



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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July 25th, 2021 : 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday ST.JOACHIM & ST.ANNE
No Mass today
Tuesday FERIA
No Mass today
Wednesday FERIA
No Mass today
Thursday ST.MARTHA
No Mass today
Friday FERIA
Noon Int.
Saturday ST.IGNATIUS LOYOLA
9.30am Int.
6:00pm Int. For the People

The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) is said a quarter of an hour before Mass on weekdays.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

Fr.John is away on holiday at present : he returns on Friday morning, and the daily Mass will resume then. This weekend we welcome Fr.Russell Frost, the former Parish Priest of St.Pancras, Ipswich, who has kindly agreed to say the Masses.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Charles Buckley (2018), James Shevlin (2011), Roy Fenton (2001), and Ronald Hockery (2002). R.I.P.

SINGING AT MASS

The recent guidance from the Bishops' Conference regarding churches' and the emergence from the COVID restrictions states that singing during public worship can now recommence, but that 'it is recommended that singing should be phased in gently over the Summer period'.

I think that here a good plan would be to resume singing the Ordinary of the Mass on Sundays at the beginning of August (next Sunday) - that is the Sanctus and Benedictus, plus the opening dialogue of the Eucharistic Prayer, the Preface, and the Doxology at its end. Then in mid-August to resume singing the Gloria and the Response to the Psalm, and finally at the beginning of September to resume using hymns - which I know a lot of you miss.

THE CONFESSIONAL

We are allowed to use the Confessional again, provided that it is sanitised after each session (no longer after each individual Confession), and that there is a sheet of plastic in front of the grille. It will come back into use at the beginning of August.

Two Black Shirts

Last week, after months of deliberation and hesitation, I bought two new black clerical shirts. Some of my old ones, which I've worn for years, are becoming grey though constant laundering,

and it is sometimes said that a grey clerical shirt betokens a priest with grey, liberal, opinions. I don't want anyone to suppose that!

I think there are still a lot of us men who dislike new clothes, and would rather go on wearing our old ones. (I have to admit that I have got a brand new pair of shoes in the wardrobe which, after two years, I still haven't worn, preferring my old ones, leaky and battered though they are!) Why are some of us like this? I suppose it is a liking for the familiar , a preference for what we are used to and feel comfortable with, and an unwillingness to go out into new territory.

I suppose this attitude of preferring the familiar is, in more general terms - beyond the narrow realm of mens' clothing that is - both good and bad. It is bad to be so intent on sticking to the familiar that one is closed to new experiences and newly discovered truths. It can lead to a narrowness of outlook and a missing-out on what is good and true. How important that in the earliest Christian centuries the Church was open to the fullness of truth into which the Holy Spirit was leading it, and out into those new horizons that He was opening up before it in terms of mission! If our earliest forefather in the Faith had insisted on

sticking to the familiar, then the Church would have been stunted both in its understanding of God's revelation. and in its missionary outreach. And today we must be mindful that the Holy Spirit is still active, deepening and developing our understanding, and showing us new ways in which we can bring God's truth to others.

But on the other hand, it is right to maintain and to not cast aside what has lasting value. Again as Christians we want to retain and be faithful to the richness of truth which the Church has received from God and from the past centuries. We are right to be faithful to the Tradition of Church - its teaching about faith and morals which has come from God, and whose value is eternal. Truth does not change. We reject the whole modern idea of 'relative' truth (or of 'personal' truth!) Truth is Truth. God's Truth, and we must always be faithful to it.

So what about my two new shirts? Good, I suppose, to move forward, and not be stuck in the past. But good, too, to still wear the traditional colour - that of the rich black earth which helps and enables things to grow!