



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes VF
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September 24th, 2023 : SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA
No Mass today
Tuesday FERIA
No Mass today.
Wednesday ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
No Mass today
Thursday ST. WENCESLAUS
No Mass today
Friday ST. MICHAEL, ST. GABRIEL.
AND ST. RAPHAEL
No Mass today
Saturday ST. JEROME
6:00pm (St.F) Int.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm or by appointment.

The Rosary Friday at Noon

The Mass today

Because Our Lady of Walsingham is the Principal Patron of this diocese, her Solemnity - just in this diocese - takes precedence over the Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary time. Therefore the readings to be used today will not be found in the Parish Mass Book or the Sunday Missal.

Hymns at 10.0am : 328, 355, 913, 360

THIS WEEK

Fr. John remains on holiday, he resumes a

week tomorrow. Today we welcome Fr. Kevin Jordan, Parish Priest of St. John's Wood in London, who, with his faithful dog Milo, will be saying the Masses at 6.0pm and 10.0am. Also Fr. Edmund Eggleston, Parish Priest of our neighbouring parish of Woodbridge, who has agreed to say the 4.0pm Mass at the Convent. We are most grateful to both of them.

Monday 9.30am The Parents and Toddlers Group meets in the Hall.

Tuesday 10.45am The Catechism Group meets in the Cooper Room.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Maisie Symes (2018), Stephanie O'Mahony (2018, and Sr. Celestine Fogarty RJM. May they Rest in Peace.

Parish Visit to the Cathedral Several people have showed interest in this, and a date has been fixed for Monday, October 16th. We will leave Felixstowe at 9.15am, and at 11.30am will be given a guided tour of the Cathedral by Dr. Richard Maguire, Cathedral Heritage Officer. At 12.30pm we will have Mass in the Sunken Chapel, followed by lunch in the Garden Cafe. After lunch there will be time to go into the town if we wish before we return to Felixstowe. I doubt if we will be able to get up a bus : travel will probably have to be by car, and I would be grateful to hear from those who are prepared to offer lifts ; also, of course from those who would like to join the party. It should be a most enjoyable and interesting trip before we all hibernate for the Winter. Do try to be part of the visit.

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

We are so fortunate to be part of the diocese in which the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham is situated - indeed to live in that part of England in which Our Lady chose to appear, back in the eleventh century. The story is a familiar one, of how Mary appeared to the Lady of the Manor at Walsingham, Richeldis de Faverches, and asked her to build a replica of the Holy House in Nazareth, the house to which the Archangel Gabriel came, bearing God's message and invitation. And where, when Mary said her 'yes' to God plan, the Incarnation took place, and the Word was made Flesh. The Holy House which Richeldis build was really a 'visual aid', as we'd call it today. A sign and a reminder, that Mary lived in an ordinary little house like other people, that she - who is now Queen of Heaven - was truly and fully human, so that the humanity which the Christ took of her was ordinary, authentic, humanity. He took our flesh to redeem our flesh ; he was born of a human Mother.

Thus Walsingham is and always has been a Shrine of the Incarnation. That profound and life-giving truth is always at the heart of its

message. And what a wonderful truth it is : God with us, Emmanuel. God giving himself to us with a wonderful generosity, taking our flesh and making our humanity new.

Perhaps it was been the power of that message, and its visible proclamation in the Holy House, that drew people to Walsingham in ever-increasing numbers. Throughout the later Middle Ages people from all walks of life, from Kings to peasants, wanted to follow the pilgrim way to Walsingham. They wanted to be in the place in our country which Mary had chosen. A place where they found a deepening and renewal of their faith, just as people continue to do today. Walsingham was chosen by Mary. So how could it fail to be immensely special, a place, it has been said, where the veil between this world and the next is very thin. The place where we come to our Mother's house, and experience her presence.

And so with great joy we keep today this Solemnity of Our Lady of Walsingham, thanking Mary for having come amongst us in our native East Anglia, and asking that we may be her loving and faithful children.