



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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December 20th, 2020 : FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. For the People
Sunday 9:30am Int. +Alan Deveney
11:00am Int.

Weekday Masses

Monday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int. +Marie Whyte
Tuesday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int. +Jenny Byrne
Wednesday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int.
Thursday ADVENT FERIA
9.30am Int.

9.30am Int. +Agnes Curley

The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) will be said each day except Friday this week, a quarter of an hour before Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday at 10.0am

Rosary No Rosary this week, Friday being Christmas Day.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

At present Confessions are being heard in the Sacred Heart Chapel, because it is safer to be in a more open space than in the Confessional. I will be in the Chapel to hear Confessions before Christmas :

Saturday 5.15pm - 5.45pm
Tuesday 10.0am - 10.30am
(during Exposition)
Wednesday 3.0pm - 3.30pm
7.0pm - 7.30pm
Thursday 11.30am - Noon
2.0pm-2.30pm

I was hearing Confessions in the Sacred Heart Chapel during Exposition last Tuesday morning, when I heard the sound of the dustcart in the street outside. It struck me as being a powerful image, for just as the dustman takes away all our rubbish, so God takes away our sins and shortcomings in this gracious Sacrament of Confession. It might seem irreverent to compare God to the dustman, but disposing of what needs to be disposed of is what both are about. Let God

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

5.0pm Int.
7.0pm Int. +John Battersby

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Int. For the People
11.0am Int. +Alan Deveney

*Admittance to these Masses is by ticket.
Tickets can be obtained after Masses until
Christmas Eve -
on weekdays from the Sacristy, and on Sunday
from the Porch.*

*Christmas Day is a Holyday of Obligation,
but this year the Obligation can be fulfilled on
any day in the Christmas Octave.*

Saturday FEAST OF ST.STEPHEN

dispose of your sin before Christmas in the way which He has appointed!

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Stanley Ring (2009), Doris Bird (2002), Margaret Hanlon (2009), Monica Cooper (2019), Joseph Grace (2003), Jenny Byrne (2019), Heather Campbell (2001), Patricia Schwan (2015), Sr. Barbara Brent (2014), Malachy Hodgen (2016), Michael Sutcliffe (2017), and Emily Duck (2000). RIP

Money Matters Last Sunday £470.20 was given at the Offertory, and £100.30 for CAFOD. £243.75 was given in the retiring collection, which was for the Dependant Priests' Fund. Today there is a retiring collection for Stella Maris - the Apostleship of the Sea. The Christmas Collection is given to the Parish Priest, as a basic constituent of his annual income.

Holy Water Last weekend someone said how much they miss the Holy Water stoup being available by the church door. Yes, sadly Holy Water by the church door is not currently permitted, because of the possible spreading of infection. But Holy Water is available from the Sacristy for your own use at home. Just bring along a little bottle, and I will fill it for you.

WAITING.....

I really like the Christmas Crib to be in the Lady Chapel, which is where it has been each year since I have been here. The advantage is that we can then have a Procession to the Crib, which is always a very special part of the Childrens' Christmas Mass. The children all carry candles, (electric ones!) and after the Bambino has been placed in the manger, we sing *Away in a manger*. This year, however besides no singing being allowed, a Procession is not advisable either, because it would present problems as regards distancing. And so it seems wise to have the Crib where it used to be, namely under the main Altar. The Bambino is traditionally placed on the Altar during the Christmas Mass, after which it can be placed in the Crib without any kind of procession being necessary. And it is, admittedly, a good place for a Crib - there at the centre of our liturgical celebration, and visually related to the

place where the Christ himself becomes present amongst us once more, in the Holy Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

This year, with the help of Chris who has made a new background, I've set up the Stable in time for this last Sunday of Advent. What you see is a representation of the Stable as it was before the arrival of the Holy Family, with just the animals who usually occupied it in place. Just a stable. Any old stable. There is though, I hope, a feeling of expectation about it. It is the scenery waiting for the drama to unfold. The drama which began when the Holy Family arrived in Bethlehem, and being unable to find any accommodation is shown into this stable. It then ceased then to be any old stable - as you see it today - and became the setting for the most wonderful thing imaginable - the birth into the world of God made Man - the divine Word come amongst us in great love and humility.

The coming of Mary and Joseph to that stable in Bethlehem, and the birth of Mary's divine Son, transformed the ordinariness, the lowliness, of the stable and made it immensely special, indeed a truly holy place. And the birth of the Christ within our hearts and minds as we receive him anew in Holy Communion, transforms us and makes us, like the stable, dwelling places of the incarnate God.

- Q** What is Santa's Favourite carol?
A Ho Ho Ho ly Night.