



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes
MA VF

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July 31st, 2022 :

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. For the People
Sunday 9:30am Int. +Anne Hannon
6.0pm (Convent) Int.

Weekday Masses

Monday ST.ALPHONSUS LIGUORI
9:30am Int.
Tuesday FERIA
9:30am Int. The People of Ukraine
Wednesday FERIA
4.30pm (Convent) Int.
Thursday ST.JOHN VIANNEY
8.0am Int. +Michael McGuire (FM)
Friday FERIA
11:30am Int.
Saturday FEAST OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION
9.30am Int.
6:00pm Int. For the People

The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) will be said a quarter of an hour before Mass on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, and Saturday.

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.118 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.1036 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 880, 770, 938

THIS WEEK

Childrens' Liturgy, Toddlers Group, and Catechism Group are all now on holiday.

Please note that the mid-week Convent Mass will be on Wednesday afternoon this week, not the usual Thursday. Also that there is an 8.0am Mass at St.Felix on Thursday.

Saturday 2.0pm Baptism of Paulina Racyte. daughter of Rimantas Racys and Gintare Racciene.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Christiane Taylor (2004), Maria Maher (2005), Rose Mulholland (2014), Sr. George Deane (2008), Joan Jacobi (2012), Kathleen Dunne (2018), Enid Egan (2017), Peter Cuthbertson (2020), Dennis Jones (2000), Peter Newman (2006). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £359.71 was given in the Offertory and £75.45 for CAFOD

Ukrainian Refugees Stephen Badcock writes 'We are delighted to announce that our local Ukrainian Guests will be using our Church Hall for their English lessons on Thursdays from 11am to 12.30 pm. This is being organised by 'Ukraine 2 Felixstowe' a locally-run initiative helping our Ukrainian brothers and sisters settle into their new home.'

Parish BBQ Stephen also writes 'The date for our Parish BBQ is Sunday 4th September which as usual will be held in the Presbytery garden. It is usually great fun and enjoyed by all the family. Please put the date in your diary. Further details to follow nearer the time.'

And another date for your diary The Teddy Bears Picnic which we hold each year in the Presbytery garden for young children and their families will this year be held on Sunday, August 28th. Emma and Ian Garstang, who lead it with such flare and enthusiasm, have once more agreed to organise the event. I'm most grateful to them.

FANFARE FOR AUGUST

What a joy that tomorrow we will once more be in the month of August! It's a very special month - a month when the pace of life slackens a little. In our Church life, it is the month when parish organizations take a break, and when no church meetings are held. A month when many people are on holiday, and when all of us - hopefully - feel less under pressure. The harvest is being gathered in and the fruit is ripening. It has the mellowness of early Autumn. Golden days, and a time when, if we are still at home, we can perhaps enjoy leisurely meals with our friends, and maybe have visitors to stay.

And it is a special month in the life of the Church - a month, maybe, when we can become more reflective in our spiritual life. A time when we can get down to reading a spiritual book, and be less hurried in our prayer and meditation. We celebrate some of the most attractive and best-loved Saints in August : St. John Vianney, the holy parish priest of Ars, on the 4th ; St. Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order on the 8th ; St. Clare, companion of St. Francis on the 11th ; St. Bernard, founder of the Cistercians on 20th ; St. John Baptist on the 29th, And in this month fall the joyful Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord on the 6th, and the major feast of Our Lady, her Assumption, on the 15th - sometimes called 'Our Lady in Harvest', or 'Easter in Summer'. A special month indeed. One to savour, but one which always goes by too quickly!

SOME DIFFICULTIES IN PRAYER

VIII DETERMINATION AND PERSEVERANCE

In this series, which now comes to an end, we have thought briefly about some of the difficulties and discouragements we encounter when we seek to pursue that vital activity which is prayer. Of course it is not always difficult! - there are times of light and joy as well, - sent by God as encouragements. Life isn't all uphill!

When Basil Hume, Abbot of Ampleforth and later Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, wrote about prayer towards the end of the last century, I think many of us were both surprised and encouraged to learn that someone as wise and holy as he sometimes found prayer difficult. Many of us, I think, had supposed it was only ourselves who had to struggle, and sometimes experience boredom and frustration. His writings about prayer were as honest as they were lucid. And so I'd like to end this series with some of his wise words on the subject, taken from his splendid book *The Mystery of Love*

*'Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God.' That definition in the catechism remains, for my part at any rate, the best of all definitions of prayer. But one word was omitted : trying. Prayer is **trying** to raise our minds and hearts to God.*

'The only 'failure' in prayer is when we neglect it. The only 'success' in prayer is the sense of God's presence, or a deep peace and sense of well-being, a marvelous moment of inner freedom. When that comes, it is a special gift from God. We have no claim on it, we cannot demand it. Our part is to turn to him as best we can, trying to raise our minds and hearts to him.

'When you get no consolation in prayer, when you feel you are getting nowhere, then that may be the best prayer you have ever said, because you are doing it not for your own sake, but for God's. Always seek the God of consolation; never seek the consolations of God. It is always that way round.'