



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes VF
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March 26th, 2023 : FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday LENT FERIA
9:30am Int. +Norah Sandford (FM)
Tuesday LENT FERIA
9:30am Int. Sheila McGrath
Wednesday LENT FERIA
No Mass today
Thursday LENT FERIA
4:30pm (Convent) Int.
Friday LENT FERIA
11:30am Int. +The Holy Souls
Saturday LENT FERIA
9:30am Int.
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.171 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.176 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 720, 752, 809

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Today 5.0pm *STATIONS OF THE CROSS*
Friday 12.30pm *LENT LUNCH FOR CAFOD*
Friday 7.0pm *THE PARISH LENT COURSE*
4. The Glorious Resurrection
in the Cooper Room

ALSO THIS WEEK

Monday 11.0am The Monthly Service at the White Gables Care Home.

Tuesday 10.45am The Catechism Group meets in the Cooper Room. This week we look at paragraphs 913 to 933.

Tuesday THE PENITENTIAL SERVICE BEFORE HOLY WEEK 2.30pm

Mgr. Tony Rogers and Fr. Luke Goymour
have kindly agreed to assist.

Saturday 10.30am The Making of Palm Crosses, in the Cooper Room. Volunteers required - please come and help if you can.
2.0pm The April Parish Walk (details will appear on the notice board in the church Porch).

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday - the beginning of Holy Week. The 6.0pm and 10.0am Masses to be preceded by the Palm Ceremonies & Procession.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Pamela Vickers (2020), Leslie Styles (2004), John Mitchell (2015), Eileen Wilson (2008), and Peter OConnor (2013). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £287.60 was given at the Offertory, and £30.20 for CAFOD.

WE'RE GOING TO JERUSALEM

When? Next Sunday. What? Yes, because next Sunday is Palm Sunday when in heart and mind we go to Jerusalem in order to keep Holy Week with Our Lord. We want to be with him as he enters the Holy City in the Palm procession ; we want to be with him as he eats the Last Supper with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, and after instituting the Mass and the Holy Sacrament, goes out to Gethsemane. We want to be there, outside the city walls, on Good Friday, as he is put to death on the Cross, and his body is laid in the sepulchre. And we want to be in Jerusalem as he rises gloriously from the dead on the night of Holy Saturday.

Next Sunday we make our entrance to the Holy City. It is represented by our church building. Next Sunday the doorway of the church is one of the gates of Jerusalem. And within that building in the course of the week four great services will take place which will enable us to be with Jesus as those momentous events which brought about our redemption gradually unfold. How can we not be with Jesus in this most Holy Week of the Church's Year? How can we tell him that we've got other and more important things to do? If we do, won't he look at us as he looked at Peter after Peter had denied him in Pilate's house - sadly, reproachfully?

Next Sunday, if the weather allows - and it usually does - we will go outside onto the forecourt before the two Masses, 6.0pm and 10.0am. We will be carrying palm leafs woven into the form of a Cross - the cross reminding us of Our Lord's suffering, and the palm itself reminding us of his victory. Our Palm Crosses will be blest and sprinkled with Holy Water, making them ready for us to carry in the Palm Procession.

We will hear the Palm Gospel read - St.Matthew's account of the first Palm Sunday this year- and then as the ancient Palm Hymn strikes up - *All glory, laud, and honour* , written by St.Theodulf of Orleans in the ninth century - we make our way in procession into the Holy City. The Procession has a joyful aspect, and is normally led by a Cross decorated with palm leafs and red ribbons. We are joining the crowds in welcoming Christ the King, the crowds which shouted *Hosanna* , and who made a carpet of clothes and palm branches for the donkey carrying Jesus to ride over.

But once we are in our places in church, and the clergy have reached the sanctuary, the hymn ceases and there is an abrupt change of mood, which is one of the most dramatic moments of Holy Week. Because we then - from the festive atmosphere of the Procession - begin the Solemn Mass of the Passion. It is on Palm Sunday that a Mass is celebrated in which we recall Our Lord's suffering and death : no Mass is ever celebrated on Good Friday, because always the Mass has an element of celebration which would be inappropriate on that dark day. Hence the Mass of the Passion takes place on the preceding Sunday, Palm Sunday. This change of mood is signaled immediately by the Mass commencing with the Collect of the Passion, without introduction. And then in the readings we hear Isaiah's prophecy of the Suffering Servant, and St.Paul's moving account of the one who 'accepted death, even death on a cross'. The Responsorial Psalm is the great Passion psalm which Jesus quoted on the Cross 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?', and after it comes the dramatic reading of St.Matthew's account of the Passion itself - a most important part of our annual keeping of Holy Week.

How different the Mass will be a week later, on Easter morning, when, with the church bright with flowers and the big Paschal Candle burning, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord! But I think that we can only fully enter into the joy of Easter morning if we have witnessed the terrible suffering of Jesus, and have experienced his great love in being ready to undergo so much on our behalf. Holy Week, like life itself, mingles sorrow and joy, and both have a part in forming us - not least as disciples of the crucified and risen Lord.