



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

January 2nd, 2022 : SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday CHRISTMAS FERIA
9:30am Int.
Tuesday CHRISTMAS FERIA
9:30am Int. +Catherine Searson
Wednesday CHRISTMAS FERIA
9:30am Int.
Thursday SOLEMNITY OF THE
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
9.30am Int.
7.30pm Int.
Friday CHRISTMAS FERIA
11:30am Int.
Saturday CHRISTMAS 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

Tuesday at 10.0am Benediction at 10.30am
Friday at Noon, following the 11.30am Mass

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.111 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.115 of The Sunday Missal.

Hymns at 10.0am : 154, 144, 137

THIS WEEK

Wednesday 11.30am Funeral Service for Mary Smith, followed by committal at the Felixstowe Cemetery.

Thursday SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY
A Holy Day of Obligation, when all of us must be at Mass. Mass will be offered at 9.30am and 7.30pm.

Next Sunday The Confirmation Group meets at the Presbytery, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Marian Groundwater (2006), John Dimascio (2003), Francesca Warford (2009), Mary Underwood 2011), Mary Cawston (2021), and Adrian Cotton (2013). R.I.P.

Carmel Barker RIP Carmel, who died recently, was a dear soul and a very devout Catholic, who was regularly at Mass prior to her illness. (Some of you will remember her from the travel agency at the Co-op.). She was wonderfully looked after at home - right to the time of her death - by Stephen her husband, her three sons, and by nurses from the St.Elizabeth Hospice. She received the Last Rites the day before she died. Her Funeral Mass will be on Fr.Jan.14th, 1.0pm

Money Matters The Collection on Christmas Day was £1394.30. Last Sunday, £250.63 was given at the Offertory, and £67.91 for CAFOD.

Many thanks Fr., John was most grateful for - and appreciative of - the many Christmas

cards and gifts which he received. You are most thoughtful and generous.

For Afghanistan Boni and Kate, our CAFOD representatives, write in relation to the informal collection for the starving in Afghanistan which we took not long ago : 'Thank you for the gift your made of £240.00, Your generosity means that the local partner organisations and sister agencies we work with in Afghanistan can reach communities most in need - especially women and children. Your donations will help to provide food, clean water, and fuel. Please keep the people of Afghanistan in your thoughts and prayers.'

Our Seminarian One or two of you have asked about Benjamin, the seminarian whom the Bishop has based in Felixstowe. He has been pursuing his studies at the Seminary at Oscott, near Birmingham, and has been with his family near Cambridge for Christmas., but hopes to come back here for a week or two very shortly before the new term at Oscott begins.

FROM ST. THOMAS BECKET

We kept the Feast of St. Thomas last week, December 29th, and the second reading at The Office of Readings was from one of his letters. I was very struck by the following passage in it, which I thought I would share with you.

Who can doubt that the Church of Rome is the head of all the churches, the source of Catholic teaching? Who does not know that the keys of the kingdom of heaven were given to Peter? Is not the whole structure of the Church built up on Peter's faith and teaching, so to grow until we all meet Christ as one perfect man, united in faith and in our recognition of him as Son of God?

Of course this was held to be true by the whole Christian Church for a millenium and a half, until the Reformation tore apart the seamless garment of Christ.

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Are you acquainted with the Catechism? No, not the old 'Penny Catechism', useful though that was. But the thick volume which was published in 1992, following the Second Vatican Council, and after six years of intensive work by

many bishop and others. It is a magnificent and magisterial work, promoted by Saint Pope John Paul II, and largely overseen by the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger - two of our greatest popes.

In his Apostolic Constitution which launched the Catechism, Pope John Paul wrote *'very many have expressed the desire that a catechism or compendium of all Catholic doctrine regarding both faith and morals be composed. After the Synod of Bishops in 1985, I made this desire my own, considering it as 'fully responding to a real need of the universal church.....'*

The Holy Father continued *'A catechism should faithfully and systematically present the teaching of Sacred Scripture, the living Tradition of the Church and the authentic Magisterium, as well as the spiritual heritage of the Fathers, Doctors, and saints of the Church, to allow for a better knowledge of the Christian mystery and for enlivening the faith of the People of God. It should take into account the doctrinal statements which down the centuries the Holy Spirit has intimated to his Church. It should help to illuminate with the light of faith the new situations and problems which had not yet emerged in the past'.*

During my quarter century as a priest I have often referred to the Catechism when I have wanted clarification of some teaching or other. The index is invaluable. And whenever I have used the Catechism, I have been impressed by both its profundity and its accessibility. It is no dry and obscure tome, but a clear statement of what Catholics believe. Over the past few months I've thought how good it would be to work through the Catechism, a little at a time, imbibing its wisdom. And then I've felt that this might best be done not on my own, but in the company of others. So I wonder is there anyone in the parish who would be interested in entering this undertaking with me? I think it could only lead to the deepening of our faith, and the opening of our eyes to the richness of the Catholic Faith. As Pope John Paul says, the Catechism is *'offered to all the faithful who wish to deepen their knowledge of the unfathomable riches of salvation'*. Should anyone be interested, please would they tell me, and then we could meet up and work out how we might proceed.