

F+AT

Dear Faithful,

Advent is a wonderful, mystical season, rich in sign and symbol. As in nature when all is now dying and laying fallow, the light shortening and the days darker, so there is for us a God-given time when once again the old man, the earthly wisdom, the spiritual sloth and sleepiness has to give way to change, repentance, conversion. We are called to arise, prepare ourselves to go and meet the Lord.

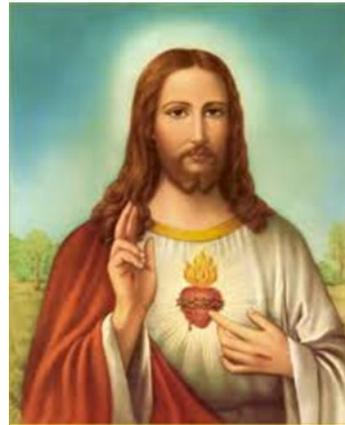
The first word of John the Baptist is repent—metanoia. But what does this mean? It means literally turn around, do a U-turn—face the other way. The literal sense is important here: look in the opposite direction. We are on our journey sometimes quite aimlessly but the person we need to meet is behind us. We need to turn about so we can quite simply gaze into the eyes of Jesus and see the look that he fixes upon us (Cf Matthew, Peter, the good thief). That is the “what” but now the “why.” For the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand. What is the Kingdom of Heaven? The establishment of Jesus’ spiritual kingdom: Thy kingdom come, we pray, thy will be done.

The Kingdom of Heaven is not simply a rule and a dominion (though it is also that) but it is a person, it is Jesus because in his human nature he has accomplished all and carried out perfectly the will of the heavenly Father. Jesus is born not only to redeem us but to establish God’s Kingdom on earth. Now during the history of the Church that Kingdom is continually growing, deepening until it reaches its fullness just as it did in Jesus.

Why is this so important? The prophecies of Isaiah still have to be fulfilled, we await a great period of peace and the triumph of the Church on earth and the full fruition of the Kingdom. But this triumph will take place when things look dark and the remnant is small. Our Lady told us that these things will come to pass. Things certainly look dark; Cardinal Sarah and others tell us they have never been darker for the Church. But we must have joyous expectation, joyous hope for this great period of peace and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit beyond our comprehension.

In order to be admitted to this kingdom, the collect of the mass tells us that we need heavenly learning and wisdom and equally make sure we are not being hindered by earthly undertakings. So let us be wise and let us hasten the coming of the Kingdom. How? Put aside earthly wisdom, the human way of looking at things and place ourselves totally, one hundred percent at the service of the Lord. Now only the Lord Jesus can accomplish this in us and it will always come to pass in a desert—what is the desert but a land where all we have taken for granted is no longer there, the busyness and corruption of the world is left behind and it appears that there is no growth. But as Psalm 63 tells us it is in the dry and parched land that we will enter the sanctuary and behold God’s power and majesty.

A.M.D.G. (Everything for the greater glory of God)



Sacred Heart, Skegness

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| Day | Date | Time | Place | Liturgical Calendar | Mass Intention |
|-----------|------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Saturday | 7 | 6.00pm | SK | Vigil | GHO Gwen |
| Sunday | 8 | 9.00am 11.00am 3.15pm | Spil SK Pol | Second Sunday Advent Year A Page 5 | Pro populo Chris Christie |
| Monday | 9 | 12.30pm | SK | Immac Conception | J.Newton RIP |
| Tuesday | 10 | 12.30pm | SK | Martrys of Linc. | N.Purcell |
| Wednesday | 11 | 10.00am | SP | Advent Feria | P+D Marranca |
| Thursday | 12 | 10.00am | SK | Adoration | |
| Friday | 13 | 6.00pm | SK | St Lucy | S+C Hennessy |
| Saturday | 14 | 6.00pm | SK | St John of the Cross Vigil Mass | M.Monaghan RIP |
| Sunday | 15 | 9.00am 11.00am 3.15pm | Spil SK Pol | Third Sunday Advent Year A Page 9 | Pro populo T+M Hennessy RIP |

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

CONFESSIONS: Skegness 5.30pm Saturday

Spilsby After Sunday Mass

Adoration: Spilsby 5.00pm Wednesdays

Skegness Thursdays 10.00am Friday 6.45pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rosary: 30 mins before mass weekdays.

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

Food bank: Tinned fruit/vegetables; tinned potatoes; instant mashed potatoe; biscuits; tea bags; tinned meatballs etc; pasta/pasta sauce.

Shoe Box Appeal: Janet Enderby reports a record year—well over 200 boxes and £600+ collected for delivery. Well done everyone.

Christmas Raffle: Draw Sunday 22/12 in Church Hall. We would be very grateful for donations/prizes. Please see Sandy (Skegness) or Mary (Spilsby)

Christmas Cards: Available at the back of Church.

Christmas Mass Times

24th December 10.00pm Office of Readings followed by midnight mass, joint celebration with the Polish community. Candlelit.

25th December 9.00am Spilsby, 11.00am Skegness

5.00pm Solemn Christmas Day Vespers with Benediction

1st January 9.00am Spilsby, 11.00am Skegness

8th December 4.00pm Latin Mass St. Hugh's Lincoln.

Election Note:

All the major parties' manifestos are problematic regarding pro-life, relationship education, transgender etc For guidance see the election advice of the Conference of Bishops and a very good summary at the Christian Institute.

The new Liturgical Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. This e-book may be downloaded free of charge :**Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-2** may be accessed at the following URL address: www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

PARISH EVENTS ~at a glance

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

9 December Immaculate Conception 12.30 pm mass followed by cakes and tea in Church Hall

15 December 4.30pm Penance Service Confessions

18 December Advent Carol Service @ Spilsby 6.00pm

22 December Christmas Raffle Draw

Spilsby

Tea and coffee after Sunday Mass

Church Open: Monday 10.00-12.00 noon for private prayer.

Adoration: 2nd Monday of month. 9th December 10.00am with Advent Reflections

18th Dec Advent Service 6.00pm Tea/coffee, mince pies to follow.

20th December Know your Faith: Mt 1+2 re St. Joseph @ Mary Flynn's. See Patrick for further details

We remember our deceased whose anniversaries occur at this time: C.Shaw; M.McKenzie; A.Quinn; K.Lynch; C.O'Dwyer; F.Alderson; C.Hibbard; D.McCarthy; E.Johnson; R.Wombwell; G.Mills and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Collections: Skegness £197.16 Spilsby £201.60

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