



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes MA  
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## December 18th, 2022 : FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ***THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES***

#### ***Christmas Eve***

- 6.0pm First Mass of Christmas, and Blessing  
of the Crib (Childrens' Mass)  
Int. + John Battersby  
8.0pm (Convent) The Mass of Midnight  
10.0pm The Mass of Midnight  
Int. For the People

#### ***Christmas Day***

- 10.0am The Mass of the Day  
11.30am (Convent) The Mass of the Day

#### **Sunday Masses**

- Saturday 6:00pm Int. +Helen Robinson  
Sunday 10:00am Int. +Sean Quigley  
6:00pm (Convent) Int. For the People

#### **Weekday Masses**

- Monday ADVENT FERIA  
9:30am Int. +Irene Boyle  
Tuesday ADVENT FERIA  
9:30am Int. A Private Intention  
Wednesday ADVENT FERIA  
No Mass today  
Thursday ADVENT FERIA  
4:30pm (Con) Int.  
Friday ADVENT FERIA  
11:30am Int.  
Saturday ADVENT FERIA  
9:30am Int. +Louis Lazell (FM)

#### **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

**The Rosary** Friday at Noon (during Rosary)

#### **The Mass today**

The readings can be found on p.91 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.41 of The Sunday Missal.  
Hymns at 10.0am : 113, 112, 100

#### ***Confessions before Christmas***

- Tuesday 10.0am (during Exposition)  
Thursday Noon and 4.0pm  
Friday 12.30pm and 2.0pm  
Saturday (Christmas Eve) Noon, 2.30pm, and  
5.0pm

#### **THIS WEEK**

**Monday** The St. Felix Toddler Group will resume on Monday April 17th, 2023

**Tuesday** The Catechism Group is on holiday until Tuesday January 3rd.  
11.0am Funeral Service for Ruth Ryan, RIP, followed by burial at the Town Cemetery

#### **PARISH NOTICEBOARD**

**Anniversaries this week** Andrew Yates (2013),

Stanley Ring (2009), Doris Bird (2002), Margaret Hanlon (2009), Monica Cooper (2019), Joseph Grace (2003), Jenny Byrne (2019), Heather Campbell (2001), Patricia Schwan (2015), and Carmel Barker (2021). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £344.40 was given at the Offertory, and £57.50 for CAFOD. £138.38 was given in the retiring collection, which was for the diocesan Dependant Priest's Fund. In November, £2.258.00 was given by Direct Debit. Next Sunday, Christmas Day, the collection is given to the Parish Priest as a basic constituent of his annual income. A member of the Finance Committee writes 'The Dona System is available at the back of church should you wish to use it to make your Christmas Donation to Fr.John. It is very easy and straight-forward to use, but please ask if you need any help. Otherwise Fr.John will receive whatever money is put on the plate, or is given by direct debit on Christmas Day.'

**Suffolk Refugee Support** Barbara writes 'As a result of our Giving Tree we were able to provide over 50 gifts for refugees in Suffolk, which Rebecca collected on December 14th. She was thrilled and ask us to thank you all for your generosity.'

**The Penitential Service.** Over thirty people attended the Penitential Service last week, and received Absolution. We were grateful to Mgr.Rogers and Fr.Luke Goymour for assisting. But thirty still leaves a lot of parishioners who have not yet prepared themselves for Christmas by making their Confession. Absolution is a great blessing - the washing away of our faults and failings. It fits us or being at the Crib of the Christ Child who is himself sinless. But there's still time, and you'll find a list of times for Confessions before Christmas overleaf.

## THE FOUR LAST THINGS

**4. Hell** I can't remember who it was who famously said 'Hell is other people'. But if it's true - surely it can't be - that dischord breaks out in some families over the Christmas period, then perhaps for certain people it is found to be true!

But seriously, what can be said about Hell, this final one of the Four Last Things which we think about in Advent each year?

I think that just as when we think about Heaven it is not helpful to think about pearly gates and golden floors, so when we think about Hell it is not helpful to think about flames and pitchforks. Hell is essentially separation - separation from the One who is the very source of all joy and inner peace. Just as Heaven is union with God, so Hell is an eternal absence from Him.

But that separation can only come about by the deliberate and conscious choice of the individual. It is not to be confused with an honest uncertainty, a seeking but not finding. It is rather having a knowledge of God, of his reality and his complete goodness, and then choosing freely to reject him, as Satan did. God never condemns anyone to the state of separation from him which we call Hell : a person can only condemn themselves to that state by making such a deliberate choice. To be able to do this is consequence of that freedom of will which God has given to each one of us.

Hell can never be God's will for anyone, since his love for all people is infinite. And as we celebrate Christmas in a few days time we will be reminded of the depth of that love, seen in the coming of Christ the Saviour to open for us, by his Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection, the gates of heaven. Life is his will for us - 'I came that they may have life, and have it to the full', Jesus said. May we this Christmastide, as we look into the Crib, be drawn into a deeper union with the Christ Child who lies there - that union which is the opposite of Hell, and which will bring us a peace and a joy which will be for always.

IN THE HARD COPY,  
A PICTURE OF  
THE NATIVITY  
IS INSERTED HERE.