



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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July 4th, 2021 : 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am Int. +Michael & Joan Hazell (FM)
Tuesday ST.MARIA GORETTI
9:30am Int. +Fred Bantick (FM)
Wednesday FERIA
9:30am Int.
Thursday ST.WITHBURGA
No Mass today
Friday FERIA
Noon Int. + Joe Fitzpatrick
Saturday FERIA
9.30am Int. Fiona and Stephen Badcock
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 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 11.15 am

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Betty Adams (2004),

and Mary Clapham (2003). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £289.52 was given at the Offertory (terrible!) and £71.50 for CAFOD. £147.70 was given in the retiring collection, which was for Peter's Pence (the running costs of the Holy See).

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday, and there will be a retiring collection for *STELLA MARIS* (the Apostleship of the Sea)

Sea Sunday Barbara writes 'Next Sunday is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all who live and work at sea. There will be a retiring collection for Stella Maris, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. For an appeal to all from Bishop Paul Mason and a video showing some of the work of Stella Maris, please visit [www.stella.maris.org.uk/Sea Sunday](http://www.stella.maris.org.uk/Sea%20Sunday). Stella Maris depends on voluntary donations, so please give generously./ Thank you.

Parish Prayer Group The Prayer Group has started up again, and will meet on Tuesday, 2.30pm, at the Presbytery.

COME UNTO ME

Last week I received a card from an old college friend who is currently celebrating his fiftieth anniversary of priesthood. It was quite an elaborate card : on it he had caused to be printed out various verses from Holy Scripture which have helped and inspired him during the preceding decades. Of course it made me wonder which verses I would have chosen myself, had I decided to have a similar card printed for my Silver Jubilee last October. One passage which I think I would certainly have included is Our Lord's words

Come to me, all you who labour and are over-burdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder

my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Not that I can claim to be overburdened, indeed I sometimes feel that I should be doing much more. But how comforting and encouraging those opening words are, 'Come to me'. They speak clearly of Our Lord's love for us, and his desire that we should be with him, not only in this life, but for eternity. They seem to depict his arms open to welcome and receive us, as in the traditional form of a Sacred Heart statue.

And then the invitation to learn from him : he wants us to be like himself, and this too is a sign of his love for us. He wants us to share, to participate, in his divine life ; he wants us to mirror him, so that others may see Him in us, and also so that we might experience the happiness which being focused upon Him, and acting as He would act, can bring. He wants us to know that 'rest for our souls' of which He speaks.

And what precisely is it that He wants us to learn from Him? Being 'gentle and humble of heart'. He chooses these characteristics as the ones he particularly wants us to imitate. 'Blessed are the gentle', he says in St. Matthew's gospel, 'for they shall have the earth for their heritage'. A huge promise, suggesting the stature of gentleness. And humility of heart : the humility of the Sacred Heart of the one who lay in a manger and hung on a Cross, all out of the loving desire to remake our humanity and model it upon his own.

INTERVIEW WITH BENJAMIN

I thought I'd ask Benjamin, the Seminarian who the Bishop has decided to base in Felixstowe, and who is with us at present, a few questions - which hopefully are questions which you would like to ask him too:

Benjamin, have you felt for many years that God is calling you to be a priest?

Yes, indeed I have. I suppose this journey I'm on started when I was an ardent atheist in my late teenage years. It occurred to me that perhaps I should know something about the religious beliefs of those I was so against. I very naturally gravitated towards investigating Catholicism and after much reading I slowly became convinced of the truth of the Catholic faith. And so, throughout the past 15 years I have periodically felt the call to priesthood, which I always quickly brushed aside.

Finally, I reached a place where the only thing I could do was to place myself in the care of God and His Church.

What, humanly speaking, led you to offer yourself for Ordination?

I suppose, fundamentally, it is about the human desire for happiness. Not just in the sense that maybe God's plan for my happiness is to be a priest, but also to bring others to experience that sense of deeply rooted happiness that only the Lord can provide.

Did it seem strange to switch from secular employment to life in the Seminary?

Not necessarily strange, but it's certainly been uncomfortable at times. I dare say it's easier for those who are younger and used to academic life. However, I decided not to go to university; I've been living in the secular world since leaving school. As we know, the secular world is a very attractive place to be, so it has been difficult to transition to a heavily regimented timetable. Having said that, I'm very thankful to have been given the opportunity to grow in my relationship with Lord in a dedicated place of discernment.

You have finished your first year at Seminary : what do you feel is the main thing you have learnt
I would say the subtle nature of God's grace. Very often one wishes to experience God as talking to us in a very visceral way that reassures our faith, we want to feel His presence. We want to receive very clear answers to our questions that leave no room for uncomfortable doubt or because we don't want to put in the effort to discern his will. But the Lord's grace often is "a still small voice", and usually not one of human words. It could be as simple as the contentment felt when one stops to observe the natural world or when one is struck by a piece of art.

This is your last week in Felixstowe : what are your initial impressions?

My initial impression of Felixstowe is that it's a town very much with its own identity. I sense a respect for tradition here, one that is a quintessential English seaside town in all its neatness, and proud of it! It's also refreshing to see a good number of local businesses! Happily, I've found the people here to be very warm and hospitable and so I look forward to returning again soon.