



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes MA
The Presbytery, 8, Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT
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Parish Website: stfelixfelixstowe.uk Helping Hands - 07342722521

December 11th, 2022 : THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. For the People
Sunday 10:00am Int. +James Cutting
4:00pm (Convent) Int.

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.88 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.36 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 94, 116, 720

THIS WEEK

Monday 9.30am The Final session of the St.Felix Toddlers this year. There will be carols and a story at around 10.30am

Tuesday 10.45am The Catechism Group meets in the Cooper Room. This week we will be looking at paragraphs 770 to 780.

Today, Sunday Afternoon
HOLY HOUR FOR THE NEW BISHOP
To be ordained Bishop and Installed as
Bishop of East Anglia
on Wednesday this week
2.30pm-3 30pm
Vespers & Benediction at 3.15pm

Weekday Masses

Monday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int. +Charles Garratt (FM)
Tuesday ST.LUCY
9:30am Int. For all Penitents
Wednesday ST.JOHN OF THE CROSS
No Mass today
Thursday ADVENT FERIA
4:30pm (Convent) Int.
Friday ADVENT FERIA
11:30am Int. +Edith Thomas (FM)
Saturday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int. +Edgar Barnes
6:00pm Int. +Helen Robinson

The Daily Office

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays at 10.0am Benediction at 10.30am
Friday at Noon

Tuesday
PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE
BEFORE CHRISTMAS
at 2.30pm
Mgr. Tony Rogers & Fr.Luke Goymour have
promised to assist with the Confessions

Wednesday 11.30am Fr.John and others who have volunteered to represent the parish attend the Ordination and Installment of our new Bishop, at St.John's Cathedral, Norwich.

Friday 2.30pm The final part of the Cafe Course *LET IT BE*, in the Cooper Room

Saturday 11.0am Fr.John assists with

Confessions before Christmas at St.Mark's,
Ipswich

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Phyllis Garrod (2000), Mary Sutcliffe (2017), Catherine Spencer (2008), Tony Byrne (2001), Jane Waite (2004), Neville Poots (2011), Sheila Bonello (2011), Martin Brogan (2007) and Eileen Ascott (2008). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £357.50 was given at the Offertory and £25.50 for CAFOD. Today there is a retiring collection for the diocesan Dependent Priests' Fund.

The Crib Festival Barbara writes 'Many thanks to all who contributed to the Crib Festival lending cribs, making cakes, stewarding, serving in the kitchen, attending the festival, donating and buying raffle tickets. The raffle was drawn by Fr. John and won by Kevin McMorrow. The money collected was as follows: Donations: £222.55 (+£45 on Dona) = £267.55. Raffle: £237.00, Refreshments £156.50, Cake sale on Sunday: £18.50, Books: £34.00. Total: £713.55. A cheque for £668.55 was sent to Stella Maris. Well done everyone and thanks again. One of the nicest things was the enjoyment it gave to our visitors and the lovely compliments we received. Barbara and Sylvia.'
Fr.John adds : again, many thanks to Barbara and Sylvia, and all who helped to make this event so successful.

Meg Deveney 'Meg wishes to thank everyone for their good wishes, gifts and cards on the occasion of her 90th Birthday.'

New Committee Fr.John writes 'Now that parish life has more or less returned to normal after the disruption of the COVID, I think it is time to plan ahead, and with the demise through retirement of Team Felix, and the ending of its excellent work, I think it would be good if we established the kind of Social & Fundraising Committee which many other parishes have. The Committee would primarily be planning parish social events. If you would like to be involved, please will you tell me, and I will hope to call an

initial meeting early next year to look at the year ahead, and see what we might do.'

THE FOUR LAST THINGS

3. Heaven We all have our own idea as to what Heaven is like. To me it is a cancelled meeting. Or maybe a dish of coffee-flavoured ice cream..... But no, what is the real Heaven like?

I remember as a choirboy singing in a hymn 'Oh for the pearly gates of heaven, Oh for the golden floor', and even more intriguingly, a reference to 'harpers harping upon their harps'. But we know that picture language like this is only an attempt, and not a very successful attempt, to express what is ultimately beyond our knowledge and understanding. And that because it is completely beyond human experience. None of us KNOWS what heaven is like. There are no brochures or travel-guides. And so at the end of the day we can only imagine and speculate.

We know that heaven is not 'up there' - another hymn I remember from childhood is 'There's a friend for little children above the bright blue sky' : no, we no longer believe in a 'three-tier' universe. Perhaps it's not at all helpful to think of heaven as a Place, whether above the bright blue sky or anywhere else. Maybe it is better to think of heaven as a State rather than a place, a state in which we come close to God, and enjoy the beauty and wonder of the vision of his glory. Yet another hymn I remember from childhood began 'For ever with the Lord', and I think that was more on the right track.

It is noticeable that Our Lord as recorded in the gospels does not attempt to say what heaven is like. Maybe because it cannot be described in human terms. Or maybe because he is inviting us to simply trust him that all will be well. But most important he speaks in St.John's Gospel of taking us to be with him- 'that where I am you may be also'. Yes, heaven will be to experience God's nearer presence, and in that presence to find eternal joy and peace. Do we need to know more than that?

Three of the Four Last Things which we are bidden to think about in Advent each year are rather scary - Death, Judgment, and Hell. But when we think of Heaven, the light breaks through the clouds, and we are filled with hope and longing. Heaven is the promise made to us, & with that trust which is faith, we look forwards to its fulfillment.