



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

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

Parish Website: stfelixfelixstowe.uk Helping Hands - 07342722521

## December 25th, 2022 : SOLEMNITY THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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.103 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p. 97 of The Sunday Missal.  
Hymns at 10.0am :159, 151, 137, Proc. 160

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10.0am Mass of the Day, St.Felix  
11.30am Mass of the Day, The Convent

### Weekday Masses

Monday FEAST OF ST.STEPHEN  
9:30am Int. +Sheila Day  
11.0am (Convent) Int.  
Tuesday FEAST OF ST.JOHN  
9:30am Int. +Edna McGuire (FM)  
Wednesday FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS  
No Mass today  
Thursday FEAST OF ST.THOMAS BECKET  
4:30pm (Convent) Int.  
Friday FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
11:30am Int. Kathleen Major  
Saturday SEVENTH DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE  
9:30am Int. +Deacon Clive Brooks  
6:00pm Int. +William & Margaret 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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

### THIS WEEK

**Tuesday** The Catechism Group is on holiday until Tuesday January 3rd.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Sr.Barbara Brent (2014), Malachy Hodgen (2016), Michael Sutcliffe (2017), Emily Duck (2000), Charles Colson (2013), Jim McGuire (2006), Eileen Newland (2014), Terence Versey (2012), and Johanna Norgan (2016). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £381.04 was given at the Offertory, and £32.00 for CAFOD. Today the collection goes to the Parish Priest, as part of his annual income.

**Sr.Berchmans RJM RIP** It was sad to hear of the death of Sr.Berchmans, who died peacefully at the Convent a few days ago. Sister would not perhaps be known to many parishioners, as she spent most of her long life as a religious working in Pakistan, where she was greatly loved. Her ministry there was distinguished, and a little before COVID was marked by a special ceremony at Westminster Cathedral. There is even a road named after her in Pakistan! We pray that she will

rest in light and peace, and we send our love and sympathy to the Sisters.

**Reinstatement** Those with sharp eyes will have noticed that the letter VF have re-appeared after my name on the heading of the Newsheet! They stand for Vicar Forane, the Latin name for a Dean. The new Bishop, Bishop Peter, has re-appointed his seven Deans *en bloc*, for an initial six-month period. So I reckon I'm a temp.....

**Many thanks** to the many kind people who sent Christmas cards to the Presbytery. These were greatly appreciated, and have brightened the place up no end!

### **Goodbye Mass for Bishop Alan**

Bishop Peter invites the diocese to come together on January 24th to take part in a Goodbye Mass for Bishop Alan. It will be held in the Cathedral at 11.30am, and be followed by refreshments.

Everyone will be welcome, but parishioners are asked to tell their parish priest by January 9th if they would like to attend, so that he can submit numbers to the Cathedral. Bishop Alan has been a wonderful bishop, with a real love for his priests and people. I'm so glad that we are going to be provided with this opportunity to say Thank you to him.

Bishop Peter also asks parishes to take a retiring collection on Sunday 14th/15th January in order to make a presentation from the diocese to Bishop Alan, in appreciation for his years of unstinted service.

### **Candlelight Mass for Young People**

This now-traditional Mass, followed by hot dogs and fireworks, will take place at the Bishop's House at Poringland, on Saturday January 7th., 4.0pm-6.0pm. Bishop Peter will say the Mass, and the young people are invited to bring gifts for the 'Welcome Rucksack Project' which helps children who are refugees. (Fr. John much regrets his inability to offer a lift to young people who might like to go, due to having to be here to celebrate the 6.0pm Saturday Mass).

### **THE CENTREPIECE**

Many Christmas dinner tables will be adorned by a centrepiece, often constructed from candles, evergreens, and baubles. These centre-

pieces can be very attractive indeed, and give both a focal point to the table, and a very festive feel.

For Christians, the centrepiece of our Christmas is not a tree, or a meal, or an image of Father Christmas : the centrepiece for us is the Crib. And there at the heart of the Crib is Jesus himself - the Word made Flesh, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. It is Jesus who gives the reason for Christmas - it is the celebration of his birthday, and Christmas without him becomes - what? Without him it loses its purpose, and becomes no more than a self-indulgent blow-out.

In these godless and materialistic days, we Christians have to work hard to keep Jesus at the centre of our Christmas celebrations. But it is well worth while doing so. For the birth of Jesus, his coming amongst us in love and humility can bring us joy in a way that no other thing can ever do. Hopefully you've got a Crib in your house? We didn't have one when I was a little boy, and so I used to set up the largest and nicest Christmas card with a Nativity scene, with candles and evergreens around it. A good substitute for a Crib. During the twelve days of Christmas, try to pay visits to the Crib in church, and spend a little time there, just being with the Holy Family. And best of all, try to come to Mass each day, where the Christ who was born at Bethlehem is re-born upon the altar in the Holy Sacrament

**IN THE HARD COPY,**

**A NATIVITY SCENE**

**APPEARS HERE**