



# PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes VF  
The Presbytery, 8, Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT  
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## November 19th, 2023 : 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sunday Masses

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

### Weekday Masses

Monday ST. EDMUND  
9:30am Int. +Steve Mulkeen  
Tuesday PRESENTATION OF THE BVM  
9:30am Int. +Mary Sullivan (FM)  
Wednesday ST. CECILIA  
No Mass today  
Thursday FERIA  
4:30pm (Convent) Int.+Dec'd members of AFJM  
Friday ST. ANDREW DUNG-LAC  
11:30am Int. +Timothy.& Dorothy O'Mahony  
Saturday FERIA  
9:30am Int. +The Holy Souls  
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

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.155 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.807 of The Sunday Missal.  
Hymns at 10.0am : 807, 865, 820, 880

### THIS WEEK

**Today** 11.0am The First Holy Communion Group meets in the Cooper Room, and the Confirmation Group meets at the Presbytery.

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

**Tuesday** 10.045am The Catechism Group meets in the Cooper Room : today we look at paragraphs 1285 to 1306.  
2.30pm The Parish Liturgy Committee meets at the Presbytery.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

**Anniversaries this week** Ellen Moran (2000), Bridget Chalcroft (2011), Marguerite Gamble (2013), Marlene Strachan (2016), Sr. Marceline (2017), Charles Egerton (2020) and Mary Sutcliffe (2017). May they Rest in Peace.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £404.90 was given in cash at the Offertory, and £5.50 for CAFOD.

**Churches Together in Felixstowe** Barbara writes 'The November Forum meeting will be at the URC at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd November. Soup and a roll will be served at 6.30pm. Do come and find out what is happening in our churches. See poster at the back of church.'

**Sacramental Preparation** Preparation for First Holy Communion began a couple of weeks ago, and preparation for Confirmation begins today. If there are any further candidates, please will they make themselves known as soon as possible, before the door closes for this year. A

reminder that we must be at least in Year III at school to begin preparing for First Holy Communion, and to have reached at least our thirteenth birthday before next May to begin preparing for Confirmation. (Candidates also need to be ready to make a firm commitment to attend Mass each Sunday, as well as their regular instruction. Failure to do this will lead me to assume that they are not yet ready to receive those Sacraments.)

**The Posada** The diocese is asking us to revive the use of the Posada during Advent this year. You remember it is a figure of Mary and Joseph, making their way to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. During the weeks of Advent it travels from house to house, allowing us to symbolically welcome Mary and Joseph into our home for a night - giving them shelter - and reminding ourselves in a vivid way of their journey. It helps us in the rush and distraction of the pre-Christmas season to focus on what Christmas is about - celebrating the birth of Our Lord, and worshipping him rather than worshipping the Christmas tree! In a week or so the Rota will appear on the notice board in the Porch, inviting you to sign-up for receiving the Posada for a night. I'm hoping that many of you will want to do that. The posada figure will be blessed, and begin its journey, at Mass on Advent Sunday, December 3rd.

### **PRAYING FOR THE DEPARTED**

Already this November - Month of the Holy Souls - we've kept All Souls Day on November 2nd, praying for all the faithful departed; we've prayed too for all those who have died in Battle, at the Requiem on Remembrance Sunday, and then last Thursday we prayed for the departed priests of the Deanery at the special Requiem at St.Pancras'. Now that we have done these things, and are half-way through the month of November, it might be good to reflect upon the prayer which we offer for the dead.

I think that our intercession, our prayer of asking, is one of the mysteries of our Faith. How can our prayer make any real difference? Surely since God is infinite in wisdom, love, and compassion he will bring about what is right and good independently of our asking? Isn't our asking

at best unnecessary? Some people have suggested that the good that is done by our intercession is good done to ourselves : it helps us, they say, to recognize our dependence upon God, and to appreciate his goodness. Yes, it does do those things, but also we feel certain that our prayer can actually make a difference. And furthermore, that it's not just our being told to 'ask nicely, dear', still less to be like a dog begging for a biscuit.

Jesus told us to 'ask', and we believe that our asking has an effect. How, we cannot say. It is a mystery. But we believe that God is his infinite mercy and wisdom so orders things that our prayer does indeed have an effect. It is part of his allowing and enabling us to co-operate with him in the operation of his loving purposes. And so we pray with faith and with hope, knowing that we are doing something which is both positive and useful.

Our Lord taught us to love God and to love our neighbour. And praying for our neighbour, whether he or she be in this life or in the next , is a vital part of our loving of our neighbour. We pray for those who have died because we believe that under God's wise and loving plan our prayer can actually help the person who has died. When we die, none of us will be ready to enter straight away into the nearer presence of God. We will, all of us, need a time of purification and preparation. We call that time of preparation Purgatory, and it is then that our prayers for the departed person are helpful. It is so good that we can actually do something to help the person whom we have loved, and who has died. And so good that God allows us by our prayer to co-operate with him in bringing about their happy entrance into the heavenly places.

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