



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA VF
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August 14th, 2022 : SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. Aidan & Mal Nally
Sunday 10.0am Int. For the People
6.0pm (Convent) Int. Ukraine

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
9:30am Int. Mary & Keith Williams
Tuesday FERIA
9:30am Int. +James Boyle
Wednesday FERIA
No Mass today
Thursday FERIA
4.30pm (Convent) Int.
Friday FERIA
11:30am Int.
Saturday ST.BERNARD
9.30am Int. +Anne Hannon
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, Fri, and Sat..

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.189 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.1175 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 350, 344, 360, 367, 366

THIS WEEK

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

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Lilian Hart (2000), Maria Cunnell (2008), Elizabeth Bartholomew (2011), June Gilson (2001), and Bridie Burns (2015). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £397.93 was given at the Offertory, and £54.90 for CAFOD. During July, £2086.0 came in from standing orders.

The Parish Barbeque - to be held on Sunday September 4th, from 12.30pm
Fiona writes 'Entry is free, but donations to help cover the costs would be appreciated. Water and Squash will be provided, but otherwise please bring your own alcohol.'

If you would like to come, please sign the list on the noticeboard in the Porch this will help with the catering. There will also be a Raffle - if you can donate a prize for this, please sign the second list on the Porch noticeboard

As in previous years, it would be good if people attending the BBQ could bring either a salad side dish or a dessert to share. Fiona and Stephen Badcock will be outside Church after Mass on the weekends of 20th/21st and 27th/28th August to note down these contributions.'

GLORIOUS ASSUMPTION

When I had not yet come to understand and accept the Catholic Faith in all its fullness and

beauty, the idea of Mary's Assumption - her being taken up body and soul into heaven at the time of her death - seemed to me to be ridiculous. It seemed to fly in the face of all reason and experience - how could one possibly believe it? But then over a period of time it gradually came to make perfect sense to me, and I joyfully accepted it as part of the truth revealed to us, and rightly treasured and proclaimed by the Church.

How does a person come from scepticism regarding this doctrine to understanding and acceptance? I think there are three steps.

First, to remember that our Christian hope regarding the future is bodily resurrection. We profess our belief in the Apostles Creed in 'The Resurrection of the Body', and we're not talking there about Jesus' resurrection - we've already stated our belief in that earlier in the Creed. Our Christian hope is that on the Last Day, God will take the dust and ashes to which our body has been reduced, and from that dust and ashes will forge our new resurrection body, to which our soul - which has been in his keeping - will be reunited. Incredible? Is it any more wonderful than our body being forged and shaped by God at the beginning of our existence?

Second. Then when we have remembered that all of us are going to rise on the Last Day, to next ask whether it is not appropriate that Mary, who as Mother of Jesus enjoys a unique relationship with him, should not have had to wait until the Last Day, as we will have to wait, to be taken up into glory? Could it possibly be right that the body which gave flesh to the incarnate God should rot in the grave? Mary, as Mother of Jesus, Mother of God - Mother of God because Jesus IS God, God the Son - has a unique place in God's plan. She has a dignity which is hers alone. Surely it was right that her flesh, like the flesh of her divine Son, should not have known corruption?

Third Having recalled that all of us are ultimately destined for bodily resurrection, and that Mary holds a place unique as regards both honour and dignity, it is then right to remember that the Catholic Church all down the centuries and all over the world has been led by the Holy Spirit to accept this doctrine of the Assumption. It's not a recent opinion held by a few - a mere speculation. It has always been accepted, and something which I think is strongly indicative of

its truth is that whereas the burial places and tombs of other saints have, from the earliest Christian centuries, been venerated and visited, and their relics sought out and honoured, no one at any time has ever claimed that Mary's resting place might be visited, or that any primary relic of her (bone, hair, etc) could be obtained and venerated.

The Catholic Church has been constant in its witness to Mary's Assumption. Do you or I know better than the universal Church, which has always proclaimed this Truth?

'Every time the Mass is celebrated, Holy Week is contained in its entirety' - Cardinal Basil Hume

Something to think about. The Last Supper, the Oblation made on the Cross, the new life of the Resurrection contained and conveyed in the Sacrament - yes, it's all there. How wonderful.

'DO YOU REMEMBER?'

- for some of us, this is the cruelest question that anyone can ask us! Over lunch last Sunday the Sisters and I were acknowledging the fact that our memories are not always as efficient as they once were - anyone over seventy will know exactly what we meant! But since then three things have occurred to me :

1. Our occasional slowness to remember has not caused any major disasters. Neither the course of Justice nor the spread of the Catholic Faith have been impeded. So maybe it's not such a serious matter after all?
2. Yes, occasionally not being able to remember a name or a fact can be very frustrating for us, but it can also be very good in helping to conquer our pride. It makes us realize that we most certainly have our limitations. Which is no bad thing.
3. It is important to remember (if we can!) just how many things are still there in our minds. The glass is very much more than half full. Yes, some things we don't easily bring to the surface (at least immediately), but many other things are perfectly available to us. We mustn't be negative. We must rejoice that our memories are still pretty well stored! Memory is a gift from God, and we still have much to give thanks for!