

Fiat!

Dear Faithful,

Today's passage of St. Matthew's gospel (16:13-20) marks a turning point for Jesus' disciples and for us. Who is Jesus? What is his deepest identity? Only from understanding the answer will we understand his mission in next Sunday's gospel. Jesus' question to his disciples is not one eliciting a doctrinal response but that of a lover who wishes to know that he is known by the beloved. This is essential to Jesus because it is why he came: "he who knows me knows the one who sent me." In Jesus identity is tied up with his relationship to the Father. Hence, Peter's answer "You are the Christ, Son of the living God."

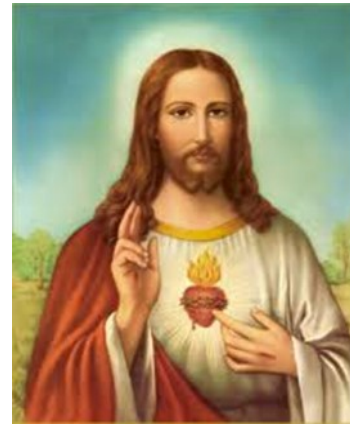
This is important for us too for what is most important is who we are and not what we do. Doing follows upon being; e.g. birds fly because they are birds. The modern world is waging a relentless and satanic war upon identity. Identity is no longer given by God but determined by each individual for themselves. Likewise we are measured more by what we do, what we have than by who we are. So for us too the question can be asked: Who are we? In what lies our deepest identity? In an incredible condescension, God has made the answer the same: we are sons and daughters of the living God. Not as Jesus is by nature but by adoption but this does not make the answer any less true.

Our spiritual journey starts with this identity given to us in Baptism and then Confirmation. But it is an identity that can easily be lost since the devil is constantly trying to introduce doubt into our minds so as to bind us to things and to lies that we believe; especially to the sin of pride, so we take on the authority to determine our being. By doing so we can separate Christ from his cross.

So our true identity as Saint John tells us lies in our freedom in and with Jesus as sons of God. Our true identity and our subsequent freedom which is intrinsic to our being rests solely in Christ. (Incidentally that will be the great attraction and temptation of the anti-Christ as he will appear to be like Christ.)

The battle we are in right now is a battle of identity because the time is coming when an abundance of grace will demonstrate to people the truth of whom we are called to be and we must be prepared. So we must keep free from external bondage: we must be detached from things and more importantly be free from internal bondage. Christ's identity lies in his relationship to the Father hence his human will always did the will of the Father. Our greatest bondage then will always be to our human will. To do what we wish and not God wants and we have to be on our guard because often what we want may be a good thing but it just happens not to be what God wants. Therefore, sanctity is rooted in the deepest desire to always do the will of the Father.

The proof that we don't really understand this is the decline in practice of frequent confession. A Catholic who is fully committed to his identity and his mission begins to fully see just how far he falls short of this: not only in venial sin but also the multitude of his faults and self-pre-occupation; he also begins not to make excuses but to see them for what they truly are a denial of all reality. God bless, Fr. Dominic.



Sacred Heart, Skegness

22, Grosvenor Road, Skegness. PE25 2DB and
Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Spilsby
Church St., Spilsby, PE23 5EF

Parish Priest: Fr. Dominic O'Connor 01754 762528

email: sacredheartandspilsby@gmail.com

Website: www.skegnessparish.com

Safeguarding officer. Mrs Judy Lumb

Charity No 11349 Company no 7151646

Registered office: Willson house, NG1 5AW

Day	Date	Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Sunday	23	11.00am	SK	21st Sunday	Pro populo
Monday	24			St Batholomew	Priest's intention
Tuesday	25	12.00 noon	SP	Feria	Jenkinson Family
Wednesday	26	10.00am	SK	Feria	J.Kitzinger RIP
Thursday	27			St Monica	Jenkinson Family
Friday	28	6.30pm		St Augustine	C.Kika RIP
Saturday	29	4.00pm	SP	Passion of J the B Vigil	Duigan Family
Sunday	30	11.00 am	SK	22nd Sunday	Pro Populo

SP = Spilsby SK = Skegness

"Dear children! In this peaceless time in which the devil is harvesting souls to draw them to himself, I am calling you to persevering prayer, so that in prayer you discover the God of love and hope. Little children, take the Cross in your hands. May it be your encouragement for love to always win, in a special way now when the Cross and faith are rejected. You be a reflection and an example with your lives that faith and hope are still alive and a new world of peace is possible. I am with you and intercede for you before my Son, Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Message Medjugorje 25 July 2020)

Maureen Williams RIP of Chapel St. Leonards died recently. Our condolences go to her family.

CONFESSIONS

Confession is an essential sacrament and it can easily be celebrated without problem it is a little concerning how few people wish to avail themselves of the sacrament. At Spilsby I shall now hear confessions from 3.30pm in the Lady Chapel or in good weather on the lawn outside. If you wish to use the confessional, that is your right but just let me know.

At Skegness Either book an appointment and if you wish to use the confessional that can be organised. Or from 10.15am on Sunday morning I shall be available in the presbytery. Come to the back door of the presbytery—entrance from car park. It is a priest's duty to make confession available, so I am at your disposal.

Collection: Skegness £263.45

Spilsby Church Garden

After a group of us studied the Pope's encyclical 'Laudato Si', we decided to work on our Church's lovely garden which was becoming rather neglected since Tony Byrne died. Vegetables were grown in raised beds at the back of the Church demonstrating a rotating crop system, and the produce was sold to help Church funds. Some fruit trees were planted plus a fig, an olive, a vine and herbs – we aimed at biblical plants though we couldn't manage a mustard seed! At the front, the borders were weeded, shrubs pruned back and new plants and bedding plants put in. Over twelve people helped, and others donated money to pay for plants. Composting beds were also made. The grotto at the front was cleaned, and roses planted round it - on a sunny day you might like to say a decade of the Rosary there.

Since then as most of us are not as young as we used to be, we have paid for a little help from a gardener, and have found that bedding plants require more watering than we can manage, especially in times of drought, so we are rethinking the planting at the front. At the back a lovely wild flower garden has been created this year by Stephen Duffy next to the new shed. The allotments and bungalow at the back belong to the Church so do come and look at everything if you visit Spilsby, relax on the benches, and enjoy God's wonderful creation.

NOTES ON LITURGY

Please make sure you read the attached letter concerning mass since at the present time attendance at mass has to be booked. Please be patient as we become familiar with the diocesan guidelines. We shall have to under government guidelines keep your postal address for 21 days.

Some other important points:

1. Please don't car pool and pay attention to social distancing when leaving your car.
2. Please follow the stewards' instructions, they have a difficult job to do but once we are in the habit it will be very smooth. It will be helpful if you bring your own sanitiser but the stewards will have some.
3. As the kneelers are not in use, we shall stand for the Eucharistic Prayer.
4. Candles: At Skegness please give Father an envelope with your intentions and a donation if you wish and he will ensure that the candles are lit for you. Or alternatively email him at the parish address opposite.
5. Because we are social distancing at 2 metres you do not have to wear a mask unless you wish to. If you have coronavirus symptoms please do not attend, if you feel unwell during mass please notify a steward.
6. Mass will be shorter and the toilets are closed but if you do need to use one just see the stewards.
7. We shall still need some more volunteers for cleaning duties.

For services at Spilsby:

Tuesday 12.00 noon and Saturday 4.00pm please contact either:
Mary Flynn 01790 754563 of Patrick Doyle 01507 481072

For Services at Skegness:

For Sunday or Wednesday contact **Jacinta Lewis** by the day before each service. You will need to provide contact details. You can contact Jacinta as follows: 01754 820644 email: jacintalewis21@aol.com

For Friday contact Fr Dominic on:
01754 762528 or email sacredheartandspilsby@gmail.com.