



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes MA VF  
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## January 1st, 2023 : SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

### Sunday Masses

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

### Weekday Masses

Monday ST.BASIL & ST.GREGORY  
9:30am Int. Mr.&.Mrs.Wynn Jones  
Tuesday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
9:30am Int. +Catherine Searson  
Wednesday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
9:30am Int.  
Thursday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
4.30pm (Convent) Int.

**Friday, January 6th**  
**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY**  
**OF THE LORD**  
**(Holyday of Obligation)**

**10.0am Mass at the Convent**  
**11.30am Mass at St.Felix**  
Int. +Hugh & Delia Brannan  
**7.30pm Mass at St.Felix**

Saturday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
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 Mon, Tues, Wed, 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.109 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.110 of The Sunday Missal.  
Hymns at 10.0am : 344, 128, 360

### THIS WEEK

**Tuesday** 10.45am The Catechism Group meets in the Cooper Room. This week we look at paragraphs 781 to 796.

**Thursday** 10.30am Funeral Service for Joan Hill RIP, at the Crematorium of the Seven Hills.

**Saturday** 2.0pm The January Parish Walk. We assemble at the Grove Car Park (beyond the Grove Medical Centre) for an hour's walk in the nearby countryside. Do join us. Exercise! Companionship!

**Next Sunday** is the Feast of Baptism of Our Lord, and sees the end of Christmastide.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Pauline O'Reilly (2007), Marion Groundwater (2006), John Dimascio (2003), Francesca Warford (2009), Mary Underwood (2011), Mary Cawston (2021),

and Adrian Cotton (2013). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday (Christmas Day) £1202.87 was given at the Offertory, and £15.58 for CAFOD.

**Deacon Clive Brooks RIP** Some of you may have known Deacon Clive Brooks, of the St.Mark's Ipswich parish - perhaps through his long-term involvement with the Catholic chaplaincy at Ipswich Hospital. He died recently, after a long illness. We send our sympathy to his family, and to the people at St..Mark's.

**Many Thanks** to those who played a special part in our Christmas celebrations, whether regarding flowers, sacristy, cleaning, music, reading, or serving. Your various contributions were much appreciated. Sadly, numbers were rather poor at all of the Masses - a reminder that we are still not back to how things were before COVID. But admittedly a more than average amount of people seem to have been away for Christmas.....

**2023 Diocesan Handbooks** Copies of the new Diocesan Handbook are now available ; they contain much information about the diocese, together with the Calendar for the coming year - also photographs from events in the past year. They come at the bargain price of £2.50. This year we have been sent considerably fewer copies than usual, so buy one as soon as possible. They are in the porch, and money should go in the wall-safe marked Repository.

## MOTHER OF GOD

Today we keep the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This title of Our Lady, Mother of God, is one with which we are very familiar - at the end of the Hail Mary we say 'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.' It is the Western Church's equivalent of the Greek 'Theotokos', which means literally 'God-bearer'.

Back in the fifth century there was a heretic called Nestorius, who was Bishop of Constantinople. He taught that Mary was only Mother of Our Lord's human Nature, and not of

his divine Nature - whereas the Church has always taught that Mary was Mother of the whole Person of Christ, both human and divine. Nestorius was opposed to the use of the already ancient term Theotokos, God-bearer, for Mary. Nestorius' heresy was condemned at two of the great Councils of the early Church, at Ephesus in AD431 and at Chalcedon in AD451, when the rightness of the term Theotokos, Mother of God, was firmly asserted.

It is important to understand that the Councils were not primarily concerned to say something about Mary when they approved the term Mother of God : rather they were concerned to say something about Our Lord - namely that that whole Person of Christ, human and divine, was born of a human Mother. By that, he truly entered fully into our human state, and so was able 'from the inside' as it were to redeem humanity, hitherto cut off from the Father by disobedience.

As a young Protestant I had difficulty with the title Mother of God, thinking - wrongly - that it implied some kind 'pre-existence ' of Mary over God, the pre-existence which normally a mother has over her child. But of course that is not at all what the title is saying : rather, that the Word did indeed take flesh of a human Mother, God the Son condescending to enter fully into our humanity as Saviour, in this truly wonderful way.

PICTURE  
HERE  
IN  
HARD  
COPY