



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF

The Presbytery, 8, Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT

Tel.01394 282561 e-mail frjohnfelixstowe@gmail.com

Parish Website: stfelixfelixstowe.uk Helping Hands - 07342722521

May 16th, 2021 : SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am
11:00am

Weekday Masses

Monday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int.

Tuesday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int.

Wednesday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int.

Thursday EASTER FERIA
No Mass today

Friday EASTER FERIA
Noon Int.

Saturday EASTER FERIA
9.30am Int.
6:00pm Int.

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 Benediction at 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

This is the final week of Eastertide. The great fifty days in which we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord and his glorious Ascension into heaven

are coming to an end. This holy season ends with the celebration of Pentecost, the Coming of the Holy Spirit to enable and inspire the Church to bring the good news of Salvation to all the world.

Next Sunday is
THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST
On Friday evening this week there will be a

**HOLY HOUR IN PREPARATION FOR
PENTECOST
7.0pm to 8.0pm**

**The first quarter of an hour will be conducted,
and after that Fr. John will be available to hear
Confessions.**

We will end with Benediction

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Mary Moore (2003), John Davy (2003), Kathleen Dearnaly (2020), Lloyd Fenton (2010), John King (2014), and Bob Fisher (2018). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £349.80 was given at the Offertory, and £39.50 for CAFOD. On this Sunday after Ascension there is a retiring collection for the Catholic Communications Network.

Church Cleaning John Y writes 'Our cleaning teams are in urgent need of assistance, several of their members having retired from this valuable work over the past year. If anyone can spare an hour or so (no more than once in every three weeks) in order to help to keep our church spotless, please contact Fr. John or John Yelverton.'

Fr. John adds : I do hope that you will respond to this invitation. As you see, not a great expenditure of time is required. We all benefit from the church being clean - and church cleaning is a small but practical part of loving God and loving our neighbour. It is not fair to leave all the work to just a very small number of people : do please volunteer!

Missio Red Boxes Barbara writes 'Many thanks to all who handed in their Red Boxes for counting and banking. If you don't have much in your box you can also donate by cheque, on-line or by text. - please see the poster on the notice board in the porch. Missio has been asked for prayers and life-saving equipment by the Missio National Director of India. You may be sure your donations are being used to reach out to those in most need in India and around the world. Please pray for the work of Missio.'

First Holy Communion It wasn't possible to run a First Holy Communion Course last year because of the pandemic and the general disruption in our lives. And so consequently, and sadly, there will not be the usual First Holy Communion Sunday next month (although one candidate who did the course the year before, but for family reason didn't then make her First Communion, will be making her Communion at Corpus Christi this year.) However Pauline is planning to begin a new course in September, when hopefully things will be returning to normal. Already several candidates have come forward, and it should be a very good group. If there are others, please ask Fr. John for a registration form. This is necessary before a boy or girl can begin the course of preparation. Candidates should be in Year Three at school (or over) when they begin.

Confirmation I wonder whether anyone would like to be prepared for Confirmation - which brings about the completion of our initiation into the Catholic Church, following Baptism and First Holy Communion? To receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, people have to be aged thirteen or over (there's no upward limit on age). Please speak to Fr. John if you would like to know more.

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

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

A father in the shadows The Polish writer Jan Dobraczynski, in his book *The Shadow of the Father* tells the story of St. Joseph's life in the form of a novel. He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father : he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. We can think of Moses' words to Israel : "In the wilderness....you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way you travelled (Deut.1:31). In a similar way, Joseph acted as a father for his whole life.

Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

Children today often seem orphans, lacking fathers. The Church too needs fathers. Saint Paul's words to the Corinthians remain timely : "Though you have countless guides in Christ you do not have many fathers" (I Cor.4:15). Every priest or bishop should be able to add, with the Apostle : "I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel". Paul likewise calls the Galatians "My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!" (4:19).

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom of possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous : it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love ; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him.