



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : Fr. John Barnes MA
The Presbytery, 8, Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT
Tel.01394 282561 e-mail frjohnfelixstowe@gmail.com

Parish Website: stfelixfelixstowe.uk Helping Hands - 07342722521

December 4th, 2022 : THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. +Keith Williams
Sunday 10:00am Int. +Dorothy Milton
4:00pm (Convent) Int. For the People

Weekday Masses

Monday ADVENT FERIA
No Mass today
Tuesday ST.NICHOLAS
9:30am Int. +Dec'd members of the Badcock
and Peacock Families
Wednesday ST.AMBROSE
9.30am Int. +Peter McGuire (FM)
Thursday SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BVM
9.30am Int.
4:30pm (Convent) Int.
Friday ADVENT FERIA
11:30am Int. +Danny Pole
Saturday EAST ANGLIAN MARTYRS
9:30am Int. For Ukraine
6:00pm Int. For the People

The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) will be said a quarter of
an hour before Mass on Tues, Thurs, Fri, & 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.85 of the Parish

Mass Book, and on p.32 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 92, 102, 662

THIS WEEK

Monday 9.30am The St.Felix Toddlers meet
in the Hall.
10.0am Bishop Alan installs Fr.John as an
Honorary Canon of St.John's Cathedral, in the
course of a Mass at the Cathedral.
No Mass at St.Felix today.

Tuesday 10.45am The Catechism Group
meets in the Cooper Room. This week we look at
paragraphs 758 to 769. Why not join us?

Saturday 11.0am Funeral Service for Alan
Stephens RIP, followed by Cremation at the
Crematorium of the Seven Hills.

NEXT SUNDAY

Bishop Alan has requested that each parish in the
diocese should hold a
**HOLY HOUR OF PRAYER
FOR THE NEW BISHOP**
who is to be Ordained Bishop and Installed as
Bishop of East Anglia
on Wednesday, December 14th
This will be 2.30pm-3.30pm, with
Vespers and Benediction at 3.15pm

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this Week John Collins (2021) ,
Elizabeth Barnes (2005), Sr. Ursula Tierney
(2009), Ivy Watts (2001), Victor Ward (2008), Sr
Assisi Clifford (2006), Joseph Smyth (2007), Kate

Godfrey (2001), Brenda Davison (2004), Josie Bones (2007) and Dorothy Veitch (2015). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £362.44 was given at the Offertory and £34.80 for CAFOD. Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the Dependent Priests' Fund, which assists sick and retired clergy in the diocese.

The Crib Festival At the time of writing our Crib Festival is still running its course. The church looks charming, and everyone is remarking on the amazing variety of the cribs on show - Cribs of all kinds, and from all parts of the world. There are almost one hundred of them. Although Barbara Lamberton planned and organised the event, it has very much been a team effort : many people have worked hard to make the festival the success it deserves to be. We are very grateful to them, and also to all the people in the parish who have lent their Cribs - often much-loved parts of their family's annual Christmas celebration. People have remarked too on how interesting the notes which people have supplied have proved to be, saying where and when the cribs were acquired, and why they are special to that particular person or family. It will be sad when the exhibition has to be dismantled!

The Christmas Masses People are already asking the times for the Christmas Eve Masses : there will be Mass at St.Felix at 6.0pm (Childrens' Mass) and at 10.0pm (The Mass of Midnight), and at the Convent at 8.0pm.

THE FRIDAY ABSTINENCE

I think some Catholics are genuinely unaware of the rule that we should abstain from meat on Fridays, and so the following reminder is timely :

The Bishops are urging all Catholics to refresh their weekly observance of the Friday Penance by abstaining from meat on that day. It is, of course, a reminder to us of the day of the Lord's passion and death. A recent study from Cambridge suggests that such a self-denial has had a surprising impact in reducing carbon emissions by as much as 545.000 tonnes each year

(equivalent of 82,000 people taking return flights from London to New York!)

The Bishops are also commending a Live Simply Award in response to the Holy Father's invitation in Laudato Si to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has given us.

THE FOUR LAST THINGS

2. Judgment In Catholic teaching there are two moments of Judgment. One is the **General Judgment**, which we speak of in the Creed when we say that Jesus will come again 'to judge the living and the dead'. This will be at the end of time, when Our Lord comes in glory to inaugurate the Kingdom in its fullness. Then all humanity will be judged. The other judgment is the **Particular Judgment**, and this is when each person is judged at the moment of their death - some passing straight to the beatific vision of God, some being condemned to hell, and some (presumably the majority) being committed to purgatory to be prepared for the beatific vision.

You may be familiar with St.John Henry Newman's great poem *The Dream of Gerontius*, so memorably set to music by Sir Edward Elgar. In the poem, after his death the soul of Gerontius is borne by his guardian angel to heaven, and for a moment, glimpses the glory of God. In that moment he recognises his utter unworthiness to be in God's presence, and he cries 'Take me away, and in the lowest depths there let me lie!' : in doing so he embraces purgatory, recognising his need for cleansing before in due course enjoying the life of heaven. As imagined by Newman, Gerontius in fact judges himself, and maybe that it is how it will be with us : not God judging us, but we seeing ourselves as we truly are, and acknowledging that we have fallen short, and need preparation before being fit to spend eternity in the joy of God's presence.

Judgment is one of the 'Four Last Things' which we are reminded of in this season of Advent. It gives us an incentive to live in a more watchful way, seeking to please God in all that we do and think and say. Alertness to God is one of the great lessons of Advent.