



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

July 11th, 2021 : 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. +Karen Thomson
Sunday 9:30am Int. For the People
11:00am Int. +Michael Orton

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am Int.
Tuesday FERIA
9:30am Int. +Anna
Wednesday FERIA
9:30am Int. +John Edwards
Thursday ST.BONAVENTURE
No Mass today
Friday OUR LADY OF MOUNT
CARMEL
Noon Int. +Fr.Denis Brophy (FM)
Saturday FERIA
9.30am Int. +Marjorie Dawson (FM)
6:00pm Int. +Mary Norton

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

Please Note Fr.John is here for all of this week, but then the next week, on July 19th, he leaves for the first part of his summer holidays. He will be away for ten days.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Reginald Johnson (2009), Joan Styles (2003), Michael Taylor (2007), Bill Sole (2016), Anthony McGrath (2010), Sean McManus (2011), and Sr.Monica Brennan (2011). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £494.66 was given at the Offertory, and £60.53 for CAFOD. Today there is a retiring collection for *Stella Maris* (The Apostleship of the Sea).

A Children's Book A visitor who came to Mass here last Sunday, Kristina Cooper, told me that she has written a book for children : she kindly gave me a copy, and asked me to recommend it if I liked it. I did, and so yes, I do recommend it! It is called *The Little Witch who wanted To Be Good*, and it is for children aged six to nine. It might be described as a jolly introduction to the difference between right and wrong, suggesting the attractiveness of the former. It costs £7.95, and can be obtained from the Stillwater Bookshop in Hamilton Street. Although not specifically Catholic/Christian, It would make a good present for a godchild.

MONTH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

The traditional devotion of this month of July is to the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We no longer keep a feast of the Precious Blood : in the liturgical reforms it was judged best to celebrate together the feasts of The Body of Christ and that of the Blood of Christ - properly called *Corpus et Sanguis Christi* - although we still tend to call that feast just Corpus Christi. Despite this our Metropolitan Cathedral,

Westminster Cathedral, remains dedicated to the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

One can see the point of celebrating the Body and the Blood together, most especially from a eucharistic perspective. The two are inseparable, so that when, as at present, we are unable to receive the Chalice, we still receive the whole Christ, not just 'part' of Him. We believe that the risen Christ is present in both the Host and in the Chalice, and so we are not 'missing out' in being denied the latter under the present restrictions. Sometimes in the past the Body and the Blood have been seen as performing different 'functions' in the work of our salvation. The Blood has been associated with Cleansing us, and the Body with giving us Life. But truly it is the Whole, One, Christ who does both of these wonderful things.

But whilst it is right to celebrate together the Body and Blood of Christ, I don't think that it is wrong to have a separate devotion to each of them - to focus from time to time on one or the other, as we do in this devotion of the month of July. The imagery associated with blood is very rich, and it plays an important part in the Old Testament. Blood is seen as life-giving, necessary for our being both healthy and alive. The Blood of Jesus in the Chalice at Mass gives us life, as does the Body on the paten. And blood in the Old Testament is 'poured out' of a sacrificial victim, even as the Precious Blood was released from Jesus' body in the course of his Passion and Crucifixion. He is the new Passover lamb, whose Blood shed for us brings salvation as did the blood of the Passover lambs of old, which, daubed upon the doorposts of the Hebrews averted the destroying Angel.

And then again it was Water and Blood which flowed from the pierced side of the crucified Christ, the Water signifying Baptism, and the Blood the Eucharist. This is a part of divine revelation - Blood as representing the self-giving, self-oblation, of Our Lord, on the Cross, and at the Altar. The Blood, yes, that frees us from eternal death, even as the blood of the Passover lamb of old freed the Hebrews to leave Egypt, and journey towards the promised land.

And so it is good that we still keep this ancient devotion of the Precious Blood in the month of July. When we consider it we can do no other than think of Our Lord's saving death, and thereby be reminded of the abundance of his love for us.

WE'VE LOST ST.BENEDICT!

Well only for this year. When a saint's day falls on a Sunday, the Sunday takes precedence, and the saint's day is knocked out of the Calendar for that year. Every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection, it's what makes Sunday the special day of the week - the day when Jesus conquered death, and rose from the tomb triumphant. And the Sunday, as a feast of the Lord is more important than a saint's day. July 11th is usually the day each year when we celebrate one of the most significant saints in the history of western Christianity - St.Benedict. But not this year, since July 11th falls on a Sunday in 2021.

Why does St.Benedict matter? Well often he is called the Father of Western Monasticism. He lived in the sixth century, in Italy, and he wrote a famous book called *A Rule for Monasteries*. It is full of wisdom, common sense, and both recognises the weakness and the great potential of human nature. It is kindly but firm, and over the succeeding centuries monks and nuns everywhere have based their way of life upon it - most obviously, of course, the Benedictine Order, the closest followers of St.Benedict's way. In many ways the century in which Benedict lived, and the centuries which immediately succeeded it, were a dark time in the history of European civilisation, and it is said that it was the Benedictine monasteries above all which kept the flame of learning and civilisation alive.

Many lay-people too have found St.Benedict's *Rule* inspirational, with its emphasis on order, prayerfulness, self-denial, and perseverance in our Christian living. The Church - and European civilization - owes much to this sixth-century saint, and it is rather sad that we won't be celebrating him today. Although I think he would urge us to concentrate our minds today on rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus!