

Dear Faithful

The liturgy over the last few weeks has been centring on the theme of trust. Trust is the foundation of our spiritual journey because in the end it is the grace of God that will make us saints, provided of course we are willing to co-operate. But it is important to constantly remember that we cannot achieve this ourselves. I have also been mentioning St. Therese of Lisieux who based her whole “little way” on complete trust in the mercy of God. She knew that she couldn’t offer God anything and that she had to depend on His merits, His virtues as she says in her great prayer to merciful love:

“In the evening of this life, I shall appear before You with empty hands, for I do not ask You, Lord, to count my works. All our justice is stained in Your eyes. I wish, then, to be clothed in Your own *Justice* and to receive from Your *Love* the eternal possession of *Yourselves*. I want no other *Throne*, no other *Crown* but *You*, my *Be-loved!*”

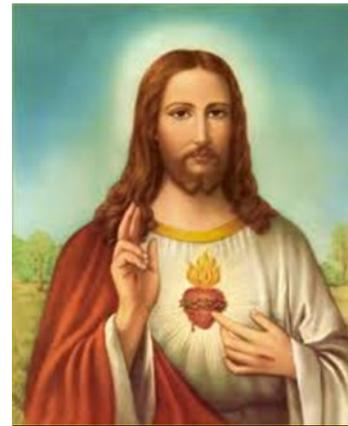
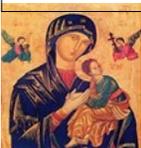
Thus, we can see that trust develops not from the fact that we are somebody, that we are virtuous, that we are holy - No! - but from the fact that we have nothing to offer God, nothing at all. Hence the prayer of the tax collector was accepted because he had admitted his worthlessness.

This principle is enshrined in Scripture. The Beatitudes are the crown jewels of Jesus’ sermon on the mount and contain the steps we need to go through to live the Christ-life. They are also arranged in order. The first beatitude is therefore the gateway to understanding the others: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” The poverty in spirit that Jesus is talking about is this self-realisation that we are completely dependant upon God’s grace and that everything comes from him; as in the Gospel of St. John “without me you can do nothing.”

However, once we are poor in spirit, we have gained everything even the Kingdom of Heaven because once we depend on God, he will accomplish everything in us. But this does require upon our part self-renunciation, offering ourselves to him as a sacrifice; again St. Therese:

“In order to live in one single act of perfect Love, I OFFER MYSELF AS A VICTIM OF HOLOCAUST TO YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, Asking You to consume me incessantly, allowing the waves of *infinite tenderness* shut up within You to overflow into my soul, and that thus I may become a *martyr* of Your *Love*, O my God!”

Let us then pray for this grace to make an offering to the Lord of all that we are. God bless, Fr. Dominic.



Sacred Heart, Skegness and Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Spilsby

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Day	Date	Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Saturday	16	6.00pm	SK	Vigil	P.West RIP
Sunday	17	9.00am 11.00am 3.15pm	Spil SK Pol.	Sixth Sunday Year C page 850	Pro populo N.Purcell
Monday	18	9.30am	SK	Feria	A.Murphy
Tuesday	19	9.30am	SK	Feria	J.Wilkinson RIP
Wednesday	20	9.30am	Spil	Feria	C.Floyd
Thursday	21	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>SK</i>	<i>Adoration</i>	
Friday	22	6.00pm	SK	Chair of St.Peter	P.West RIP
Saturday	23	6.00pm	SK	St Polycarp Vigil	R.Bezzano RIP
Sunday	24	9.00am 11.00am 3.15pm 5.00pm	Spil SK Pol SK	Seventh Sunday Year C page 854 Latin Mass	Pro populo J.Sweeney T.McCullough

Please note: SK = Skegness Spil = Spilsby Pol = Polish mass in Skegness

CONFESSIONS: Skegness Saturday 10.30am and 5.30pm
 Spilsby After Wednesday mass and Sunday Mass
HOLY HOUR: Spilsby Wednesdays 5.00pm-6.00pm
 Skegness Thursdays 10.00-11.00am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rita Bezzano RIP: Rita passed away peacefully last Saturday fortified by the holy rites of the Church. Our condolences go to Michael and family.

Refreshments after the Sunday Masses. Please come into our hall and support the parish, tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches and repository items for sale.

Food bank: the food bank will be grateful for anything you can offer to Skegness or Spilsby food bank. Thank you for your support and care.

Prayer for Yemen-Bishop Patrick has requested we pray the following prayer for the dire plight of the Yemen: Giver of Life, Who hears the cries from Yemen; of mothers choosing between medicine or food, of parents grieving children lost to starvation, of those who have given up everything in hunger. Hear our cries for hope, for change, for peace. In your mercy, Break political deadlocks, Soften hardened hearts, Change closed minds, Open unhearing ears. Let people come before power Let life be holy again Let your justice and peace Shape the nation of Yemen And the lives of all people Amen

Small Ring Found.

PARISH EVENTS ~at a glance

19th February Adult Ed Parish Hall (SK) 7.00pm

2/3 March Visiting Missionary Priest from Xavier Missionaries

Spilsby

1. Exposition Thursday 28th February 11.00am—12.00 Noon
2. World day of Prayer prepared by the Christian women of Slovenia. (Formerly The Women's World day of Prayer.) Friday 1st March 2019, 10am at St James' Church, Spilsby. Please bring small plate of food to share.
3. Red pray book at the back of church for prayer requests and for suggestions for the prayer of the faithful.
4. For your diaries: Sat July 6th Fr. David Goodill will lead a day at Louth on morality in contemporary society.

We remember our deceased whose anniversaries occur at this time:

P.McCarthy; M.Burke; G.Cram; J.Hewkes; T.Flannigan and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen. Please remember Deacon Bernard Croft in your prayers.

Collections: Skegness £ 147.95 Spilsby £218.20

If you pay tax, you can gift aid your donation to the Church.