am Int. For the People
11:00am Int. +Peter McGuire (FM)

Weekday Masses

Monday ST.AMBROSE
9:30am Int. +Jenny Byrne
Tuesday SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACUALTE CONCEPTION
9:30am Int. + Frank Duran
Wednesday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int.
Thursday BLESSED MARTYRS OF
EAST ANGLIA
No Mass today
Friday ADVENT FERIA
8.0am Int.
Saturday ADVENT FERIA
9.30am Int. + John Sullivan (FM)
6:00pm Int. For the People

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

THIS WEEK

Today At the 11.0am Mass, Baptism of Aisha Ayed, a little girl whom we often see at Mass.
Friday 10.30am Fr.John attends a meeting of the Council of Priests, at Poringland.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Sr.Assisi Clifford RJM (2006), Joseph Smyth (2007), Kate Godfrey (2001), Cyril Duran (1999), Brenda Davison (2004), Josie bones (2007), Dorothy Veitch (2015), Phyllis Garrod (2006), and Mary Sutcliffe (2017). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the Dependant Priests' Fund.

Christmas Masses The Christmas Masses will be at 5.0pm and 7.0pm on Christmas Eve, and at 9.30am and 11.0am on Christmas Day. Seating must be distanced, and it is possible for St.Felix to accomodate eighty people safely for each Mass. Like most other churches, we will be operating a ticket system. This is mainly to ensure that everyone doesn't decide to come to the same Mass! - with a maximum capacity of eighty, we need to spread out across the four times. The tickets, which will be numbered and each be in the name of a particular person - and which will, of course, be free - will be available after Masses from Monday this week, on weekdays from the Sacristy, and on the two Sundays from the Porch. If we find that more than three hundred and twenty people want to attend Mass, then I will put on a

**During the current restrictions
the church is open daily**

9.0am to 3.0pm

**Masks must continue to be worn, and please on
entering church take a 'wipe' and sanitise
where you have been sitting on leaving.**

The Daily Office

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday at 10.0am Benediction at 10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request

fifth Christmas Mass. No one will find that there is no place available for them!

Childrens' Christmas Cards Further to the item in last week's Newsheet, Katy writes 'Looking to share some Christmas spirit? We are looking for some younger members of the Parish to make Christmas cards to share some joy with isolated parishioners this December. If you would like to draw a picture or card sending Christmas wishes, please deliver them to the Presbytery, if possible by December 13th. Please say 'from the children of St.Felix' on the card, so they know where it is from'
Fr.John adds 'If you want to make the card more personal, I can give you the Christian name of one of our housebound parishioners.'

Parish Christmas Cards Paper is not meant to be left lying about in church at present. We make an exception for the Newsheets : these have by them a notice saying that if you touch them, please throw them away. So it has been suggested that we should not this year leave our Christmas cards to fellow parishioners lying around as we usually do. Please post them or hand them over personally.

Crib in the Hall window Anne Poole writes 'As part of a Churches Together in Felixstowe (CTF) initiative to "light up" as many Christian places of worship as possible, this year during Advent we have put together a simple Crib tableau in the front window of our church hall, which will be illuminated each evening during the Advent/Christmas period. CTF will be publishing a route of churches taking part on the CTF website.

Fr.John adds : 'We are grateful to Anne, Barbara, Alan, and Haley for arranging this Crib. It is good that we should take part in the initiative - and also that there are some decorations which relate to what Christmas is about!'

ADVENT JOY

This holy season of Advent is a time of joy. Sometimes in the past it has been seen as a little Lent. Yes, it is one of the penitential seasons in the Church's Year, but penitence, which is met by forgiveness, is not in itself a gloomy thing. In one of the readings which we use in Advent, we

hear St.Paul exhort us 'Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice'. And the Gospel reading which the church gives us for the first Tuesday in Advent begins with the words 'Filled with joy by the Holy Spirit, Jesus said.....' During Advent each year, we contemplate the events of the Annunciation to Mary, and her Visitation to Elizabeth, both of which are counted amongst the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Advent, a time of joy.

In this pre-Christmas period the world revels in its Yuletide - coloured lights, present buying, and in more usual times, parties. The world seeks after happiness in this season, and hopefully finds it. We Christians seek for something of another order and of a greater depth, namely Joy. Happiness, I think, comes from worldly things, material things, and from warm feelings and prosperous circumstances.. Take those things away, and it withers. Happiness cannot easily exist with hardship and deprivation. Joy can. For it is not dependent upon our own making and our particular circumstances. Joy is a gift from God, and can and does exist in situations which are less than comfortable.

In that Gospel reading. Jesus was 'Filled with joy by the Holy Spirit'. His Sacred Heart was of course completely open to that joy which the Holy Spirit gives. Maybe our hearts are not always open to receive this precious gift of Joy. Maybe we don't ask the Holy Spirit to bestow it upon us. He doesn't force his gifts upon us - part of the divine courtesy is that He waits until we ask, and have hearts open to receive.

Advent, a time of joy. How can we open our hearts to that gift of joy? By a prayerful contemplation of the wonderful things which God has done in coming amongst us, the Word made Flesh. By mediating upon the events which the early chapters of St.Luke's and St.Matthew's Gospels record. By looking, listening, longing, and loving. By having in our minds the wonder of the Incarnation, and the wonder of the Father's long preparation for that event in Israel's history. Come, Lord Jesus! Come to us Holy Spirit, with your gift of Holy Joy! Prepare us for the surpassing joy of the birth of Jesus, our Saviour and our Lord!