

Dear Faithful

The Second Sunday of Advent marks the arrival on the scene of the great herald of Jesus, St. John the Baptist. It is interesting that Mark’s gospel starts with his proclamation fulfilling the prophet Isaiah.

Today I would like to focus on one other important part of the drama: the desert. If we read the gospel carefully some things should strike as unusual: firstly, the penitents are going from Jerusalem to the Jordan. Secondly, they are going from habitation and civilisation to the barren desert. It is the opposite of where we might expect the gospel to be proclaimed. Why?

Firstly, only in the desert can the proclamation of God truly be heard. It is in the silence and stillness that God’s word can resound; that people can hear (both physically as well as spiritually) the message. It is the same today. Modern society is so full of noise and rush and agitation that God’s voice is being drowned out. If we wish to hear what God is speaking to us—and he is always speaking to us—we need to detach ourselves from what is overwhelming our senses. Cardinal Sarah urges us to a media fast.

Secondly, it is in the desert that the stark choice stands out and it is the same choice held out to Jesus: food, power, wonders or complete surrender to the providence of God: there is no third option. A beautiful book, “The Hermitage Within” (which I highly recommend) says if you are to survive the desert travel light. Have no home, no baggage, no assurance for the morrow otherwise your possessions will weigh you down and you will perish. What will be our food, our consolation? “The eternal word will be your food: scripture, eucharist, contemplation.

Thirdly, the desert calls us to perseverance, to keep going and most importantly to have no plan of our own. The Israelites only knew one thing during their time in the desert; that they were heading to the promised land. Nothing else was revealed to them by God. Whenever, they took matters into their own hands they perished and psalm 94 tells us why: for the hardness of their hearts.

Let me finish with another quote from the book: “He alone knows the moment and the way. Have no plan for your life, just keep yourself free from anything that could prevent God from moving you as he wishes. Tastes and distastes are not to be considered. Be available and malleable.” (The Hermitage Within by a Monk. Darton, Longman and Todd)

God bless, Fr. Dominic.



Sacred Heart, Skegness

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Day	Date	Prayer Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Sunday	6	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	SP SK Pol	2nd Sunday of Advent	Pro populo Paul Large RIP
Monday	7			St Ambrose	Requiem A.Granahan
Tuesday	8	10.00am 12.00	SK SP	Immaculate Conception	NDL Maura Hutchins RIP
Wednesday	9			Advent Feria	John Newton RIP
Thursday	10	10.00am Adoration	SK	The Martyrs of Lincolnshire	T+J Barley
Friday	11	6.30pm	SK	Advent Feria	E+E Watson
Saturday	12			Our Lady of Guadeloupe	Booth Family
Sunday	13	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	SP SK Pol	3rd Sunday of Advent “Gaudete”	Barbara Norton RIP Pro populo (Miss Sullivan RIP)

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.

SUPPORT MARCH FOR LIFE: A Catholic family, The Braddish Family, have released a song “Christmas is coming Our Saviour is born” on itunes and amazon. The money goes towards “March for Life.”

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

For services at Spilsby:

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

For Services at Skegness:

For Sunday and Wednesday Please contact Jacinta as follows: 01754 820644 email: jacintalewis21@aol.com Friday is not booked.

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES

VIGIL 24th Dec Thursday

4.00pm Spilsby	Booking see Spilsby above
9.00pm Skegness “Midnight”	Booking Jacinta details above
Midnight Skegness Polish	Booking through Polish community

CHRISTMAS DAY

7.00am Skegness Latin	Booking contact Father
9.00am Skegness Polish	Booking through Polish community
9.00am Spilsby	Booking see Spilsby above
11.00am Skegness	Booking John Aldridge 01754 762161 Johnm.aldridge@btinternet.com

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to shortage of space parishioners should **only attend one mass either on the 24th or the 25th.** (exceptions being choir, sacristan and stewards)

Sunday 27th Dec times and details as normal.

The Bishop wishes people to remember that Christmas has an octave (25th December to 1st January) so each day we celebrate the feast even if a Saint is titled for the day. Therefore, this year people may wish to fulfil their obligation on one of the days of the octave if attending mass proves difficult.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY