Mass times and Intentions

FOURTH SUNDAY in ADVENT

Special Advent Masses:

SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER **6.30 p.m. MASS** *John Outhwaite RIP*

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER **10.00 a.m. MASS** *Monica Behan (int)*

FOURTH WEEK of ADVENT, Year A (Weekday Cycle Year II - Psalter week 4)

Monday 23rd December **NO MASS/SERVICE**

from 7.30 p.m. Carols with the choir.

Tuesday 24th December **8.00 p.m. THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS** *The Parish*

Wednesday 25th December **11.00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**

Thursday 26th December ***Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr***
10.00 a.m.
Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Altar Servers renewal of commitment

Friday 27th December **NO MASS/SERVICE**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

SATURDAY 28th December **6.30 p.m. MASS** *Patrick Behan RIP*

SUNDAY 27th December **10.00 a.m. MASS** *The Parish*

Money banked this week
with grateful thanks:-
Collection: £513.00

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEAN
This will take place at 9.00 a.m.
on Monday 23rd December.
If you are able to spare an hour to help you will be most welcome.

PLEASE

during Mass and other services in church.
Thank you

CLEANING TEAM: 28th December: Caroline Cobden, Bincy Alias, Lincy Abraham, Bindhu Abey and Christine White

PARISH OF ST. FELIX

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21st December/22nd December 2019

St. Felix Church, Princess Way, Haverhill, CB9 9BP

Parish Office: **Tel: 01440 702156**
Deacon Huw Williams: **Tel: 01440 708273**
Messages may also be left via our website: **www.stfelixchurch.org.uk**

Our School: **St. Felix Catholic Primary School:** **Tel: 01440 703775**
Head of School: Mrs. A. Dodds
Executive Head Teacher: Mrs J. Sandvig

In an emergency please contact: Clare: (01787) 277326
Bury St Edmunds: (01284) 754358
Newmarket: (01638) 662492

Readers and Ministers of the Eucharist

Stewards:
Saturday: Michael Bradshaw **Sunday: Agnieszka Lambert and Buendia Family**

Day	*Reader 1*	*Reader 2*	*Ciborium*	*Chalice*	*Chalice*
Saturday	D. Allen	A. Kent		S. Buck	Dcn. Huw
Sunday	A. Wade	S. Cook	?	?	Dcn. Huw

NEXT WEEK
Stewards:
Saturday: Jo Rowson **Sunday: Sharon Copperthwaite and Jozefowicz Family**

	Reader 1	*Reader 2*	*Ciborium*	*Chalice*	*Chalice*
Saturday	J. Dance	K. Shurety		A. Rymills	I. Sch-Bidwell
Sunday	S. Arnold	D. Arnold	M. Stewart	S. Jose	Dcn. Huw

FOURTH SUNDAY in ADVENT
Readings: page 91
Psalm response: [Saturday] Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.
[Sunday sung] as above
Preface: Advent II page 66 **Eucharistic Prayer III: page 28**

Dear Friends,

In the Gospel of Matthew, the infancy of Jesus centres on Joseph, the promised spouse of Mary. Joseph was a descendant of David. Through him, Jesus belongs to the line of David and so the promises made by God to David and his descendants are fulfilled.

In the genealogy of Jesus, there was something unusual in the marital unions of the five women mentioned. Mary is similar to these women. Her union is contrary to the laws of the time, because she was pregnant before living with Joseph. If Joseph had the same idea of justice as held by the scribes and Pharisees, he would have denounced Mary. The penalty she would have suffered would have been death by stoning.

Joseph, however, practised what Jesus would later teach - "if your uprightness does not surpass that of the Scribes and Pharisees you will never get into the kingdom of Heaven". Joseph decided to leave her in secret but an angel comes to him and uses scripture to clarify the origin of Mary's pregnancy: it came about through the action of the Spirit of God. Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Joseph teaches us how to live in loving fidelity to all that we cling to, humanly and religiously, even as we are open to a mystery of God that takes us beyond all the categories of our religious practice and imagination.

Let us try to imitate Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindliest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in God's goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar.

Dcn Huw

Pope Francis on making a crib/nativity scene in our homes

[General Audience, 18/12/2019]

The Pope describes the crib as a kind of living Gospel that "brings the Gospel into the places of our lives"

Making a crib is like opening the door to our home and saying: "Jesus, come in!": "If Jesus dwells in our lives, life is reborn, and if life is reborn, it really is Christmas!"

PRAYER BEFORE MASS

Please pray for all who are sick, those who are anxious or troubled, and for all those requesting prayers in our intercession book:

God our Father,
we pray for the many people who have asked for our prayers
for their healing and their peace.
Hold them, shelter them and keep them in your tender care.
Comfort those who grieve and give courage to those who are fearful.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Bridget Gore, Nicola Smith, Maciej Urbanewicz, Dorothy Staight, Eleanor Pulham, George Chipp, Jeremiah Mahon, Tina Hanks.

Quiet Prayer:
Lord, may we follow the examples of Mary and Joseph in faithful service to you.

During Advent and Christmastide, we are asked to pray for:
Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees and Expectant Mothers

Pray with Pope Francis:
In December Pope Francis asks us to join him in praying for:
The Future of the Very Young -
That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

CHANGING SEASONS:

The winter is upon us and the expenses of our church will rise with the need for extra lighting and heating.

We all like to come into a warm church, so please review the amount you put into the collection plate. *Thank you.*

New items for the newsletter can be sent by email to:
stfelixnewsletter@gmail.com
by 12 noon on THURSDAY for inclusion in the newsletter the next weekend.

Haverhill foodbank

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT -
Christmas hampers are now being assembled and distributed.
Please look out for the food and household items lists for local people who may be in crisis after Christmas.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DRAW

The draw has taken place. Please check if you or your friends have won any prizes and take them home. A list of winners is on the table and all prizes are labelled.

Thanks to everybody who bought and sold tickets and those who donated prizes.

The draw has raised about **£300.00** for parish funds which was badly needed.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Flower arrangers will be working again to create Christmas flowers in church in memory of our loved ones.

If you would like someone remembered in flowers please put your donations in an envelope clearly marked 'Christmas flowers' **with the person's name**. Please give the envelope to Dcn. Huw, Brendan, a member of the welcome team or any flower arranger by:
SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER
-this week-end.

ALSO
we would be grateful for donations of foliage on **Sunday 22nd**, such as *Laurel*, *Holly*, *Vibernum*, *Conifer* or any other evergreen from your garden.
Foliage can be left in a bag by the 'bin store' or the back entrance to the church, on the right of the building.

Thank you very much.

RED BOX HOLDERS:
Thank you for bringing your box in for the final count of the year.
Emptied boxes are now ready for collection in the narthex.
Thank you for your continuing support for the Pope's charity for world mission.

missio

PARISH FAIRTRADE STALL:

As the Fairtrade shop in Bury St. Edmunds is no longer able to supply goods for other stalls on a 'sale or return' basis, and we are not in a position to purchase goods directly from 'Traidcraft', reluctantly we have had to discontinue our monthly Parish Fairtrade stalls.

However, please continue to support our Fairtrade producers by looking out for the Fairtrade Mark whenever you shop, and buy items carrying this mark as often as you can.

FAIRTRADE

Also, when in Bury St Edmunds, why not visit
'**Just Traid**' in **St John's Street**
for a range of Fairtrade and organic shopping,
and a delightful café.

'SPECIAL ADVENT MASSES' this week-end:

Before he became so unwell, Fr. Michael suggested that on the 4th Sunday in Advent we should celebrate a special Advent Mass with reflections and seasonal hymns. Although unable to celebrate with us, Fr. Michael has contributed to the choice of reflections from the writings of Joyce Rupp.

This celebration is the culmination of our Advent preparations and sends us forward to welcome anew our Lord and Saviour into our lives and world at Christmas. In Thomas Merton's words; *"Christ is born in us today in order that he may appear to the whole world through us."*

Our Mass for 4th Sunday in Advent will be as usual with:
Entrance hymn – *Hark! a herald voice is calling [Laudate 92].*
(The 4th Advent candle is lit during the hymn)
1st reflection
Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word
Liturgy of the Eucharist and Communion.
2nd reflection followed by meditation accompanied by quiet music.
Blessing
3rd reflection
Dismissal and final hymn – *O little town of Bethlehem [Laudate 127]*