



## PARISH OF ST. FELIX, HAVERHILL

# THE HOLY FAMILY

**28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

*Psalter - Week 1*

**ST. FELIX CHURCH, PRINCESS WAY, HAVERHILL, CB9 9BP**

**Presbytery - 3 Wentworth Terrace, Haverhill, CB9 9BP**

**Parish Priest: Fr. JOHN WARRINGTON:**

Tel: 01440 702156 (Parish Office)

Tel: 01440 704142 (Presbytery)

Email: [john.warrington@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:john.warrington@rcdea.org.uk)

**Deacon: Rev. HUW WILLIAMS:**

Tel: 07399 163718

Email: [huw.williams@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:huw.williams@rcdea.org.uk)

**Messages may be left via our website:** [www.stfelixchurch.org.uk](http://www.stfelixchurch.org.uk)

**\*To contact a priest in an emergency please call 07773 478835**

**Our School: St. Felix Catholic Primary School:** Tel: 01440 703775

**Head teacher: Mrs Anne-Marie Price**

### CHURCH CLEANING TEAMS

**Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Alan Kent, Mike Bradshaw, Ann O’Flanagan, Helen Burns**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Sherly Jose, Molly Shibu, Anu Anto**

### SUNDAY WELCOMERS/STEWARDS

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Pat & PJ Sheehy and Annette Field**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Baiju & Sonia Varghese and Ian Blythe**



Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of this calendar year and prepare to welcome a New Year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family during this Season of Christmas.

Today's feast day presents us with the 'holy family', Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus, who like so many in our world today, were poor. When Jesus was born, they were homeless, then they had to emigrate to escape an attempt on the child's life, and when he was brought to the temple, Simeon told them he was destined to be a sign that would be rejected.

We know almost nothing about the first thirty years of Jesus' life, but no doubt it was very important for his growing and maturing as a person, and to help him be ready for the strange mission that He lived out for the last three years of his life, teaching people about God.

Family life should provide a safe, loving environment for us to grow up in, so that we will blossom as people and learn how to deal with the world. None of us come from perfect families, but that doesn't matter. The path through our lives often takes unexpected turns and things can work out a lot worse than we had intended. Does it matter? Think of all the people that Jesus dealt with in the Gospels. He took them exactly as they were, including several people who were causing public scandal. God always encourages, walks with everyone along their journey of life, loves and cares for all.

As we pray for families today; our own family and especially those who are poor, homeless and in great need of love, we ask the Lord to bless them with love and to inspire us to support them with our prayer and by our generous love.

Wishing you and your families every blessing and prayers for this Christmas Season and a very Happy and peaceful New Year.

Fr John

## CHRISTMASTIME AT ST FELIX

### FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December

Masses on Saturday at 6.30 p.m. and Sunday at 10.00 a.m.



### SOLEMNITY of MARY, HOLY MOTHER of GOD

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

**11.00 a.m. MASS for PEACE**

*Theme of Pope Leo's Message for the 59<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace:*

*'Peace be with you all: Towards an "unarmed and disarming" peace'*

**Mass followed by a 'BRING AND SHARE' LUNCH.**

**SECOND SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**Masses on Saturday at 6.30 p.m. and Sunday at 10.00 a.m.**

**SOLEMNITY of THE EPIPHANY of THE LORD**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**Masses at 10.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.**



**CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**

Bishop Peter invites you to celebrate the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope at Mass in the Cathedral in Norwich this weekend,  
**on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December at 11 a.m.**

Pope Leo will formally close the Jubilee Year of Hope on the Feast of the Epiphany in Rome, on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## CRIB APPEAL



This year, as a diocese, our crib appeal will be for the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem. His Beatitude, the Patriarch, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa has tirelessly worked with the whole peoples of the Middle East, petitioning for peace, compromise and goodwill in the region. He is a recognised figure in the negotiations and brings about a serenity and neutrality to the proceedings.

He has visited Gaza frequently, especially Fr Gabriel's parish of the Holy Family in Gaza and offered his prayers, encouragement and support. In sending money directly to his care, he will ensure that the charity is distributed to places where it is most needed - whether that be in Gaza or the West Bank.

There will be a collection box near the crib and a button icon on the Dona machine.

*Thank you.*



Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to prepare our Church for the Christmas Season, and for your prayers, cards, gifts and generous Christmas Offering (total next week)

Wishing you a very Happy New Year and every blessing and prayers for the coming year.

*Fr. John and Deacon Huw*

## **MASS for WORLD PEACE**

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we celebrate Mass and pray for Peace throughout the world.

An excellent way to start the new year of 2026!

Pope Leo's message for the World Day of Peace is for world leaders and individuals. It begins with the ancient greeting, "Peace be with you".

This is the Word of the risen Jesus (*Jn 20:19, 21*) that does not merely desire peace, but truly brings about a lasting transformation in those who receive it, and consequently in all of reality. The peace of the risen Christ is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God who loves us all unconditionally.

Dear brothers and sisters, whether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey. Peace is a principle that guides and defines our choices. Even in places where only rubble remains, and despair seems inevitable, we still find people who have not forgotten peace.

The peace of the risen Jesus is unarmed, because his was an unarmed struggle in the midst of concrete historical, political and social circumstances. Christians must together bear prophetic witness to this novelty, mindful of the tragedies in which they have too often been complicit. The great parable of the Last Judgment invites all Christians to act with mercy in this awareness (cf. *Mt 25:31-46*).

John XXIII was the first pope to advocate "integral disarmament," which can only be achieved through renewal of the heart and mind. He wrote: "Everyone must realize that, unless this process of disarmament be thoroughgoing and complete, and reach people's very souls, it is impossible to stop the arms race, or to reduce armaments, or - ultimately to abolish them entirely. Everyone must sincerely co-operate in the effort to banish fear and the anxious expectation of war from our minds. But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust.

*Excerpts from Pope Leo's Message for the World Day of Peace, 2026*

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

*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.*

- Please pray for people requesting prayers in our 'Intentions Book'. Particularly remember those who are ill and those caring for them.
- Please continue to pray for lasting peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and everywhere in the world affected by war and conflict.
- Pray for people living in any form of poverty. Remember the work of REACH and everyone associated in any way.
- Pray for all people and lands devastated by effects of climate change. Pray that everyone will do what they can to protect & nurture Creation.
- Pray that all producers of food and commodities receive just treatment and fair recompense for their labour and products.
- Pray for migrants and refugees that they will receive just and compassionate help.
- Pray for prisoners, their families and those who work with them. Remember especially all those associated with HMP Highpoint.
- Pray for Fr. John, Dcn. Huw, the people of our parish, particularly those in care and nursing homes, and the staff and pupils of St Felix School.

**Pray for all the people we know and love who have died.**

Remember their families and all who grieve.

**Remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

**Jeremiah Mahon, Tina Hanks, Andrew Mulhair, John Birch,  
Theresa Heath, Eileen Daly, Gavin Noel.**

**During Advent and Christmastime we are asked to pray for:**

**Migrants and Refugees,  
Expectant Mothers.**

**Pope Leo asks us to join him in January in prayer with the word of God**

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



## TONY HORNBY

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the sudden death of a former parishioner, Tony Hornby, at his home in Macclesfield.

Many parishioners will remember Joanne and Tony Hornby and their family who were very active parishioners at St. Felix for many years before they moved to Cheshire.  
Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Discover how Caritas is responding to conflict in Ukraine.



Henry Wilson Smith CAFOD Ukraine Emergency Programme Officer will be talking about his work.

On: Saturday 17 January 2026

Time: Coffee from 10.30am, talk starting at 10.45am, finishing at noon.

At: St George's Parish Hall, Sprowston Rd, Norwich NR3 4HZ

Mass in the church at 10am, plenty of parking

All welcome

This event has been jointly organised by Caritas East Anglia and CAFOD in East Anglia.



Items for the newsletter should be sent to

[stfelixhaverhill@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:stfelixhaverhill@rcdea.org.uk)

by 12 noon on THURSDAY for inclusion in the next newsletter

## ST FELIX WEEKLY PARISH COLLECTION COUNTERS

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Team 3</b> HELEN and RAYMOND
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Team 2</b> SUE and DAVE
<b><i>Please swap with another counter if you are unable to count on your week given on the rota. Thank you</i></b>	

## READERS and EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

DATE	1 <sup>st</sup> READING	2 <sup>nd</sup> READING	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	VIOLET	KAREN	ANNE
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	ASWIN	ASIN	Sign – up sheet in narthex
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	KAREN	VIOLET	MURRY
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	DAVE	SUE	Sign-up sheet In narthex

## EXPOSITION and ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT



**NEXT SUNDAY (4<sup>th</sup> January)**

**4.30 – 6.30 p.m.**

**You are welcome to come  
and spend time in prayer  
before the  
Blessed Sacrament**

**NEED HELP DURING the ON-GOING COST of LIVING CRISIS?**

Please speak to Fr. John or you can contact



Get in touch. Our friendly team of advisers are on hand to help you, so please do get in touch:

**0800 009 6710**

[info@reachhaverhill.org.uk](mailto:info@reachhaverhill.org.uk)

**Contact hours:** Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

## *Christmas Notice*

Our office will be closed from **25th Dec**

**Last food calls on the  
23<sup>rd</sup> December**

For emergency food visit:  
**Chalkstone Community Centre**  
between **10am - 12pm** on  
**Monday 29th December**

*We will be open as normal  
on **Friday 2nd January at 9am.***



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY



DATE	LEADER	ADULT HELPERS	CHILD Nos.
<b><i>NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY DURING CHRISTMAS SEASON</i></b>			

Children's Liturgy is for children in Reception Class and Years 1, 2 and 3 so they can hear the Word of God adapted to their age group. Younger children and/or those with additional needs are welcome to attend with an adult. Children who have made their First Holy Communion should not attend Children's Liturgy but stay to hear the Liturgy of the Word in church.

We are always looking for more adult helpers. If you would like to assist us please speak to Fr. John or Angela Wilson.

*Thank you. Angela Wilson.*

### Reflections to inform our thoughts, prayers and actions on 'Living Simply'

Today our gaze on the Holy Family lets us also be drawn into the simplicity of the life they led in Nazareth. It is an example that does our families great good, helping them increasingly to become communities of love and reconciliation, in which tenderness, mutual help, and mutual forgiveness is experienced. Let us remember the three key phrases for living in peace and joy in the family: "may I?", "thank you" and "sorry". In our family, when we are not intrusive and ask "may I?"; in our family when we are not selfish and learn to say "thank you"; and when in a family one realises he has done something wrong and knows how to say "sorry" - then in that family there is peace and joy.

*Pope Francis, Angelus Reflection, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013*

## OUR EPIPHANY GIFTS for REACH.

During Advent and Christmas, and coming up to the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord (January 6<sup>th</sup>), we will again make a collection of personal care items to donate to REACH.

**Please buy one or two items during the coming weeks of Advent and Christmas. Keep your personal care gifts at home and bring them to church on the Second Sunday of Christmas - Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January - so that everyone's gifts can be collected together as our Epiphany Gift to be donated to REACH.**



Items required for:

Men's personal care eg. razor, shaving cream/gel, deodorant

Women's personal care eg. deodorant, moisturiser,

make-up remover

Bathing/showering eg. shower gel, body wash, soap, flannel

Dental/oral care eg tooth brush, tooth paste, mouthwash

Hair care eg shampoo, conditioner, hair brush, comb

Baby/infant care eg. body wash, shampoo, moisturiser, nappies

[NB: NO baby milk or food]

Thank you

## PARISH FINANCES

### **Collection for the weekend 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Standing Orders:	£421.00
Collection:	£494.41
Total:	<b>£915.41</b>

### Forthcoming Special and Second Collections

#### **PAX CHRISTI – PEACE SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**

Peace Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

The Bishops' Conference encourages us to use the day to reflect on the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace on the 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Pope Leo's theme for his message is

*'Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace'.*

On Peace Sunday, we will be taking a collection to support Pax Christi's work which includes promoting nonviolence as a way of resolving conflict, advocacy and campaigning for peace and peace education in schools.

***Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish community.***

### Dona Card Machine Payments

Just a reminder that you can make the following donations to our Parish via our Dona Card Machine in the narthex: **Sunday Collection, Second Collections, CAFOD, 100 Club, Flowers, Candles, Mass Offerings, Donations.**

*Thank you*

**REFRESHMENTS**  
*after 10 a.m. Mass*  
**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY.**

*Enjoy a cuppa and a chat*



## **ST FELIX MASSES & MASS INTENTIONS**

### **[Masses celebrated in church are also live-streamed]**

The link for our Live-Streamed Masses via our YouTube channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCEHq3Ww93rfGfMGzXS25A2w/>

*[Sunday readings – Year A, Weekday readings Year II]*

### **FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December: 6.30 p.m. Mass *People of the Parish*

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December: 10.00 a.m. Mass *Patrick Behan RIP*

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December: NO MASS TODAY

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December: NO MASS TODAY

### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**

*[World Day of Peace]*

11.00 a.m. Mass *Peace in the World*

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January: 10.00 a.m. Mass *Deceased Members of Family*

### **SECOND SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January: 6.30 p.m. Mass *Joao (John) de Gouveia RIP*

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January: 10.00 a.m. Mass *People of the Parish*

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions  
on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**If you need to speak with myself or Deacon Huw,  
please call me on 01440 702156 or  
Deacon Huw on 07399 163718.**

**Wishing you and your families every blessing and prayers  
Fr John and Deacon Huw**