



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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Jan. 9th, 2022 : FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am Int.
Tuesday FERIA
9:30am Int.
Wednesday ST.AELRED OF RIEVAULX
9:30am Int. +Delia & Hugh Brannan
Thursday FERIA
No Mass today
Friday FERIA
1.0pm *FUNERAL MASS FOR CARMEL
BARKER RIP*
Saturday 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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm,
or by appointment.

The Rosary Friday at 12.15pm

The Mass today

The readings can be found on p.119 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.139 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am 171, 172, 660

THIS WEEK

Today 10.0am -10.30am The First Holy Communion Group meets in the Cooper Room.
3.30pm-4.30pm The Confirmation Group meets at the Presbytery.

Tuesday 11.0am A Deanery Clergy Meeting takes place in the St.Felix Hall.

Friday 1.0pm Funeral Mass for Carmel Barker RIP, followed by Cremation at the Crematorium of the Seven Hills. No 11.30am Mass today ; Rosary at 12.15pm

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Johanna Pope (2001), Lynn Goulden (2005), John Kaziow (2011), Roy Dawson (2008), Elizabeth Durrant (1998), Rutland Barsby (2005), Evelyn Gedge (2018), and Albert Schmitz (2004) . May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £379.96 was given in the offertory and £66.05 for CAFOD. £1,802 was given by Direct Debit in December.

Suffolk Refugee Support Centre Barbara Lamberton writes: 'Dear Friends, thank you so much for your very generous support for this charity both with food and vouchers. Please see the certificate of appreciation on the notice board. We are still looking for working sewing machines. If you have one you no longer want please call **Benjamin** It's very good to have Benjamin, the Seminarian whom the Bishop has based in Felixstowe, with us again for a couple of weeks. Do speak to him and make him feel welcome.

Proposed Group to study the Catechism of the Catholic Church. So far two people have expressed interest in this. I wonder if there are any others? Don't be put off by thinking it will be terribly high-powered, and that you will need to have degrees in Hebrew and Greek! It will be very basic and intelligible. I'm a bear of little brain myself - are there any other bears about?

THE ICON OF ST.JOSEPH

During the Year of St.Joseph and of the Holy Family, an Icon of the Holy Family, written (painted) by Fr.Luke Goymour, Parish Priest of Brandon, has been spending a week in each parish of the diocese. This week the Icon is at St.Mary's Ipswich, and it will arrive here at Felixstowe in time for next Sunday. It is to be displayed prominently in the sanctuary, and we will say a prayer together (to be printed in next weekend's Newsheet) at the conclusion of each Mass on Sunday and in the week following. The diocese has provided prayer cards depicting the Icon, and these will be available for you next weekend. The Icon is meant to remind us of the Holy Family, which provides an example of love and faithfulness for all families. And also of St.Joseph, who gives us such a wonderful example of selfless responsiveness to God's will. It is coming to us at an opportune time, in between our celebration of the Holy Family at Christmas, and our remembering the Holy Family in the Temple at the Presentation of the Lord, which we celebrate on February 2nd. (In the Icon, St.Joseph is shown holding the two turtledoves which Mary and Joseph offered in the Temple when Jesus was Presented to the Father). We look forward to the Icon being with us ; it will remind us, too, of our union with all the other parishes of the diocese which it has, or will, visit.

'HIS HEART WENT OUT TO HIM'

We always call it The Parable of the Prodigal Son. I don't know why - the Gospel doesn't give it that title. It would be better to call it The Parable of the Loving Father, because the Father is at the heart of the parable, and in it Our Lord is teaching us in a profound and memorable way about what God the Father is like. We are given an insight into the quality of that love which

God - whose very nature, St.John tells us, is love - has for each one of us.

In Rembrandt's famous picture of the son's return, the son is shown kneeling before the Father, asking for forgiveness. But that is not in the Gospel either. St.Luke, the only one of the four evangelists to record this precious piece of Our Lord's teaching, says that

'while he was still a long way off his father saw him, and his heart went out to him. He ran to meet him, flung his arms round him, and kissed him'. There was no opportunity for the errant son to kneel down. The father had clearly been looking out for the boy, hoping against hope that he would return. And when he spotted him on the road, he ran out - he couldn't wait for the son to arrive at the gate. Neither did he wait for the son to deliver his carefully prepared speech (the sincerity of which is dubious - the boy has returned through realizing on which side his bread was buttered). Rather he runs out to meet him, flings his arms around him, and kisses him.

'His heart went out to him'. How lovely that phrase is. And how apt the phrase seems as we come today to the end of the season, Christmastide, in which we have been contemplating the coming of Jesus, the Word made Flesh, into our world and into our lives. For in the Incarnation God the Son 'runs out to meet us'. He doesn't, as it were, wait for us to turn to Him, but rather he takes the initiative by entering so humbly but so purposefully into our world, into our human situation. He sees humanity in its dire need of direction, pardon, of salvation. We need Him so desperately. And fired by love for us, he *'runs out to meet us'* because his sacred heart *'goes out to us'*.

Today, as Christmastide ends, we witness the beginning of Jesus' public ministry as he undergoes on our behalf the Baptism of John. In the months ahead we will be listening to his teaching, and witnessing the climax of his redeeming work as he dies on the Cross and rises triumphant from the tomb. But before we set out on this journey, let us consider once more how, in the Incarnation and Birth of Our Lord, we have witnessed his *'running out to meet us'* brought about through *'his heart having gone out to us'* .