



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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May 9th, 2021 : SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int. +Edith Pritchard (FM)
Tuesday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int. +Agnes Curly
Wednesday ST.PANCRAS
No Mass today
Thursday SOLEMNITY OF THE
ASCENSION OF THE LORD
9.30am Int. For the People
7.30pm Int.
Friday FEAST OF ST.MATTHIAS
Noon Int. +Mary Scanlon
Saturday EASTER FERIA
9.30am Int. +Robert Aylward (FM)
6:00pm Int. For the People

The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) is said on weekdays a quarter of an hour before the first Mass. Vespers will be said at 7.15pm on Thursday this week.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday at 10.0am Benediction at 10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Sr. Bernardette

(2001), Audrey Flynnn (2018), and Madge Hallinan (2000). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £482.00 was given at the Offertory, and £32.10 for CAFOD. A further £100.30 was added to the collection for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund, taken the previous weekend.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*Hail the day that sees him rise,
Glorious to his native skies*

Do you remember when the first verse of this hymn used to be sung before the early news programme on the BBC on Ascension Day? It was a charming custom, and it is sad that the BBC would not even consider doing such a thing these days. Times, sadly, have changed, and in just a few years our country seems to have cast off many traces of its Christian past. It is depressing for us who knew better times!

Next Thursday is, of course, Ascension Day. It is almost forty days since we celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord at Easter, and now it is time for us to contemplate and celebrate the next of his great saving actions, his glorious Ascension into heaven.

To some the ascension-event poses a problem : does it not presuppose that heaven is 'up there' - the old three-tier view of the universe? I don't think it does. For forty days Jesus had appeared to his disciples, at different times and in different places. There was to be no doubt that he had indeed risen from the dead - no room for it to be suggested that maybe the disciples had been mistaken. But at the end of the forty days it was right that he should no longer be with his disciples

in bodily form, and right that he should return to the presence of the Father. In what manner should he take his leave of them? Should he have sunk down into the earth? Hardly. Or disappeared in a puff of smoke? - that would not have spoken of his paschal victory and risen glory. That his body should have been raised up from the ground would seem to have been an ideal way for him to depart from them. After all we speak of someone 'going up in the world' or of someone 'going up in my estimation' or 'rising up through the ranks' etc. The idea of 'going up', 'rising', is associated with success. And Jesus in having overcome death and triumphed over the grave had indeed been wonderfully 'successful'. Another Ascensiontide hymn begins *See the Conqueror mounts in triumph*. Yes, for Jesus to rise up from amongst his disciples was wholly fitting and wholly appropriate, and does not at all lead to likening his ascension to a sky-rocket piercing the skies. That is a silly comparison.

And so on Thursday this week we will celebrate that event which is a natural consequence of the resurrection. *Risen, ascended, glorified* we sing in yet another hymn. And like those first disciples, we will be filled with joy as we proclaim this completion of Our Lord's saving work here on earth, and the beginning of his high-priestly ministry in heaven.

THE YEAR OF ST.JOSEPH

*A further extract from the Holy Father's recent Apostolic Letter
PATRIS CORDE - With a Father's Heart*

A Working Father An aspect of St.Joseph that has been emphasized from the time of the first social Encyclical, Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*, is his relation to work. St.Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour.

In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to

appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which St.Joseph is an exemplary patron.

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop one's talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfillment not only of oneself, but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?

Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us. The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultural and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to rediscover its value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about a new 'normal' from which no one is excluded. Saint Joseph's work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. The loss of employment which affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. Let us implore Saint Joseph the Carpenter to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family, should be without work!