



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very. Revd. Canon John Barnes VF
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DECEMBER 17th, 2023 : THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int. +Malcolm McPartland
Tuesday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int. For Penitence
Wednesday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int.
Thursday ADVENT FERIA
4:30pm (Convent) Int.
Friday ADVENT FERIA
11:30am Int. +John Battersby
Saturday ADVENT FERIA
9:30am Int.
6:00pm Int. For the People
Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10.0am Int.

Lauds (Morning Prayer) will be said a quarter of an hour before Mass on Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, & Sat.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday at 10.0am Benediction at 10.30am
Friday at Noon

The Rosary Friday at Noon

The Mass today

The readings can be found on p.88 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.53 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 94, 116, 873, 87

TIMES FOR CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

The Penitential Service before Christmas is on Tuesday at 2.30pm

Other times for Confessions :

Wednesday 10.0am and 2.0pm
Friday 2.0pm and 7.0pm
Saturday Noon and 5.15pm-5.45pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.0pm *The First Mass of Christmas, and Blessing of the Crib (St.Felix)*
8.0pm *The Mass of Midnight (Convent)*
10.0pm *The Mass of Midnight, and Procession to the Crib (St.Felix)*

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.0am *The Mass of the Day, and Procession to the Crib (St.Felix)*
11.30am *The Mass of the Day (Convent)*

ALSO THIS WEEK

Today The Pre-Christmas Brunch Party takes place in the Hall after the 10.0am Mass.

Monday 9.30am The Parents and Toddlers Group meets in the Hall for their final session before Christmas.

11.0am A Pre-Christmas Service at the White Gables Care home.

The Daily Office

Tuesday The Catechism group is now on holiday until Tuesday January 9th.

2.30pm The Parish Penitential Service before Christmas. Fr.Luke from St.Mark's Ipswich and Fr.Paul from St.Mary Magdalen Ipswich have kindly agreed to assist.

Friday 2.30pm Flowers : please will those kind people who offered to help with Christmas flowers come to the church. Our task has been made relatively simple by the fact that Giavanna has very kindly arranged the background greenery in the vases, and we have only to insert the flowers, which she has ordered, and which Fr.John will collect from Ipswich on Thursday.

Next Sunday is both the Fourth Sunday in Advent and also Christmas Eve! The 10.0am Parish Mass will be as normal, as will the 6.0pm Saturday evening Mass which proceeds it. There will not, however, be the usual 4.0pm Sunday Mass at the Convent. For Advent IV becomes Christmas Eve at Noon, and the First Mass of Christmas takes place at 6.0pm ; the 8.0pm (Convent) and 10.0pm (St.Felix) Masses of Midnight follow.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Martin Brogan (2007), Eileen Ascott (2008), Andrew Yates (2013), Stanley Ring (2009), Sr.Berchmans RJM (2022), Margaret Hanlon (2009), Monica Cooper (2019), Joseph Grace (2003), Jenny Byrne (2019), Patricia Schwan (2015), and Carmel Barker (2021).

May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £462.59 was given in cash at the Offertory, and £40.10 for CAFOD. During November, a total of £2,233.00 was given by Direct Debit, £1,674.57 was given on the Plate, and £119.99 by the Dona machine, a total of £4,027.56. Today there is a retiring collection for the Dependent Priests' Fund.

PREPARATION

This latter part of Advent is a time of fervent preparation. We are preparing our homes for the festival with Christmas decorations, preparing our larders with abundant stocks of food and drink, and preparing the parcels and the cards which we intend to exchange. In the midst of all this activity, it is very easy to neglect our spiritual preparation for what is essentially a great feast of the Church – the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord at Bethlehem. It would be sad to be found unready, unprepared, for the very thing that matters most.

What spiritual preparation should we be making for Christmas? Maybe two things. First, to consider carefully how God prepared for the first Christmas. To re-read and think about how he sent John the Baptist as Messenger. How he sent the Archangel Gabriel both to Mary and to Joseph, announcing the forthcoming birth. How he led Mary to visit Elizabeth, and the unborn Baptist to recognize who it was who had entered his house, and to leap for joy in his Mother's womb. And then how Mary and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem, where the birth was to take place. A thinking-about, a meditation, on these events prepares us well for their fulfillment in the birth of Jesus.

And then second, to practice penitence, as John the Baptist urges us to do. To look carefully at our lives, and see in what ways we are falling short in our loving of God and neighbour. And then to bring our faults to God in Confession so that they can be forgiven, and we are able with pure and joyful hearts to approach the Christmas festival. For purity and joy go together – only by forgiveness, by reconciliation with God, can we know real joy. So seize the opportunity! Don't miss the opportunity which this week brings for accepting God's precious gift of forgiveness!