



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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April 4th, 2021 : EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday Masses

Saturday 8.00pm Int. For the People
Sunday 9:30am Int.
11:00am Int The Hannon Family

Weekday Masses

Monday EASTER OCTAVE
9:30am Int. Stephen & Bernadette Mealy
Tuesday EASTER OCTAVE
9:30am Int. Liam & Katy Mealy
Wednesday EASTER OCTAVE
9:30am Ints. Of the Poole & Powell Families
Thursday EASTER OCTAVE
No Mass today
Friday EASTER OCTAVE
Noon Int. Philomena & Michael Mealy
Saturday EASTER OCTAVE
9.30am Int. +Winifred Bailey (FM)
6:00pm Int. For the People

The Daily Office

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

THIS WEEK

TODAY, EASTER SUNDAY
4.0PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week William Twomey (2015), Elsie Barratt (2011), Helen Samkin (2009), and Miriam Harcourt (2004). R.I.P.

Money Matters Last Sunday £376.10 was given at the Offertory, and £61.0 for CAFOD. Today the collection goes to the Parish Priest, as an essential part of his yearly income.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the keeping of Holy Week and the preparations for the Easter festival - to cleaners, readers, servers, musicians, flower arrangers, etc. Your work is much appreciated.

Red Boxes Barbara writes 'In 2020 our community of St.Felix raised £2,213 through the Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Communities around the world are so grateful that people here in Felixstowe are supporting them through prayer and generous donations. The Missionaries, and the communities they serve, are living in such difficult circumstances, made even harder by COVID-19. They have asked us to pass on their thanks, and tell us that they pray for us all. Find out more at missio.org.uk. I shall be collecting Red Boxes after all Masses on April 24th/25th.

HE IS RISEN!

How good it is that this year we can again be in church to enjoy the happiness of Easter! Last year we all had to be at home, making-do with sitting in front of a screen. But Easter is a time to

come together to rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord. It is a joy to be shared. And above all, to encounter Our risen Lord at the Altar, as his disciples encountered him at the first Easter. The strengthening and lengthening of the light in Springtime seems to speak of that greater freedom to circulate that we are beginning to enjoy. It speaks too of Christ our Light, rising in splendour from the darkness of the grave.

EASTER FLOWERS

I think there are three different flowers which we associate with Easter, and which speak to us of what it is that we are celebrating. The first is the Lily. The association rests upon the firm and flawless white 'flesh' of the flower, which speaks of the risen flesh of Our Lord Jesus Christ - the flesh once bloodied and bruised which was laid in the sepulchre, and which was transformed by the wondrous and mysterious process of resurrection. For it was resurrection, not mere resuscitation that the body of Jesus underwent on Easter night. The glorious body which emerged from the tomb was the same, and yet different. This 'the same and yet different' is perhaps pointed too by the fact that some of his disciples - Mary Magdalen and the two disciples walking to Emmaus - didn't immediately recognize Jesus.

The second Easter Flower is the daffodil, which seems to trumpet forth the wonderful message of the resurrection. It's bright, colour and its up-standing form seem to speak of the confidence which we have in the saving truth of the resurrection of the Lord. In recent years the daffodils seem to have been over by Easter, which has been a real sadness. But this year, due to Easter being a little earlier, and the flowers having been held back by some very cold weather, the daffodils are at their very best for Easter. A real joy.

And then the third Easter flower is perhaps the most teaching of all - the Gorse. It never fails to be in blossom at Easter, and the golden flowers rising out of the thorns make us think immediately of the Easter triumph - the gold of the resurrection issuing from the crown of thorns. In one of the churches I served in, we used to have big stone jars of gorse stood on the floor at Easter. It looked lovely - but had been the devil to gather!

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH *The next installment of Pope Francis' recent Apostolic Letter PATRIS CORDE 'With a Father's Heart'*

An Accepting Father Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted the angel's words Even though he does not understand the bigger picture, he makes a decision to protect Mary's good name, her dignity and her life. In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgment. Often in life things happen to us which we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as it seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments which follow. The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. We can almost hear an echo of the impassioned reply of Job to his wife, who had urged him to rebel against the evil he had endured : "Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength to accept life as it is, with its contradictions, frustrations, and disappointments. Jesus' appearance in our midst is a gift from the Father, which makes it possible for each of us to be reconciled to the flesh of our own history, even when we fail to understand it completely. Just as God told Joseph : "Son of David, do not be afraid!", so he seems to tell us : "Do not be afraid!" We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not mere resignation, but with hope and courage. In this way we become open to a deeper meaning.