

Fiat!

Dear Faithful,

Charles Peguy, a French poet, wrote something profound and though provoking: “You are right but you have no right to be right unless you are willing to pay the price of demonstrating the rightness of truth.”

The gospel necessitates a defence; it necessitates correction. In the gospel today Jesus talks about the importance of fraternal correction. As Leiva-Merikakis points out “in this passage peace and unity are assumed by Jesus to be the natural state of things in the community gathered in memory of him and in his Name. When this peace is disturbed the one intolerable attitude is indifference, since those who bear the name of Christ must seek reconciliation amongst themselves at all costs, so that the full peace that is a divine characteristic may be restored to the community.” (Commentary on St. Matthew vol 2) This applies at the micro level of family and parish as well as to the church as a whole and also in secular society.

Fraternal correction is something we find difficult but nevertheless it is important. For we can also be responsible for the sins of others and share in their guilt. How? 1. By counsel 2. By command. 3. By consent. 4. By provocation. 5. By flattery. 6. By concealment. 7. By being a partner in sin. 8. By silence. 9. By defending the ill done. Our Lord is primarily referring to the community of the church. However, at times when called upon, we need also to bear witness in society.

Moment by moment battle lines are being drawn and as Catholics we need to know our faith and be able and willing to defend it. So far, thanks be to God, this may have passed us by but many Christians throughout the world are having to pay the price through martyrdom or loss of job or loss of reputation. The pressure being exerted in the media to conform to a certain way of thinking is immense; those that do not conform are simply “cancelled” or lose their jobs, witness Black Lives Matter; LGBTQ+; Transgender, Extinction Rebellion. It is being exerted too in the Church at some levels by those who are agitating for the recognition of homosexuality, same sex marriage, women priests, the acceptance of contraception.

St Thomas More is a good example to follow. His conscience would not allow him to sign the Act of Supremacy but nor did he feel bound to publicly criticise the King. However, when called upon, he bore witness without hesitation. Sometimes, to correct someone in the secular arena can be counter-productive. However, we can never participate or share in sin no matter what the cost.

God only gives us the grace at the time it is needed and if called upon to an heroic witness, the grace will be there so we have no need for fear. But we do need to prepare by knowing our faith, developing a profound love of it and most importantly, by our personal relationship with Jesus. The martyrs could bear witness because they knew Jesus and they knew that to be with him was worth any price and nothing was worse than separation from him. That personal relationship with the Lord was forged in the crucible of prayer; of a deep intense—painful at times—prayer life.

May God bless us in these times and may Our Lady envelop us in her mantle.
Fr. Dominic.



Sacred Heart, Skegness

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Day	Date	Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Sunday	6	11.00am	SK	23rd Sunday	M. McGivern RIP
Monday	7			Feria	DCA (Dec.Clergy)
Tuesday	8	12.00 noon	SP	Nativity of BVM Feast	DCA
Wednesday	9	10.00am	SK	Feria	DCA
Thursday	10			Feria	DCA
Friday	11	6.30pm		Feria	DCA
Saturday	12	4.00pm	SP	Vigil	DCA
Sunday	13	11.00 am	SK	24th 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)

NOTES ON LITURGY

PRAYERS USED AT MASS

The Angelus: Devotion to the Incarnation - Morning, Noon and Evening.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, etc...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word. Hail Mary, etc...

V. And the Word was made flesh,
R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary, etc...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,
Your Grace into our hearts;
that as we have known the incarnation of Christ,
your Son by the message of an angel,
so by His passion and cross
we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

St Michael Prayer: Prayer of protection Very powerful

Saint Michael Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil;
may God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God, cast into hell
Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then... But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.” Daniel 12

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. As the kneelers are not in use, we shall stand for the Eucharistic Prayer.
2. 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.
3. Mass will be shorter and the toilets are closed but if you do need to use one just see the stewards.

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.

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 23rd August: £564.90 Combined 30th August SK £270.80