



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes VF  
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## November 5th, 2023 : 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. For the People  
Sunday 10:00am Int. For the Holy Souls  
4:00pm Int.

### Weekday Masses

Monday FERIA  
9:30am Int. +Roger Poole  
Tuesday FERIA  
9:30am Int. For World Peace  
Wednesday FERIA  
No Mass today  
Thursday FEAST OF THE DEDICATION  
OF THE LATERAN BASILICA  
4:30pm (Convent) Int. +Hilda & Finbarr Murphy  
Friday ST.LEO THE GREAT  
11:30am Int.  
Saturday ST.MARTIN OF TOURS  
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, and Fri.

### 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.149 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.799 of The Sunday Missal.  
Hymns at 10.0am : 851, 803, 874, 846

### THIS WEEK

**Today** 11.0am The First Holy Communion Group meets in the Cooper Room.  
11.0am Prospective Confirmation candidates and their parents meet in the Hall.  
2.30pm Fr. John (as Dean) conducts the annual Blessing of the Ipswich Cemeteries.

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

**Tuesday** 10..45am The Catechism Group meets in the Cooper Room. This week we look at paragraphs 1246 to 1275.

**Thursday** 10.30am Fr. John attends a meeting of the Council of Priests, at Poringland.

**Saturday** 9.0am & 10.30am Fr. John says the Masses at Warren Hill & Hollesley Bay Prisons. No morning Mass here today.

**Next Sunday** is Remembrance Sunday. As usual the 10.0am Mass will be offered as a Requiem for all who have died in Battle, and will begin with the traditional Act of Remembrance.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Patrick Kelly (2009), Hilda Murphy (2017), Mary Russell (2003), Martin Gaffey (2005), Graham Conroy (2007), Edward Davison (2013), Michelle Linden (2020), John Walsh (2001), and Mary Hourihave (2003). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £492.24 was given in cash at the Offertory, and £18.50 for CAFOD.

**The Bishop's Visit** Everyone agreed that the Bishop's visit to bless the new glazing in the Nave last Sunday had been a great success. The Mass, people said, was impressive, and the Hall was completely full for the Parish Lunch which followed. Many thanks to the ladies who, with Edwina, looked after the catering arrangements, and many thanks to all those good people who brought food to share. It was delicious. We were all pleased to welcome the Bishop on this, his first official visit to the Parish, and we were impressed by the time which he spent with us, and how he made the effort to speak to every one of us, young and old. He admired our church, and the new glazing which now compliments it.

### **HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION**

Last Wednesday, the Solemnity of All Saints, was a Holyday of Obligation, and the attendances at Mass were so poor that I wondered whether everyone quite understands what a Holyday of Obligation is. Perhaps I should explain.

'Holyday' first. It means a day in the year which is special for us Catholic people. A day out of the ordinary, a day when we come together to rejoice in some showing of the love and power of God. Every Sunday counts as a Holyday, because Sunday is our weekly celebration of the glorious Resurrection of Jesus - the Resurrection by which, having risen from the dead, He is able to give new and eternal life to his people. A great cause for rejoicing!

But then there are several other special days in the year which are Holydays, and which may not necessarily fall on a Sunday. All Saints Day, November 1st, is one - the day when we thank God for the wonderful gift of his Saints in every age - saints who both pray for us, and inspire us by their lives of heroic love for God and for their fellow men and women. Another is January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, when we rejoice that Jesus was made known to the Gentile world - our world - as represented by the Three Kings. Yet another is Ascension Day, the Thursday after Easter VI, when we rejoice in Jesus' triumphant return to the glory of Heaven, there to intercede for us in the presence of God the Father. I think that all of the Holydays remember special events and truths which pertain

to our Salvation, our reconciliation with the Father and our hope of future glory. So they concern us.

And then 'of Obligation'. We speak of 'our Holy Mother the Church', and in her maternal care for our spiritual welfare, the Church tells us that we must to be present at Mass on the Holydays of Obligation. By doing so, we give honour to God, and we allow ourselves to grow in grace. Which means that we have a duty, an 'obligation' to be at Mass. Now some will say/do say 'I don't care what the Church says, I'll do as I wish'. But as Catholics we are disciples of Jesus, and the Church is HIS Church. By following the directives of the Church, we show love and respect for Him, who wants us to respect the authority which he has given to his Church. In rather the same way, a schoolboy said to me last week "I love Jesus, but I don't want to go to Mass". I tried to explain to him that the Mass is given to us by Jesus, it is his Mass, and we meet Him there at the Altar - so that to go to the Mass is all part of our loving of Jesus. His Mass, and His Church - both are not optional extras, or separated from loving Him. Doing as his Church asks us to do, and loving the Mass which he instituted are both an intrinsic part of loving Jesus.

When we've fail to be at Mass on a Sunday or on any other Holyday of Obligation without some good reason, we no longer, I think, have to abstain from Holy Communion until we have made our Confession and received absolution. But we certainly ought to make a mental note to mention our absence at our next Confession.

### **MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS**

Once more we are in November, the month when we make a special effort to pray for those who have died. Our desire as Christians to help those who need our help demands this. And as for the departed people we have loved, well we are especially eager to assist them by remembering them at the Altar and in our daily prayer. Last week on All Souls Day we heard Our Lord in the Gospel reading say 'Come to me ...and you will find rest for your souls'. What words of comfort and encouragement these are! Jesus, out of his love for us, wants us to be with him. We pray for ourselves and for those who have died that we may duly come into the joy of his presence.