



PARISH OF SAINT FELIX, FELIXSTOWE

Parish Priest : The Very Revd. Canon John Barnes VF
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April 21st, 2024 : FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses

Saturday 6:00pm Int. For the People
Sunday 10:00am Int. +Brendan O'Sullivan
4.0pm (Convent) Int.

Weekday Masses

Monday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int.
Tuesday SOLEMNITY OF ST. GEORGE
9:30am Int. +Marjorie Yelverton
Wednesday EASTER FERIA
No Mass today
Thursday FEAST OF ST. MARK
4:30pm (Convent) Int.
Friday EASTER FERIA
11:30am Int.
Saturday EASTER FERIA
9:30am Int.
6:00pm Int. +Mary

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

Tuesdays 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.262 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.433 of The Sunday Missal.
Hymns at 10.0am : 272, 762, 278, 716

THIS WEEK

Today 11.15am-12.15am The Confirmation Group meets at the Presbytery.

Monday 9.30am The Parents and Toddlers Group meet in the Hall

Tuesday 10.45am The Catechism Group meets in the PRESBYTERY this week as the Hall is not available today. This week we will be looking at paragraphs 1470 to 1499.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Anniversaries this week Bernard Moran (2006), Vera Pawlowski (2006), and George Friel (2010). May they Rest in Peace.

Money Matters Last Sunday £427.85 was given in cash at the Offertory, and £21.0 for CAFOD. Today there is a retiring collection for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund.

From CAFOD 'With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.'

WHILST AWAY...

I enjoyed my few days away last week – all priests are encouraged by their bishop to take a short break after the Easter festival, to recover and re-charge. I went up to North Norfolk, which I think is one of the nicest places in the world. And of course whilst there I did some sketching, which I suppose is my hobby. I like sketching old buildings, especially the interior of old churches – I couldn't 'do' people or animals to save my life!

Now I'm the first to acknowledge that my sketches are of no artistic value. Often I tear them up. And whilst I think a person can improve with practice, at the end of the day you have either 'got it' or you haven't. And I certainly haven't. So why don't I give up? I've often thought about doing that, but somehow I can't. I'm not convinced that one should only do something which one is good at. For some of us that would mean twiddling our thumbs!

But whilst I was away, it struck me that there is maybe an analogy here with prayer. Would any of us say that we are 'good' at prayer? For most of us I think our prayer seems far from being 'good'. 'Incompetent' seems a better word. We stumble on, often disorganized and discouraged,, and feeling that nothing worthwhile is being achieved. We find ourselves subject to a thousand distractions, and having to make a huge – and sometimes floundering – act of will to really get down to it at all. We imagine that everyone else is 'better' at prayer than we are, whereas in fact there are probably very few 'naturals', who are carried away 'on wings of prayer'!

And just like the incompetent amateur artist we are tempted to give up. To say that prayer is not for us. Leave it to the professionals. Leave it to the angels. Tear up the past twenty minutes. Do something more useful – something we are maybe better able to do. But we can't do that. Any more than the untalented artist can abandon his sketch pad and pen. Because prayer is something Our Lord has asked us to do ; because we know that we will never find God without prayer ; and because deep down it is somehow 'in us' which makes prayer as natural a thing as talking to our

loving parents was, telling them of our needs, our hopes, our fears, our happiness.

Yes, Jesus taught us to pray, and asked us to pray. He didn't say a thing about having to be good at it, about 'getting it right', or about being scolded if we didn't pass a test. Does any good parent expect their children to speak to them in perfect Oxford-dictionary English at just the right moment? The loving parent just wants their child to communicate with them And so too does God.



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