



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF  
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## August 15th, 2021 : SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Sunday Masses

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

### Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA  
9:30am Int.  
Tuesday FERIA  
9:30am Int.  
Wednesday FERIA  
9:30am Int.  
Thursday FERIA  
No Mass today  
Friday ST.BERNARD  
Noon Int. In thanksgiving  
Saturday ST.PIUS X  
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.

### 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

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** June Gilson (2001),  
Bridie Burns (2015), and William Demko (2008).  
May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last weekend £514.40 was given at the Offertory, and £69.70 for CAFOD.

**Parish Summer BBQ** The Chairman of the Parish Council writes 'This year's BBQ is to be held on Sunday 5th September, at 12.30pm in the Presbytery Garden. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate and give thanks for being able to meet together again.

All will be welcome. The tickets are free, but you will be able to make a donation at the door. As in previous years, we will be asking people to volunteer to bring a salad or dessert dish. There will be an opportunity to let us know what you can bring when we give out the tickets.'

**Bishop's visit to the Port** Bishop Alan is to visit the Port and *Stella Maris* on Monday September 13th. He plans to say Mass at the Seafarers Centre at 5.0pm. If you would like to be at that Mass, please will you tell me as soon as possible. Seating will be limited, as the room which we use at the Centre is not very large.

### ***THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN***

Last week I wrote a rather sad piece about bags of devotional books and objects being sometimes abandoned in the church porch after the death of an elderly person, and how these probably signify the dying out of the Faith in that person's family. But now, on this joyful feast of Our Lady's Assumption it is good to turn over the coin and look at the other side.

Yes, sometimes the church porch witnesses signs the abandonment of faith, but there is more happening in the porch than that. In the porch is

the Repository, where people buy new Missals, new Rosaries, and other new devotional items. For many the Faith is not dead! There too at the Repository people buy cards which celebrate Baptisms, Weddings, Confirmations - the Sacraments are continuing to be celebrated! And also in the porch are found copies of the diocesan Newspaper, and our own Newsheet, both of which tell of continuing church life and activity.

Normally in the Porch (hopefully it will return very soon) there is also Holy Water for us to use when we enter and leave church ; Holy Water to remind us of our Baptism, when we were given a new life that will never end - the Life of Christ which is unconquered, and which gives life and hope to the Church as the Church continues on its way, battered and bruised but unbowed.

It is easy to be a pessimistic and downhearted, as maybe I was in last week's Newsheet. But we must not lose hope, nor let the devil persuade us that the extinction of the Faith is imminent! We have Our Lord's promise concerning the Church 'The gates of Hell shall never prevail against it'.

### ***THE TEN COMMANDMENTS***

#### ***2. You shall not make yourself a carved image .... you shall not bow down to them or serve them***

Well I don't think that today we are likely to make a carved image and fall down before it in worship, as people did in ancient times. But we are more than adept at worshipping - which means putting in the first place in our lives - other things.

There are many, of course, who make the acquisition of wealth the first and most important thing in their lives, or it may be something more specific , such as a stylish car or a luxurious home. The number of things which some people put first, and in effect bow down and worship, is infinite. It is a good exercise, perhaps, for each of us to ask ourselves very honestly what matters most to us : what do we make into the thing that means more to us than anything else, and which we are aiming to acquire? This will perhaps tell us whether we have got a 'carved image', something other than God which we 'bow down and serve'.

God tells us in this second commandment that we must put Him first, that nothing must matter to us more than him. Because he alone is 'the real thing', the one who is truly worthy of our respect, service, worship - the one who can 'deliver the goods', giving us that contentment and inner peace and security that we all ultimately crave.

### ***CAN YOU HELP ME?***

There are quite a number of people whose names are on our Parish List, but who we haven't seen for a long time. Some of them I don't know. Some, of course, may be people who stopped coming when the pandemic began, and who haven't yet emerged. I want to visit all these people in the next few weeks - to take them a Newsheet, and tell them that we are up and running again. Of course it may be that some of these people no longer live at the address given in our List. They may have moved away, and if so we ought to bring the Parish List up to date.

But being realistic I don't think I'm going to get through all these names on my own, and I wonder if there are a few people who would be prepared to help me, just undertaking to make, say, half a dozen visits? If you could help, please tell me, and the small team - if as I hope it emerges - can meet to look at the List and accept just a few names each to follow up. At that meeting we would discuss our common approach and method. I do hope that this can happen ; it would be so good both to bring the List up to date, and hopefully encourage the return to church of a number of people with whom we are out of touch..

### ***THE SPONSORED RIDE & STRIDE***

The annual Suffolk Historic Churches Sponsored Ride & Stride is on the horizon. It takes place this year on Saturday September 11th, and I do hope that we will take part. In the past it has brought in some welcome money to St.Felix - we keep half of what our riders or striders raise. Once again I will be inviting you to walk with me to the Felixstowe churches, and I do hope you will say yes! I've now got the sponsorship forms - please ask me if you would like one.