



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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January 23rd, 2022 : THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. Brian & Mary Charlton
Sunday 10.0am Int. For the People

Weekday Masses

Monday ST.FRANCIS DE SALES
9:30am Int. George Mealy
Tuesday FEAST OF THE CONVERSION
OF ST.PAUL

No Mass today

Wednesday ST.TIMOTHY AND ST.TITUS

No Mass today

Thursday FERIA

No Mass today

Friday ST.THOMAS AQUINAS

11:30am Int. Peggy Mealy

Saturday FERIA

9.30am Int. Caroline Salter

6:00pm Int. +Karen, Ruth, & Alex Thomson

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 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.130 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.975 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am 962, 708, 772

THIS WEEK

Fr. John is planning to have a short Post-Christmas break this week, and so there will not be a Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. He will be back in time to say the 11.30am Mass on Friday.

Today 3.30pm The Confirmation Group meets at the Presbytery.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Myrtle Shevling (2004), Micharl Backler (2011), Breda Bird (2019), Patricia West (2011), Kenneth Doubleday (2016), Kevin Daly (2021), and Barbara Strong (2009). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £397.40 was given at the Offertory, and £66.95 for CAFOD.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church The Group which plans to study the Catechism together met last Tuesday to make some plans. Ten people were present - we hope that others will join us - and we decided to meet weekly in the Cooper Room, starting not this coming Tuesday but a week on Tuesday. Our meetings, we agreed will last for not more than one hour, and will be on Tuesdays, 10.45am-11.45am. Despite the catechism being a 'big book', we decided that our reading of it should be slow and prayerful - just a few pages each week. We will read a short section before the meeting, and then discuss it when we meet - and puzzle together over anything that may be a little difficult to understand. The section we will look at next time is Section 1, Chapter 1 - just four pages.

THE 10.0am SUNDAY MASS

Our new Mass schedule has been running for some weeks now - a single united Mass at 10.0am, rather than two separate Masses at 9.30am and 11.0am. And I think most people seem to be happy with the arrangement. It is good to see the church nearly full just once, rather than half empty twice. I think this boosts our morale, and of course the singing is stronger and more uplifting. There is a vibrant and joyful atmosphere that was somewhat lacking before, and it is so good to see people worshipping and socializing together who previously wouldn't have met each other in church. More people, too, seem to be coming in to coffee in the Hall afterwards, and this promotes fellowship. There is more of a 'family feel' to the parish now.

Making the change was not difficult for me as parish priest in view of the fact that two-thirds of you wanted this to happen. It was not a case of a headstrong priest pushing something through which was deeply unpopular, And yet, and yet - I still worry very much, and even feel distressed, about the handful of people who have stopped coming to Mass as a result of the change in time. There are some, apparently, who just refuse to adapt their programme, whose allegiance to their established Sunday morning pattern seems to take precedence over their allegiance to the Mass and the parish. And others who say that 10.0am is too early - and yet surely 10.0am is a different matter to 8.0am or 9.0am? It isn't exactly the crack of dawn. I've been asked to reconsider the time of 10.0am, but I don't feel that I can reasonably do this when a very clear majority of parishioners have expressed their preference.....

For myself, I'm finding it great to have just one united Sunday morning Mass, to which I can give my whole attention and energy. Further, it is so good to have time afterwards to have coffee with people in the Hall, and be available to them, and also be able to spend a little time with the children preparing for First Holy Communion, and the parents who come to collect them afterwards. So despite sadness over the people we are not seeing at Mass at present, I can't help feeling that together we have done the right thing.

THE SYNODAL WAY

I wonder whether you have made a response yet to the questions which Pope Francis has asked us to consider and to answer? Details of how to make your response electronically can be found on both the parish website and the diocesan website. (If you need help with this, our Synodal Way Parish Representative, Stephen Badcock, is always ready to help.) I thought it might be helpful - and encouraging - if I printed here two of the ten questions we have been asked to consider each week for the next five weeks :

1. How welcoming is our parish?

How do we embrace and reach out as a parish, and as individuals, to the community with us each Sunday, as well as those who are still anxious about returning, those who have fallen away, and those enquiring and coming to us as newcomers? How welcoming do people find us?

2. How good are we at listening?

Our world is full of noise and opinion; full of people making their voices heard, and those who feel that they go unnoticed. Are we good listeners? Do we feel listened to? How do we learn to listen well - to each other, to the wider world, to God himself?

THE ICON OF ST.JOSEPH AND THE HOLY FAMILY

Having been with us for the past week, the Icon has now moved on to Woodbridge, and will travel to other parishes along the coast. It was good to have it here, and to be reminded of the wonderful example which St.Joseph gives us of faith and obedience. 'Joseph, of all men closest to the heart of Jesus', the hymn says. He played a unique role in God's plan, and although no one was so closely involved in the scheme of salvation as Our Lady, we must not allow St.Joseph to be completely overshadowed. Rightly we prayed that he may be as a father to us, even as he acted as a foster father to Our Lord during his formative years. We are fortunate here to have a beautiful Chapel of St.Joseph, with a very fine statue. He also appears six times in the stained glass of the church : can you find them all?