

Dear Faithful

A new liturgical year begins this Sunday, the first of Advent. This commences once again the cycle of Our Lord's life and takes its focus from Easter 2021. Thus, Advent is a season of hope and quiet spiritual joy. It is an ancient season liturgically and is penitential in character. Why? The Christian seeks to remove from their life anything that will hinder Christ's coming. The key words in today's gospel are the three commands of Our Lord: Watch, Be on your guard and Pray.

How do we fulfil this? Especially how do we watch and keep vigil. Jesus himself has been telling us the answer in the parables that we have heard over the last few weeks in St. Matthew's gospel. A person who watches is a person that lives in expectation; who is not distracted by the things of this world that is passing but keeps their eyes fixed on the expectation of the things to come. One could perhaps say that it is not simply something that we do but the whole way we live our lives. It is also a certain paradox because we keep our mind firmly fixed on the present but in such a way that it is informed by the future.

We have to be fixed on the present because it is there the danger lies of being led astray and not keeping the oil of our love ready for the bridegroom's coming. But we do so in the hope of what is to come. We endure the trials because of the joy that is held out to us. One of the best ways practically of keeping our guard and being prepared is to do the tasks of the day, from the smallest to the greatest, for the greater glory of God. Therefore, in our tasks to do each to the best of our ability and with great love. It means doing this and persevering to the end. I have been inspired this week by these words about perseverance:

"Perseverance to the end, rooted in fidelity to Christ, means constantly keeping alive the memory of the words and person of the Lord Jesus, of everything he has taught me, everything he has done for me, everything his presence has meant in my life. It means abiding in the conviction that I cannot have my deepest identity apart from him and his action in my life. It means not compromising the truths that I have come to know since putting on the mind of Christ and begging to see the world and all reality through his eyes. It means actively choosing, against all the odds, not to stop living the life of grace first given to me at baptism, by virtue of which the eternal God himself is living his life in me. It means not valuing mere physical and psychological comfort or survival or reputation or property-all of which are ephemeral realities-above the truth that the image of God lives in each man and that, therefore, I owe each man not only respect but reverence, not only fairness but love." (Lieva Merikasis Commentary on St Matthew vol 3 p.696) God bless and a blessed Advent, Fr. Dominic.



Sacred Heart, Skegness

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Day	Date	Prayer Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Sunday	29	9.30am 10.30am	SP SK	1st Sunday of Advent	Pro populo
Monday	30			St Andrew Feast	T+J Barley
Tuesday	1	11.30— 12.30pm	SP	Advent Feria	K.Otter RIP
Wednesday	2	10.00— 11.00am	SK	Advent Feria	E+E Watson
Thursday	3	10.00- 11.00am	SK	St Francis Xavier	Booth Family
Friday	4	6.30pm- 7.15pm	SK	Advent Feria 1st Friday	Nov Dead List
Saturday	5			1st Saturday	Miss S. O'Sullivan RIP
Sunday	6	9.00am 11.00am	SP SK	2nd Sunday Advent MASSES	Pro populo

SP = Spilsby SK = Skegness Pol = Polish Mass at Skegness

READINGS AT MASS STARTING FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

SUNDAYS YEAR B GOSPEL OF SAINT MARK

WEEKDAYS: CYCLE 1

Prayers

George Jones RIP
Barbara Norton RIP
Antony Granaham RIP

Maura Hutchins RIP
Roy Newitt RIP
Chris Christie RIP

CHRISTMAS REPOSITORY: For cards and Christmas repository please see Sandy.

SKEGNESS

The church will be open for private prayer THIS WEEK

Sundays 10.30-12.00 noon
Wednesday 10.00-11.00am
Thursday 10.00-11.00am
Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm

SPILSBY

The Church will be open for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament during lockdown on **Sundays 9.30-10.30am and Tuesdays from 11.30 to 12.30 pm**

Parishioners are asked to sign a book, and cleanse the pew which they used and the area round it before leaving. Stewards will be on hand. A leaflet will be available with details.

Liturgical Change in the Mass

From the First Sunday of Advent in the conclusion of the prayers the "One" will be omitted before God; so it will now be "In the Unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen." This is a more faithful translation of the Latin.

CONFESSION and/or need to speak to Father

Please ring and book a time. Normally Father will be around in the church at the weekend times if you just simply want to catch him.

Prayer outside of normal times

Sometimes people will have an urgent need to visit the Church, light a candle and say a prayer. If this is the case again please give me a ring and it can be easily arranged.

Even in lockdown, priests are available to help, absolve and fortify so please feel free to contact me.

NOTES ON LITURGY

MASS RESTARTS NEXT WEEKEND!!

First Masses:

Spilsby Sunday 6th December 9.00am

Skegness Sunday 6th December 11.00am Booking details below:

For services at Spilsby:

Please contact either: Mary Flynn 01790 754563 or Patrick Doyle 01507 481072

For Services at Skegness:

For Sunday Please contact Jacinta as follows: 01754 820644 email: jacintalewis21@aol.com

Masses will be exactly as we had been celebrating them before this second lockdown.

DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS MASSES WILL BE CIRCULATED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS by email and on the website.