



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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June 20th, 2021 : 12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday ST.ALOYSIUS GONZAGA
9:30am Int.
Tuesday FEAST OF ST.JOHN FISHER
AND ST.THOMAS MORE
9:30a Int. +Reuben Shayle
Wednesday ST.ETHELDREDA
9.0am Int. + Sheila & Brian Girot
Thursday SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY
OF ST.JOHN THE BAPTIST
9.30am Int. + Fr.Tony Hogarth
Friday FERIA
Noon Int. +Winifred Barnes
Saturday FEAST OF THE DEDICATION
OF THE CATHEDRAL
9.30am Int. + The Cuddon and Morris
Families
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, ending with 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

Monday 4.0pm Meeting of the Parish Finance Committee, with Sandra Portas, the new Diocesan Stewardship Director, attending.
Tuesday 2.30pm -3.30pm The Parish Prayer Group resumes, in the Presbytery garden.
Wednesday 11.0am Fr.John attends the annual Day for Priests at Poringland. Please note that the Mass today is at 9.0am.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Valerie Howes (2007), Janet Mitchell (2000), John Milford (2006), Halina Schoeberl (2016), and Austin Ryan (2006). RIP
Money Matters No count appears to have taken place last week. Today is the annual Day for Life, and there is a retiring collection for Catholic Life charities.

The Parish Prayer Group Before lockdown the Group was meeting at the Presbytery on Tuesday afternoons. We gave ourselves an hour, in which we read through the Gospel reading for the following Sunday, and shared with each other any thoughts about it which came to us. Then we had a time of silence, followed by saying the Rosary together. We ended with the Afternoon Office - and a cup of tea! I think it is time that we re-commenced, and if the weather is clement we could do so in the Presbytery garden. We'll attempt to begin this next Tuesday. Why not come along? Everyone will be welcome.

Benjamin, our Seminarian

As you know, the Bishop has decided to base one of the diocesan Seminarians here, and he

- Benjamin - arrived last Wednesday. I'm hoping that you will join me in welcoming him to our parish and community, and in making him feel at home. I've asked him to introduce himself to you :

'During Christmas season past, it was a great joy to learn from Bishop Alan that he had decided to make St Felix, Felixstowe my home parish for the times when I'm away from priestly formation at St Mary's Seminary, Oscott. I had hoped to have been introduced to you all sooner, but unfortunately the pandemic has delayed that chance until now. I would like to extend my gratitude to Fr John who has made me feel most welcome and I'm very much looking forward to getting to know him and the wider community here in Felixstowe over the next few weeks and, God willing, years to come. It will surely be fascinating for me to hear your unique stories and to learn about the ways in which the Holy Spirit has guided each of your lives, so please feel free to approach me in church or if you find me walking around the town! I really believe that in order for me to grow in Christ and for my ongoing discernment, fostering a deep relationship with the people of God is essential! In this way, I hope to include you all individually by name in my daily prayers (though please bear with me if I have to ask your name more than once!), and I hope too that you will include me in your own prayers as I progress on this journey with the Lord and the Church. As for me, my name is Benjamin and I was born and raised in and around Cambridge, so the Diocese of East Anglia is very much my home! My interests include travelling, having meals with friends, visiting galleries, playing tennis and I have fairly recently started to experiment with oil painting.'

THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE SATNAV

My present car is the first one I've had which boasts a built-in SATNAV. I used to be rather snooty about these devices, saying that a map-book was far more satisfactory. But of course I've been won over : trying to find a place in a strange area, with no one to consult as a navigator, can be a nightmare. The SATNAV enables one to concentrate upon the road, even if it does - as a friend recently claimed - lead to a certain mental laziness...

But besides any purely practical advantages, I'm convinced that a SATNAV has a spiritual dimension. Sometimes, with our inadequate and limited conception of God, we find it difficult to understand, still less to accept, how He can know and care about all of us individually, countless millions of people all over the world. The SATNAV helps us. How can it, a merely human invention, know how to guide the immense, the infinite, number of motorists, buzzing about here and there and making every kind of directional demand upon it? If the SATNAV can encompass this, how can we doubt that God know us individually, and care for each one of us?

Even more striking is the way in which we drivers frequently make errors, which the SATNAV is able to put right : the SATNAV has indicated which road we should take, and for one reason or another - maybe because we think we know best - we fail to take it. Just as we so often turn aside from the way that God has shown us we should follow. Does the SATNAV rail against us in these situations? Does it rage and storm and tell us we are fools? No. Not a word of reproach comes from the SATNAV. Instead, it forgives us, and with infinite patience it re-roots us, and sets us back in the right direction. Doesn't this remind us of God's infinite patience with us, and His ability to restore us to the right paths?

And then finally the essential purpose of the SATNAV is to get us to our destination - to enable us to get to the location where we want to be. As Christian people we have a destination - the heavenly kingdom, our true homeland. And the Church, like a SATNAV is showing us how we can best reach heaven, and is enabling us to make out pilgrim journey successfully.

The SATNAV is no mere appliance. It brings to mind spiritual truths, and gives us more than mere driving instruction.....

Tailpiece What a week ahead! - a special day in the Church's Year every day except Friday. Do try to be at some of the Masses when we celebrate these heroes of our Faith. The Saints are powerful to help us in pursuing our pilgrim way.