



# 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

## DECEMBER 12th, 2021 : THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. For the People  
Sunday 10.0am Int. +Michael Booker

### Weekday Masses

Monday ST.LUCY  
8.30am Int. +Alan Deveney  
Tuesday ST.JOHN OF THE CROSS  
No Mass today  
Wednesday ADVENT FERIA  
No Mass today  
Thursday ADVENT FERIA  
No Mass today  
Friday ADVENT FERIA  
11:30am Int. +Helen Robinson  
Saturday ADVENT FERIA  
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

Friday at 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.88 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.80 of The Sunday Missal.

Hymns at the 10.0am Mass : 100, 116, 873

### THIS WEEK

*Fr. John is due to have a cataract operation on Monday morning. Hence Mass on Monday is at 8.30am, and then it seems wise not to put Masses down for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. He hopes to be back in action on Friday.*

**A week on Monday, December 20th  
PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE  
BEFORE CHRISTMAS 2.30PM**

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Mary Sutcliffe (2017), Catherine Spencer (2008), Tony Byrne (2001), Jane Waite (2004), Neville Poots (2011), Sheila Bonello (2011), Martin Brogan (2007), and Eileen Ascott (2008). May they Rest in Peace

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £426.75 was given at the Offertory, and £48.09 for CAFOD. Today there is a retiring collection for the Dependent Priests' Fund.

**Correction** I said last week that the Stella Maris Afternoon Tea had raised £189. It should have read £289. I'm sorry for having made this mistake.

**Helping Hands** Catherine writes : 'I'm pleased to say that a number of people have recently become volunteers for our Parish help group, Helping Hands. They are all very welcome. With Christmas just around the corner, we are now in a better position to offer lifts to the Reconciliation Service on the afternoon of

Monday December 20th and to the Christmas Masses. (These are 6.0pm and 10.0pm on Christmas Eve, and 10.0am on Christmas Day. Please speak to Fr,John if you would like a lift to any of these Services, or contact me, Catherine, on the Helping Hands number 07342722521. Also please contact me if you would like a regular lift to Mass at any other time (not just Christmas). Some of our volunteers are not drivers but are happy to help with a bit of shopping or visiting. Please feel free to ring me discuss any request you might have for help.'

**Covid Precautions** A day or two ago I received a letter from the Bishop giving revised directions from the Catholic Bishops' Conference. I have put this letter on the notice board for you to read. You will see that we are to continue sanitising, and the containers will remain available in the porch. We are also to wear face-coverings at Mass, and see that the church is ventilated - not too great a problem in a spacious airy building like our own. But as regards the cleaning-down of surfaces, the Bishops' letter says:

*'There is now very strong evidence to support the view that the main mode of transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient'.*

So it doesn't appear that the wholesale wiping of surfaces with impregnated cloths is required now. But we are grateful to those who undertook the wiping-down when we were previously told that this was necessary, and grateful, too, to those who continue to undertake the 'general church cleaning'

### ADVENT

I love the deep, rich, purple colour which we use in church during Advent. Yes, a solemn colour, which reminds us that this is one of the Penitential seasons, when the Church calls us to recognise and to deal with our sins, by repentance and Confession. But also a rich colour, which speaks of rich hope that Israel had of the Coming of the Messiah, and the rich hope which we now have as a result of his saving work.

And then this deep, even mysterious, colour speaks of the mystery of the Incarnation, and of the birth of the Christ in that dark stable at Bethlehem - that place where a new and glorious Light shone out in the darkness. When Christmas comes, it will be white, the colour of light, which we use. But meanwhile it is the deep, rich, mysterious colour purple which expresses the Church's mood and aspiration.

### THE MONSTRANCE

No, not a kind of monster, but the tall vessel which has a circular glass compartment in which a large Host is placed : it is displayed on the Altar so that we may adore Our Lord, Sacramentally present in the Host. We call this Exposition : the Host which is usually hidden in the Tabernacle is seen, 'exposed', on the Altar for adoration. The name of the vessel, Monstrance, comes from the Latin verb *monstrare*, to show.

Our monstrance at St.Felix is one of our treasures. Made of silver, it was given to the church in memory of George & Sarah Bryant in 1932 , and is a magnificent piece of craftsmanship. Like many monstrances, it is in the Gothic style (with sharp finials on which Fr.John often seems to cut his hand when handling it! He should be more careful.)

It is customary for a veil to be put over the monstrance when it is not in use, to signify that the Blessed Sacrament is not contained within it. The veil on our monstrance had become very shabby, dirty, singed and torn. Teresa Whitley has recently very kindly made and given a new veil, for which we are very grateful.

Here, on the hard copy,  
is a drawing  
of the Monstrance.