



# 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

## August 8th, 2017 : 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Masses

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

### Weekday Masses

Monday FEAST OF ST.TERESA  
BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS  
9:30am Int. +John Brickwell (FM)  
Tuesday FEAST OF ST.LAWRENCE  
9:30am Int.  
Wednesday ST.CLARE  
9:30am Int.  
Thursday FERIA  
No Mass today  
Friday FERIA  
Noon Int. +Catherine Shevlin  
Saturday ST.MAXIMILIAN KOLBE  
11:00am (St.F) Int.  
6:00pm (St.F) 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, or by appointment.

The Rosary Friday at 11.15am

**TODAY** 3.0pm-5.0pm *THE TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC* for Young Families, Presbytery Garden all young families welcome. No tickets or charge.  
**NEXT SUNDAY** is the Solemnity of the

Assumption of Our Lady, the principal feast of Mary in the Church's Year. We usually bring flowers to decorate the statue of Our Lady : do please try to bring a bunch of flowers next Friday, Saturday, or Sunday - a way of showing our love for the Mother of Jesus, and spiritually our Mother too.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Betty Ryles (2020), John Ashe (2008), Eileen Stafford (2012), John Sullivan (2002), Sr. Angela Foody (2008), Lilian Hart (2000), Maria Cunnel (2008), and Elizabeth Bartholomew (2011). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last weekend £415.41 was given in the Offertory, and £39.7 for CAFOD.

**Catering** In last week's Newsheet I asked if any ladies or men would be prepared to volunteer to join a new catering team, in view of Team Felix having retired. So far only one lady has volunteered. I think this is an important part of our re-emerging from the lockdown, and moving forwards. Surely there must be more than one person prepared to help?

**Felixstowe Town Pastors** Barbara writes 'Felixstowe Town Pastors are about to begin patrolling at the new time of 6.30pm-11.30pm on Saturday nights. We are now recruiting Town Pastors, Base Prayers (manning the TP base during patrols) and Home Prayers (praying for an hour from home during TP patrols). In addition to our volunteers, we are also looking to recruit a paid part-time Co-ordinator ( 6 hours per week) : Job description on the notice board at the back of church.

## ***'THE DYING OF THE LIGHT'***

There are many things which sadden the heart of a priest these days. One of them is this. Not infrequently, the priest finds a bag of some kind at the back of church. It contains a few old devotional book, maybe a battered Missal, and perhaps a broken Crucifix or a chipped statue. He knows exactly what it is about - it has happened so often before. An elderly Catholic, lapsed or devout, has died, and a son or daughter, whilst having no time for anything to do with religion themselves, doesn't quite like to throw in the dustbin something which was important to their parent. So they bundle up anything 'religious', and dump it at the back of a church. There may even be something a little superstitious about not wanting to bin a holy item.

Why does this sadden the priest's heart? Chiefly because it represents the extinction of faith in that particular family. The son or daughter was doubtless brought up in the Catholic Faith. Maybe long ago they made their First Holy Communion, and perhaps served on the Altar. But they have long since given it all up. They have dismissed the Faith, practiced by countless generations of their family, as 'a lot of nonsense'. The elderly Mother or Father still believed, and even if they had stopped coming to Mass, they perhaps said their prayers sometimes and had a crucifix on the wall. But now they have died. The candle of faith has gone out in that particular family. And maybe it will never be reignited.

If this only happened very occasionally the heart of the priest would not be so saddened. But it happens regularly. It was once said before a world war that 'the lights were going out all over Europe'. The lights are going out again. The lights of faith. Spiritually we are entering into new Dark Ages. We must pray. Pray for the people whose objects of piety have ended up at the back of church, unwanted, rejected. And pray that somehow candles of faith may be lit once more in all those families which have entered into the darkness of unbelief.

## ***THE TEN COMMANDMENTS***

A new series in which we look afresh at the Ten Commandments, and see how - far from being

negative and obstructive - they are a recipe for happiness and inner peace.

### ***1. You shall have no gods except me***

There is only one God - we reject the pagan idea of a multiplicity of gods. And God in his loving care for us does not want us to go after things that are in reality no gods - a futile path that can lead only to disappointment and frustration. We ourselves want what is real and true, we don't want to be deceived and misled. And so in this first Commandment God tells us to reject false gods - things which seem to offer us so much and be roads to happiness and peace, but which are no gods, and are incapable of delivering the goods.

He wants what is best for us out of love, and out of love too He wants us for himself. He knows that only in Him and with Him can we be true to what we are, and to that for which we were made. We were made for union with him, and in this union into which He calls us is true inner peace and happiness. We need him, because only He can give us the things which we seek from the depths of our being. And He, incredibly, needs us : needs us because of the depths of his love for us, which needs to be satisfied by our response to his love. We wonder at God the Son stooping down to take our common humanity in order to redeem it and set us free. It is all part of that readiness to stoop down to us in our weakness which we see in God's asking for our love in response to His love.

And so with a tender care and love for us God says in the first of the ten commandments 'You shall have no gods except me'. His is not the order of a tyrant who selfishly demands our attention and obedience : these are the words of a Father who wants the very best for his children - who doesn't want them to be misled and deceived.

## ***A MONTH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT***

The Gospel readings at Sunday Mass this month are all taken from the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel, the so-called 'Bread of Life discourse' of Jesus. We hear Him speak about himself as the 'Bread come down from heaven, to give life to the world', and we meditate upon this wonderful gift which we receive so freely.