



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes VF
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April 7th, 2024 : SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday SOLEMNITY OF THE
ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
9:30am Int. Michael Mulqueen (DH)
11.0am (Convent) Int.
Tuesday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int. +Patricia Wiseman
Wednesday EASTER FERIA
9.30am Int.
Thursday ST.STANISLAUS
4:30pm (Convent) Int.
Friday EASTER FERIA
11:30am Int.
Saturday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int. +Louise Laxell (FM)
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, Wed .Fri. & Sat..

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm, or by appointment.

The Mass today

The readings can be found on p.256 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.368 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 270, 644, 271, 761

THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday No Exposition & Benediction today because of the continuing redecoration in the St. Joseph Chapel.
10.45am The Catechism Group meets in the Cooper Room. Paragraphs 1447 to 1460.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Helen Samkin (2009), Miriam Harcourt (2004), Kathleen Newman (2008), Brian Hughes (2006), Edith Martin (2008) and Valerie Clark (2023). May they Rest in Peace

Money Matters Last Sunday £956.56 was given in the Offertory, £21 for CAFOD and £175.37 in the Good Friday collection for Holy Land Shrines.

Many thanks to those who worked hard to make our Easter celebration successful : amongst them John Yelverton, our Sacristan ; our teams of Cleaners ; Giavanna and her helpers in the flower department ; our Altar Servers ; and Ian and Philip our musicians. I think it was a good Holy Week and Easter, and whilst numbers were poor on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter morning saw reasonable attendances, whilst the Easter Vigil was better attended than it has ever been previously in my time here.

HOW SILENTLY, HOW SILENTLY....

Of course those are words from a Christmas carol, where the writer speaks of how quietly, how gently, Our Lord came into the world when born in a stable in the obscurity of the town of Bethlehem. But it occurred to me that those same words might be used of Jesus' coming amongst his disciples after his Resurrection. For how silently, how silently, he appeared to them, with no blast of trumpets, flashes of lightning, or

peals of thunder. So quietly did he come, risen from the grave, that Mary Magdalen mistook him for a gardener, and the two friends walking to Emmaus failed completely to recognise him. He appears to have come amongst the disciples gathered in the Upper Room without fanfare, and when he was seen on the beach by his friends from their fishing boat, they did not immediately recognise who it was standing on the shore. Our Lord's resurrection appearances, which we are thinking about at this point in the Church's Year, all seem to have this quality of understatement – so that the words of the carol 'how silently, how silently' seem appropriate here as in their Christmas setting.

And they are consonant with our own experience of the coming of Jesus. How silently, how silently, he comes to us in our life of Prayer and Sacrament. It is difficult to imagine a more understated way of coming than in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, where the risen Christ comes to us under the outward appearance of a tiny wafer of bread, and a sip of wine. But what the quiet manner of these comings is also consonant with is the great humility with which Our Lord lay in a manger and hung upon the wood of a Cross. Humility is a vital part of how we experience Jesus, and we believe that it must be a vital part of our response to him. How different is this quietness, this gentleness, this humility, to our noisy, brash, and thrusting world! It belongs to another order.

The phrase of the carol 'how silently, how silently' is followed by the words 'the wondrous gift is given'. And yes, how wondrous a gift we are celebrating at this time, the gift of Resurrection Life! For the new life of the risen Christ is indeed a 'wondrous gift'. Jesus has taken this new life in order to share it with us, so that we too might be filled with a life that will have no ending. A wondrous gift indeed, which gives us an eternal future, in place of the eternal alienation from God which was brought about by our disobedience. This wondrous gift was shared with us at our Baptism, and it is strengthened within us as we regularly share in that new life in Holy Communion. 'How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given ; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven'. Christ, through his Easter victory, makes available to us the

blessings of his heaven. For which great gift we rejoice and give thanks in this holy season.

BEWARE! A couple of days ago I was targeted for a Scam! I was 'phoned by what claimed to be Barclays Anti-Fraud Department, and told that there had been two attempts earlier in the day to withdraw money from my account - £300 and £1,100. Having given one a start, they then sought to be re-assuring, saying that they had stopped the payment. They then said that there were one or two dishonest people at my local branch, who were behind it, and whom they were trying to catch. They had a plan but needed my co-operation in catching them out. I was to go to my nearest Barclays Bank, and pay a large amount of money - £25,000 was mentioned - into the account of a fictitious nephew, and this would then lead to them catching the thieves. I said I'd 'phone back later, and took the opportunity to 'phone Barclays, who immediately said that it was a scam! What struck me was how very plausible the scammer was – I really believed him at first. We must all be most careful, especially us older people.

AND NOW TOMORROW....

The Solemnity of the Annunciation. It properly falls on March 25th, exactly nine months before Our Lord's birth on December 25th. But this year the 25th fell within Holy Week, and so it has been transferred to the day following the ending of the Easter Octave, which is tomorrow.

What we are celebrating is the wonder of the Incarnation : the moment when Mary said 'Yes' to the invitation brought her by the Archangel Gabriel, the invitation to give flesh to God the Son, and thereby become truly 'Mother of God'. The moment when God the Son added being truly Man to being truly God,- only begotten Son of the Father, and Child of Mary. He took our flesh in order to redeem our flesh. And Mary was granted a major role in God's age-old plan of Redemption.

Tomorrow's Solemnity is very special and very joyful – arguably more important than Christmas itself, for it marks the actual moment of the Incarnation. So try to be at one of the Masses tomorrow – it is a feast not to be missed!