



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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April 24th, 2022 : THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. For the People
Sunday 10.00am Int. +J.Gardiner (FM)

Weekday Masses

Monday FEAST OF ST.MARK
9:30am Int. +Louise Laxell (FM)

Tuesday SOLEMNITY OF ST.GEORGE
9:30am Int.

Wednesday EASTER FERIA
No Mass today

Thursday EASTER FERIA
7.0pm Int. +Nicholas & Catherine O'Carroll

Friday FEAST OF ST.CATHERINE
OF SIENNA
11:30am Int.

Saturday EASTER 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 Mon, Tues, Fri, & Sat., and Vespers at 6.45pm on Thurs.

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.263 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.466 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 761, 269, 268

THIS WEEK

Today 10.0am The First Holy Communion children receive their First Confession Certificates at the end of the Mass. Their meetings then resume after the Easter break.

3.30pm-5.0pm Hamish McQueen, Diocesan Youth Leader, has a session with the Confirmation Candidates, at the Presbytery.

Tuesday 10.45am-11.45am The Catechism Group meets in the Cooper Room. All welcome.

2.15pm Funeral Service for Michael Hockley RIP at the Crematorium of the Seven Hills.

Thursday 10.30am Fr.John attends a Deans' Meeting at Poringland.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Vera Pawlowski (2006), George Friel (2010), Roman Nanowski (1995), Stanislaw Janikowski (2015), David Thomson (1998), Richard Morley (1996), Patricia Amey (2007) and Peter Sutcliffe (2017). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £1167.34 was given for the offertory, £58.10 for CAFOD and £206.30 for the Good Friday collection for the Holy Land Shrines.

New Parent and Young Children Group

Krisztina writes 'The Group is starting from Monday 9th May in the Parish Hall. It will run on Monday mornings 9.30am-11.30am as a place for children 0-5 years and their adults to meet and play. If anyone would like to help with setting up/packing away or with making some teas and coffee, we would love some extra help, it wouldn't have to be every week, unless you would want to

of course! Please do spread the word to parents you think might benefit from it, and pray for us that the group may bring fun and joy to everyone. Contact Krisztina , or speak to Stephen Badcock or Fr.John.

Lenten Friday Soup Lunches Kate and Boni write 'We would like to thank all who generously supported the Lenten Friday soup lunches and especially the soup makers and helpers. We are pleased to report we raised £785.50 for CAFOD. Regarding Rosemary's enthusiastic Tri-cycling efforts, would like to thank the sponsors who donated to The Walk for Hunger Challenge. We raised £525 for this worthy cause. Thank you once again and may you be blessed.'

THE NEW ORDER?

I was rather depressed for most of Holy Week. The reason being that numbers of people taking part were markedly 'down' on what they were in the past. It began with the Penitential Service before Holy Week, at which only twenty people were present. Then attendances at Mass on Palm Sunday were not robust, nor were they on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

But then at the end of Holy Week I happened to read a paper by Bishop Philip Egan, Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth. He said in the course of it '...yet Jesus never spoke about numbers. He never said "Build a church and I will fill it." ' And then Bishop Egan went on to quote from an interview given in 1969 by Pope Benedict XVI (then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger), in which he said, prophetically,

From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge - a church that has lost much. She will become small and will have to start afresh, more or less from the beginning. She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity. As the number of her adherents diminishes, so will it lose many of its social privileges..... but she will find her essence afresh and with full conviction in that which was always at her centre : faith in the triune God, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, in the presence of the Spirit in the world. The Church will be a more spiritual Church.... but a great

power will flow from a more spiritualized and simplified Church.'

When I said earlier 'in the past', I realized that I meant 'before the pandemic'. But the pandemic has happened, and we have to accept that things are no longer the same. The old 'normal' does not apply now. The world has changed, people have changed, and the Church finds itself in a different situation. Pope Benedict's prophesy about a 'smaller' and stripped-down Church, has to an extent come true. We have lost - and not just in this parish - a number of people. It has, I suppose, been a testing time, when maybe wheat has been sorted out from chaff. We seem now to be in that time when the Church - both globally and in every parish - has to 'find its essence afresh', as Benedict said. And that essence is, as he says, faith in the living God. I suppose some - the people we no longer see - have asked themselves, consciously or sub-consciously 'Do I really believe in God?'. 'Does the Christian Faith matter to me?', and have sadly answered 'No.'

I don't - especially writing during the Easter Octave - want to sound downbeat. Through Bishop Egan's paper and Pope Benedict's 'prophesy', I see where we are, and I think it is exciting and challenging. And I'm aware that there are already signs of revival. In our own parish, a church completely full of joyful Christians celebrating the Resurrection last Sunday morning, Easter Day, was encouraging. As are certain small groups made up of people showing commitment and vigour in their life as Catholics : here, the Catechism Group, at which ten or a dozen committed Catholics meet for an hour each Tuesday morning to renew and strengthen their faith by studying the teachings of the Church. And then the Visitation '22 Group, which last year visited people whom we had not seen for a while, and who this year are planning a great leaflet-drop in the many new housing areas which are springing up. Again, another sign of new life is the proposed Parents & Young Children Group, beginning soon in the Hall, to be led by an enthusiastic and very capable parishioner and young mother, Krisztina Royal.

Yes, there are signs of life! As there should be in a community of Easter people!

