



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
The Presbytery, 8, Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT
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Helping Hands - 07342722521

DECEMBER 5th, 2021 : SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PLEASE NOTE : Unfortunately the e.mail department of Fr.John's computer has failed, and he is not able to send or receive e.mails at present.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. For the People
Sunday 10.0am Int. +Alan Deveney

(The Convent has decided that it would be wiser not to open the 5.0pm Sunday Mass to the public until the New Year, in view of the present COVID situation.)

Weekday Masses

Monday ST.NICHOLAS
9:30am Int. +Peter McGuire (FM)
Tuesday ST.AMBROSE
9:30am Int. +Fr.Tony Hogarth
Wednesday SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
9:30am Int. +Agnes Curley
Thursday ADVENT FERIA
No Mass today
Friday THE BLESSED MARTYRS
OF EAST ANGLIA
11:30am Int.
Saturday ADVENT FERIA
9.30am Int. +Mary Veronica Sullivan
6:00pm Int. For the People (FM)

The Daily Office

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays at 10.0am Benediction at 10.30am
Friday at approx Noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm, or by appointment.

The Rosary Friday at Noon, during Exposition

The Mass today

The readings can be found on p.84 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.65 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at the 10.0am Mass : 92, 94, 720

THIS WEEK

Today 3.30pm-4.30pm The Confirmation Group meets at the Presbytery.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Elizabeth Barnes (2005), Sr. Ursula Tierney (2009), Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart (1999), Ivy Watts (2001), Victor Ward (2008), Sr. Assisi Clifford (2006), Joseph Smyth (2007), Kate Godfrey (2001), Cyril Doran (1999), Brenda Davison (2004), Josie Bones (2007), Dorothy Veitch (2015), Victor Durrant (1996), Phyllis Garrod (2000). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £423.90 was given in the Offertory and £68.16 for CAFOD. During November £1460 was given by direct debit. Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the Dependent Priests Fund.

Stella Maris Afternoon Tea Barbara writes : Many thanks to all who supported Stella Maris by attending the Afternoon Tea, by donating raffle prizes, food and time. We were able to hand over a cheque to our Port Chaplain Julian Wong for £189. Thank you all for your generosity.

CAFOD Christmas World Gifts Boni & Kate write : The CAFOD world gift catalogue is once again available. By choosing a Christmas World Gift for someone you will be supporting CAFOD's work, standing in solidarity with people who are struggling in a world of increasing inequality and poverty as a result of the climate crisis and covid. New gifts include an energy saving stove or fighting fires in the Amazon. Gift catalogues can be found at the back of the church.

Teas and Coffees on Sunday

'Dear fellow parishioners,
A big thank-you to all who have volunteered for helping with teas and coffees after the 10.0am Mass each Sunday. We have managed to cover three Sundays in the month, but could do with one more team to help with the fourth Sunday of each month. Helping in this way is good fun and enables us to meet and get to know our fellow parishioners better. It would be great to have you on the team Please let us or Fr.John know if you would like to help. Best wishes,
Phil and Anne Dance

Penitential Service before Christmas I'd said that this would take place on Tuesday 14th, at 2.30pm, but now I've been summoned for a cataract operation on Monday 13th, and I suspect that I probably ought to lie low on the following day.....I'm seeing if it is possible to rearrange the Service for the Monday of the following week, still at 2.30pm ; I don't want it just to slip by.

WHAT SORT OF GOD?

Suppose you had to invent a God, suppose you had to say what you would choose God to be like - to say how an ideal God would be? (I speak as a fool, to quote St.Paul)

Well I'd like an ideal God to be all-powerful, and bring beautiful things into being, for us to enjoy.

Well isn't that just how our Christian God is - all powerful - and hasn't he certainly made a universe of incredible complexity and beauty?

And I'd like such a God to be supreme, mighty, wonderful beyond our imagining, and yet somehow accessible, close to us.

Our Christian God is certainly great beyond all comprehension, mysterious in his being, and yet his Son, God the Son, has come amongst us, and makes himself accessible to us in the Gospels, and in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar. He listens to us when we pray. He said 'I am with you always'.

Then I think that the ideal God would be understanding, compassionate, and ready to forgive the many many times that we get things wrong, and make a mess of things.

Well our Christian God has sent his beloved Son into our world to deal with the problem of our disobedience - which cuts us off from God - and by his saving work has made forgiveness possible for us. He's even given a special way by which this can happen - the Sacrament of Confession.

I also think that an ideal God would somehow respect us - insignificant and unworthy of respect though we may be. An ideal God wouldn't see us as nothing, as worthless, as mere specks of dust.

Our Christian God, we believe, cares about each one of us individually, and takes the trouble to guide our lives by his Holy Spirit. He also dignifies us by giving us freedom of choice - we are not merely programmed, still less ignored. He invites us - incredibly - to be his co-workers in bringing about his kingdom.

And I think an ideal God would take the trouble to show us how we can find happiness and inner peace. A worthy God would tell us how to live.

God the Son came into our world for that, as well as to reconcile us to the Father. He taught us - He teaches us now - how to find peace and happiness both by his words and by his example.

Also, I think a really good God would enable us to overcome death, and find eternal life.

Jesus, God the Son, rose from the dead not least to share with us his Easter victory over death.

I find it a help to belief that the God we Christians worship measures up to our highest aspirations. He doesn't in any way fall short of what we would most want and hope Him to be.