



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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January 31st, 2021 : 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am Int. For the ending of the pandemic
Tuesday FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD
9:30am Int. +Winifred Barnes
Wednesday ST.BLAISE
9:30am Int. Jenny and Brian Coates
Thursday FERIA
No Mass today
Friday ST.AGATHA
Noon Int. +Pam Wood
Saturday ST.PAUL MIKI & COMPS.
9.30am Int. For a new Bishop
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 10.0am -10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel, or by appointment.

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

CHURCH OPENING
during the current restrictions
Daily 9.0am to 4.0pm

THIS WEEK

Tuesday CANDLEMAS The usual Candlemas Procession will not be possible this year. Instead we will collect a candle - distanced on the table at the back of church - as we enter, and a light will be brought to us before the Ceremonies of the Day begin.

Wednesday FEAST OF ST.BLAISE It will not be possible to bless throats individually this year : instead a collective Blessing of St.Blaize will be given from before the Altar at the end of Mass.

Friday 3.45pm Funeral of Colin Gill RIP at the Seven Hills Crematorium.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Nigel Gorham (2013), Sydney Pope (2003), Iris Douglas (2006), Nora Twomey (2008), Muriel Hargreaves (2003), Patrick Kilbride (2005), and Patricia Manthorpe (2000). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £364.00 was given at the Offertory, and £27.70 for CAFOD.

FR.JOHN WRITES

I read in the newspaper last week that many people are feeling 'isolated, dislocated, and alienated' in the present situation, and I'm sure that this is true ; maybe we all are in one way or another. These are difficult times to live through, and I think most of us feel that the experience will have had a subtle effect upon us in various ways - ways that maybe we are not totally aware of.

But the Catholic Christian cannot feel totally 'isolated, dislocated, and alienated'. We are not isolated *FROM GOD* : Our Lord is always there for us to turn to, our unseen companion, and the source of the grace on which we rely. He is not indifferent to our fears and our needs. Our time of anxiety, and maybe loneliness, is the very time when we need to put our trust in him anew, and spend time quietly in his presence.

And then we are not isolated *FROM THE CHURCH* : We remain part of that great family across space and across time of which we became a member at our Baptism. We are one with our brothers and sister who are likewise struggling to keep to the Faith and the Vision which we share as Christians. We remain fellow pilgrims on the road to heaven. We are not called to a lonely and dispiriting kind of individuality.

Also we are not isolated *FROM THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH* : unlike some denominations, where the people must indeed feel very isolated, our Catholic church building are open daily, and the Mass is celebrated day by day. At any time we can go into our church and say a prayer and light a candle. And we know that even if we don't feel able to join in worship with others at present, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered there - our church is in business!

Finally, we are not isolated *FROM PRIESTLY MINISTRY* : as your parish priest, I remain available to you day and night. You can 'phone me for a chat if you want to do so, and you can ask me to bring you the Blessed Sacrament if you are sick. And I'm ready to take the Last Rites to a dying person at any time : I've got plenty of face masks, and someone has given me a perspex face-shield (which I haven't yet worn !)

THE FRACTION II

Last week I wrote something about that pause after the Peace where we used to greet one another, but are currently unable to do so. I said that first at that point the priest breaks the large host, which speaks both Our Lord's action at the Last Supper ('He blessed it and broke it'), and also of his sacred body broken on the Cross. But then the priest does something which seems strange : he breaks off a fragment from the Host, and drops it into the chalice, saying quietly *May this mingling of the body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.* What is

this ceremony about? I think it is so ancient that nobody really knows. But it is supposed that its origin lies in the time when extra churches were being built in Rome to serve the many people being converted to the Faith, and that as a sign of unity with the Bishop, the Holy Father, a fragment of the Host was taken from the Papal Mass to each of the daughter churches, to be added to the Chalice, a visible symbol of unity with the Pope in this Sacrament of Unity.

WHEN YOU PRAY.....

IV - *thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*

I think that this petition is about Unity, unity with God and with one another. At the heart of heaven is God himself - the three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, joined together in a perfect unity of being and of love.

In heaven too are the Holy Angels, those spiritual beings whose ministry is to give constant and unending worship to God. They are totally united with one another in the carrying out of this ministry, and being wholly centred upon God, are in a wonderful union with him.

And then also in heaven are the Saints, Our Lady and all those who have in their earthly life shown a more-than-ordinary love for God and for their fellow men and women, and who have been rewarded by entrance into God's presence. These too, through the holiness which they have achieved through grace and through perseverance, are in perfect unity with God and with one another.

God's will is most certainly done in heaven by the Holy Angels and by the Saints. Because 'doing his will' means being perfectly in tune with his wise and loving will - wanting only what He wants, doing only what He asks. In heaven there is no disobedience, no dischord, there are no assertions of self-will and pride. All is perfect harmony, perfect unity. And when we pray *thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven* we are asking that there may be that same harmony, unity, on earth as obtains in heaven. And this based and founded upon those people on earth conforming their will to that of the all-wise and all-loving will of God.