



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF  
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## January 3rd, 2021 : SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

### Sunday Masses

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

### Weekday Masses

Monday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
9:30am Int.  
Tuesday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
9:30am Int.  
Wednesday SOLEMNITY OF THE  
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
9:30am Int. For the People  
Thursday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
No Mass today  
Friday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
Noon Int.  
Saturday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
9.30am Int.  
6:00pm Int. For the People

### The Daily Office

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

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday at 10.0am

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Otherwise by request

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Wednesday this week** The Epiphany of the Lord : A Holyday of Obligation

**Next Sunday** Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: The ending of Christmastide.

**Anniversaries this week** John Dimascio (2003), Francesca Warford (2003), Mary Underwood (2011), and Adrian Cotton (2013). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** The collection on Christmas Day, which goes to the Parish Priest as a basic part of his annual income was £1160.10. Last Sunday £267.16 was given at the Offertory, and £43.60 for CAFOD.

**A Seminarian** The Bishop would like another Seminarian to spend some time at Felixstowe. His name is Benjamin, and he is a first year student at Oscott, Birmingham. He is from the Our Lady and the English Martyrs parish in Cambridge. That is all I know about him at present; when he comes here I will ask him to introduce himself to you in the Newsheet. When will he be here? I'm not sure at present, but the Bishop intimated that he would like him to be here for an initial visit before his term recommences at Oscott at the end of the month. I'm glad about this : I think that having a seminarian here keeps me on my toes, and makes me think more deeply about priesthood ( it also means that I have to get proper meals!) I think it is encouraging for you, also, to see that the Church is not dying out! And good for our boys, too - it might sow the seed of a vocation to the priesthood.

### CHURCH OPENING

As restrictions continue, the church is open every day 9.0am to 3.0pm

## ST.JOSEPH

The Holy Father has issued an Apostolic Letter entitled *PATRIS CORDE* ('with a Father's heart'), & has proclaimed a special Year of St.Joseph, to run until next December. It is to mark the one hundred & fiftieth anniversary of Pope Pius IX proclaiming St.Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church. I hope to reproduce sections of the Apostolic Letter here in the Newsheet in the course of the year. This special year should be a cause of joy & affirmation for us all.

I wonder how you think we should mark this special year here in our own parish? Two things have been suggested already :

**One**, that we have a special prayer card printed, maybe with a picture of our own very excellent statue of St.Joseph on it, & a prayer to St.Joseph which people could use at home throughout the year.

**Two**, that contributions be invited towards the cost of the professional cleaning of the very grubby stonework of the altar & reredos in St.Joseph's Chapel (we've seen what a difference cleaning made to the Altar & altarpiece in the Lady Chapel).

(I'm so glad that the new chandelier was hung in the St.Joseph Chapel ready for this special year). Let me know what you think about these ideas, & do put in any other ideas which occur to you.

Here is the prayer with which Pope Francis ends his Apostolic Letter :

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
To you God entrusted his only Son ;  
In you Mary placed her trust,  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, & courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

## BELIEVING

Sometimes one longs to have lived in an 'age of faith' - that is at a time when most people accepted the truth of the Christian Faith. One feels that it would have been so much easier to believe in God & accept the teachings of the Church at a time when most other people did so. In the

present there are times when faith is - at the least - hardly encouraged by so many many people seeming to be indifferent to the message which the Church proclaims - or else are adherents of other Faiths. 'Can it be true?' is a chilling question which sometimes, one imagines, presents itself to all of our minds. Priests are as likely to be assailed by these thoughts as anyone else. And when this unsettling question 'Can it be true?' is inserted into my own mind by the Tempter, I find the following considerations very helpful & reassuring :

1. Think of people of profound intellect & holiness, such as St.John Paul II, Pope Benedict, St.John Henry Newman, & people of such outstanding selflessness & charity as St.Teresa of Calcutta & St.Claudine : isn't one safe to follow the same truths which these heroes lived by? The Saints enthuse & inspire us ; they also direct us to what is true & 'worth the winning'. Let them bring us reassurance.

2. Think of ones own experience of God's love. The times when you have felt him close to you, helping you, & guiding you on your way. Those happy interventions which maybe at the time you maybe thought to be chance, but which on mature considerations you recognised as being more than that. Our personal experience of God's presence & activity - often only glimpsed is something powerful & telling. 'So far thy grace hast led me...' God has not left himself unknown in our lives.

3. If there are reasons to believe in the existence of God - & there are strong reasons for doing so - then doesn't the God whom Christians worship seem to be just as one would hope & believe a god to be - full of wisdom, mercy, & compassion, infinitely gracious & loving? Someone wrote that God & the Christian Faith are such 'that I would rather risk being wrong about this, than being right about anything else' God as revealed in Jesus Christ meets our very highest conceptions & aspirations.

These are just some of the considerations which I remind myself of in times of doubt & temptation. Doubtless you have your own 'anchors' for your faith. Maybe you would like to share them with us? We need to encourage one another.