



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Revd.Canon John Barnes VF
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December 24th, 2023 : FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. +Bridget McKeague
Sunday 10:0am Int. For the People

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

**6.0pm First Mass of Christmas and
Blessing of the Crib (St.Felix)**
8.0pm Mass in the Night (Convent)
**10.0pm Mass in the Night and Procession
To the Crib (St.Felix)**

CHRISTMAS DAY

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

Weekday Masses

Tuesday FEAST OF ST.STEPHEN
9:30am Int. +Paddy and Anne
11.0am (Convent) Int.
Wednesday FEAST OF ST.JOHN THE
APOSTLE
9:30am Int. +Edna McGuire (FM)
Thursday FEAST OF THE HOLY
INNOCENTS
4:30pm (Convent) Int.
Friday FEAST OF ST.THOMAS BECKET
11:30am Int. +William & Margaret Robinson
Saturday SIXTH DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS
OCTAVE
9:30am Int. +Alan Wright
6:00pm Int. For the People

The Daily Office

Lauds (Morning Prayer) will be said a quarter of
an hour before Mass on Tues, Wed, 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

The Mass today

The readings can be found on p.90 of the Parish
Mass Book, and on p.58 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 113, 127, 607, 100

The Christmas Mass in the Night

The readings can be found on p.98 of the Parish
Mass Book, and on p.85 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0pm : 133, 155, 136, 159

The Mass on Christmas Morning

The readings can be found on p.103 of the Parish
Mass Book, and on p.93 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 159, 151, 137, 160

THIS WEEK

Wednesday 3.30pm Catechism Group
Christmas Tea, Presbytery.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries thjs week Sr.Barbara Brent RJM
(2014), Malachy Hodgen (2016), Michael
Sutcliffe (2017), Charles Colson (2013), Jim

McGuire (2006), Eileen Newland (2014), and Terence Versey (2012). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £358.80 was given in cash at the Offertory, and £27.30 for C AFOD. £78.63 was given in the retiring collection, which was for the Dependent Priests' Fund. The collection on Christmas Day goes to the Parish Priest, as a constituent part of his annual income.

Congratulations Our warmest congratulations to Sr. Mary James RJM at the Convent, who celebrates her one hundredth birthday at the end of this week. She is wonderfully alert and agile, and unfailingly cheerful. We do hope that she will enjoy her celebrations, and be with us for years to come.

Harold Orton RIP Many of you will know Mary Orton, who has been so faithful at Mass : her husband, Harold, died recently. Mary is now staying with her daughter ; we send her our love and prayers.

WHAT THE SAINTS SAY ABOUT CHRISTMAS

St. John Chrysostom (AD 347-407) wrote : 'Behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt his glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below ; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy, raised. Bethlehem this day resembles heaven ; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices ; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice. And ask not how, for where God wills, the order of nature yields.'

St. Teresa of Calcutta (AD 1910 – 1997) wrote : 'It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother, and offer him your hand.'

HODIE

Easter has its special word, *Alleluia*, and I think Christmas has its own special word – *Hodie*. It is a Latin word, meaning 'today', and is the first word of the Latin phrase *Hodie Christus natus est*, meaning 'Today Christ is born!'

Someone might well say "Today? Well I suppose you mean 'today' two thousand years ago – which is hardly 'today', is it?" No, Today. *Hodie*. George Herbert, the seventeenth-century poet, said of Easter Day 'There is but one day, and that day ever'. The same, I think, is true of Christmas Day. For the birth of Jesus, the coming into the world of the eternal Son of God, who has taken to himself our common humanity – this is a glorious fact which is a daily reality. The date doesn't matter, now or then. It has happened, it is true – today and everyday. True we celebrate Our Lord's birth on a particular day of the year, December 25th. But on every day of the year we rejoice in the reality of the Incarnation of God the Son. Everyday we greet Emmanuel, God-with-us. His coming matters as much, and is to be celebrated as joyfully, on this day as on that day at Bethlehem two thousand years ago. The gift is made new every day – not least through the Mass, where He comes amongst us sacramentally, as bread and wine wonderfully changed into his precious Body and Blood.

Christmas Day, the eight days of the Christmas Octave, the season of Christmastide which lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, each day of the year – all are *Hodie*, for the Christ has come amongst us, our Saviour, our God-made-flesh. His coming and his presence are ever new. What cause we have for joy!