



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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February 6th, 2022 : FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Anthony Payne
Sunday 10.0am H.M. The Queen

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am Int. For the People
Tuesday FERIA
9:30am Int. +Decd. family members & friends
Wednesday FERIA
9:30am Int. George Mealy & Family
Thursday ST.SCHOLASTICA
No Mass today
Friday OUR LADY OF LOURDES
11:30am Int. For the Sick
Saturday FERIA
9.30am Int. Mark Mealy
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 Noon (during Exposition)

The Mass today

The readings can be found on p.136 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.984 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 880, 863, 913

THIS WEEK

Today, February 6th, is Accession Day - the 70th Anniversary of HM the Queen's Accession to the throne on February 6th 1952. We will offer the 10.0am Mass for her, and remember her in the Intercessions.

Today 3.30pm The Confirmation Group meets at the Presbytery

Tuesday 10.45am The Group looking at the Catechism of the Catholic church meets in the Cooper Room. All welcome. (Ch.2, paras.51-73)

Thursday 10.30am Fr.John attends a meeting of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, at Poringland.

Friday Today, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is being kept as a World Day of Prayer for the Sick. The 11.30am Mass will be offered for the Sick.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Mary Sanford (2002), William Pipe (2006), Mary Drouet (2003), Tori-Anna Williams (2004), Joan Nelson (2014). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £345.91 was given in the Offertory and £83.01 for CAFOD.

CAP - Christians Against Poverty Barbara writes 'CAP are running a Life Skills Course starting on February 11th 10am-12pm at Bethesda Baptist Church. It is free and includes breakfast. Topics include cooking, budgeting etc. Please see poster and postcards in the porch or contact joybaker@caplifeskills.org'

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE

It was good to hear a few days ago that certain restrictions in church brought about by the COVID crisis may now be relaxed. Whilst masks are still recommended, and Holy Communion must continue to be administered under one kind, Holy Water stoups may now come back into use. We haven't seen the Holy Water stoups - just inside the door, on the side walls of the porch - for a couple of years, and both they and their use have become unfamiliar. But now they are considered 'safe' again, it would be good for us to resume using them. We do so, you remember, by dipping our finger into the Holy Water when we enter and leave church, using it to make the sign of the Cross on ourselves. The purpose is primarily to remind ourselves of our Baptism, when we entered into the Church, and became part of the mystical Body of Christ. This was the single most important moment in our life, because in Baptism we were made sharers in eternal life. What could be more important than that? What could have more far-reaching consequences?

But as well as reminding us of our Baptism, the application of Holy Water to our person is important for giving us spiritual protection, and perhaps using the Holy Water as we leave church is particularly important in this regard. Holy Water becomes holy through being solemnly blessed by a priest. Through this it is made holy, it is set apart. The devil hates Holy Water - hence the priest uses it when blessing or exorcising a house. In spiritual terms, Holy Water is very useful for the protection it gives us.

Holy Water is one of the SACRAMENTALS along with such things as the blessed candles which we carried at Candlemas last Wednesday, and the palm crosses which we will be carrying in the Palm Procession in a few weeks time. They are holy things; not Sacraments, which are conveyers of grace, but, as the Catechism says, holy things which 'dispose' us to be recipients of God's grace.

So hurray that the stoups are full again, and that Holy Water available for us to use each time we pass through the porch. (The devil will not be at all pleased at this development. But we are.)

THE SYNODAL WAY

Here are two more of the ten questions which Pope Francis asks us to think about, and, if we wish, answer by going to the parish or diocesan website.

5. How well do I understand and participate in the mission of the Church?

Do I feel that I am playing my part, and pulling my weight, in the life and mission of my parish, the diocese, and the universal Church? Or is that somebody else's job?

How do I respond to the Lord's call to witness to the Gospel?

Do I keep my life of faith to myself, or do I share it with others in word and deed?

What would help me to do that better?

6. How well do we engage with the wider world?

Do we engage with those around us : with our local community, with the life of our country, and our world?

Do we believe that the Church truly has something to offer the world at large? Or are we just focussed on ourselves?

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Sometimes when I'm emptying a packet of altar breads into the ciborium ready for Mass, I drop one. It doesn't matter that when I pick it up from the floor I put it into the Sacristy waste paper basket : it obviously hasn't been consecrated at that point, and one out of a packet of one hundred doesn't matter that much. And yet..... I can't help thinking about what might have been. That wafer might, had it reached the Altar, have become the Body of Christ : it might have been the means by which is communicated the most precious thing in the world, Our risen Lord himself. Instead, it now lies in the bin, discarded and contaminated by contact with the ground. What might have been.....

Each of us has the potential to be a saint ; to radiate Christ's love, and be a means of drawing others to him. Our potential as a baptized Christian is extraordinary. And yet how easy it is for us not to realize that potential. Not necessarily to be bad or useless, but nevertheless to fall short of what we might have been, had we only responded more fully to God's grace.