



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes VF  
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## February 5th, 2017 : FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. In Thanksgiving  
for a blessing  
Sunday 10:00am Int. Kuriakose, Thomas,  
Annamma, Joseph  
4:00pm (Convent) Int. For the People

### Weekday Masses

Monday ST. PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS  
9:30am Int. Francis Blendall  
Tuesday FERIA  
9:30am Int. Philomina Ruddy  
Wednesday FERIA  
No Mass today  
Thursday FERIA  
4:30pm (Convent) Int.  
Friday ST. SCHOLASTICA  
11:30am Int.  
Saturday OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
9:30am Int. For the Sick  
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, Fri, Sat.

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays 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.133 of the Parish  
Mass Book, and on p.704 of The Sunday Missal.

Hymns at 10.0am : 877, 765, 753.

### THIS WEEK

**Tuesday** 10.45am The Catechism Group  
meets in the Cooper Room : this week we look at  
paragraphs 830 to 845. If you would like to find  
out more about the Faith why not come along?  
You would be made very welcome.

**Thursday** 11.0am Fr. John attends a Meeting of  
the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, at Poringland.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Patricia Manthorpe  
(2000), Mary Sanford (2002), William Pipe  
(2006), Mary Drouet (2003), Tori-Anna Williams  
(2004), and Joan Nelson (2014). R.I.P.

**Kathleen Richard RIP** It was very sad to  
hear of the death of Kathleen Richard : probably  
most of you would not have known her, as soon  
after she and Colin moved to Felixstowe her health  
began to decline, and she has received Holy  
Communion regularly at home for the past two or  
three years. She was a delightful person, and a  
devout Catholic, who had enjoyed successful  
careers in both nursing and teaching - latterly as  
head of the junior department at Wolverstone Hall  
School. We send our condolences to Colin and to  
their two children, James and Clare.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £475.55 was  
given at the Offertory, and £31.70 for CAFOD.

**Palm Crosses into Ash** As you know, the ash  
which we use on Ash Wednesday is made by  
burning the palm crosses from the previous year's

Palm Sunday liturgy. Please will you try to bring your palm cross back as soon as possible so that it can be recycled. This annual request is an intimation that Lent is getting near! In fact it begins a fortnight next Wednesday.

**From the Diocese** 'Saturday 11th February is the Memoria of Our Lady of Lourdes, and Bishop Peter will celebrate a Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at 11.30am in the Cathedral. 11th February is the annual World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage for the sick, and a place of healing for many. All are welcome to the Cathedral for Mass, which will be followed by tea and coffee.'

**Can you help?** White Gables Care Home (where three of our parishioners are resident at present) has asked if we could do a monthly Service for the residents, rather as we used to do at the Mill Lane Home before the lockdown. I don't feel that I can say No, and I wonder whether there are any people who would be prepared to help me? The Home would really like a Service at 11.0am on a Monday, which would suit me very well personally, but might be difficult for others. The Service itself would last for forty minutes, and volunteers would talk to the residents (not during the Service - or maybe yes), give out the song sheets, etc. It is good that we should do things in the community, and this would be both worthwhile and enjoyable. Please tell me if you can help.

### **THE MEMORIAL GARDEN**

Work is currently being carried out in the Garden : Wilf, assisted by Stephen Badcock, is renewing the fence which separates the garden from the alleyway behind. The fence, ancient and decayed (like the Canon) had suffered in a gale, and was badly in need of replacement. We are most grateful to these good men for the work they're engaged in, and look forward to its completion.

Someone asked me recently just where the Memorial Garden IS. I started to explain that you go though a gate between the church and the hall, and then down a rather dark and narrow passage until it opens out into a lovely enclosed garden, where, in summer there are roses and lavender in bloom, and pots containing many other bright and

attractive flowers, with places to sit and rest. As I was saying all this, I suddenly realized that the memorial garden is in itself a sort of parable of what our future as Christians will be.

When God calls us from this world, we will pass through the narrow gate of death, and then into that narrow and shady time when we are made ready for entering into God's presence - because realistically all of us, I think, will need some scrubbing-down and polishing-up before we are ready to behold the vision of God in all its splendour. But when we have been prepared, we will, we believe, come into the glory of heaven to rest and rejoice and enjoy all its beauty and splendour.

So when, in future, I go down to the memorial garden - through the gate, down the shady passage, and then out into the garden full of flowers and sunshine, I will be reminded of the hope that all of us Christians enjoy. A kind of visual parable about our future, there on our doorstep!

### **EXCUSES, EXCUSES**

Yesterday I apologised to John for something I'd forgotten to do in the Sacristy : I made an excuse, and he said good-humouredly "No need to make excuses" - which got me thinking about the whole subject of excuses. Now whilst an apology can be a good thing - and in certain circumstances good manners, even decency, demands it - I'm not sure how good a thing an excuse is. Often it involves us failing to take responsibility for something which we've done wrong. An excuse can be little better than an 'It wasn't me'. Better to own up to things we've done wrong, accept that we make mistakes, and follow a way that is consonant with humility.

It's always good to turn to Our Lord for guidance. Did he make excuses? Well not for himself. But he did make excuses for others - 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'. I think he is teaching us here. Be slow to excuse yourself, but be very quick to make excuses for other peoples' mistakes and shortcomings. That's what charity demands.