

Dear Faithful

Fiat!

Just a few random thoughts this weekend.

Before the reform of the liturgical calendar, today was known as Septuagesima and marked the countdown to the beginning of Lent. Whilst we no longer mark this, it is nevertheless good to start to turn our minds to Lent. As Lent is one of the most important and grace filled time in the year, we should start to ponder what our Lenten practices might be. Might we fast? Might we cut down on media? Might we introduce more prayer (especially praying the Scriptures) into our daily schedule? These are all great aids but their aim is to help us tackle the central question of what is hindering us from becoming holy. Lent is a time to renew our vigour and zeal and commit ourselves resolutely to placing Christ at the centre of our lives. So really ask the Lord to show you the path you should take—it might not be the one you expect.

There is currently available on Radio 4 extra a reading of Karen Blixen's (Isak Dinesen) short story "Babette's Feast." Some of you may know the outstanding film with the same title. The short story is a masterpiece and is imbued with Christian symbolism as well as beautiful drama. It is up lifting and a great story of hope and God's goodness in our lives. Both the story and the film are five stars.

On a different note I thought I should pass on to you the sacramental returns that I made to the diocese. In the year 2020 there were no parish marriages, no baptisms, no First Holy Communions, no confirmations, no receptions and over twenty deaths. In addition there is barely a trickle of confessions, mass attendance is down and I had only two parish house blessings. Whilst it must be admitted that lockdown has had some effect, this is nevertheless the typical trend. In addition in Lincolnshire, we have three priests who are ill; a priest who recently had been covering nearly a whole deanery which at one stage had six priests not that long ago. Clearly, something is wrong. But:

"Where sin abounds, grace abounds more."

Never have we had so readily available God's grace. My simple plea would be for every parishioner to pray 5 decades of the Rosary every day and the Divine Chaplet once a day. Go to confession once a month. If every parishioner did that, we should certainly see a change.

God bless, Fr. Dominic.



Sacred Heart, Skegness

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Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Spilsby
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Day	Date	Prayer Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Sunday	31	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	SP SK Pol	4th Sunday	Pro populo O L Chacko RIP
Monday	1			Feria	Paul Singleton RIP
Tuesday	2	12.00 noon	SP	The Presentation	Sarah Meakin RIP
Wednesday	3	10.00am	SK	St. Blaise	Nellie Purcell
Thursday	4	10.00am	SK	Adoration/ St Gilbert of Sempringham	NDL
Friday	5	6.00pm	SK	St Agatha/1st Friday	Geoff and Tasne
Saturday	6		SK	SS Paul Miki and companions/1st Saturday	Sophie Duffy GHO
Sunday	7	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	SP SK Pol	5th Sunday of Year	Fam life&Priesthood Pro populo

NOTE FRIDAY MASS NOW AT 6.00PM

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

SUNDAYS YEAR B GOSPEL OF SAINT MARK WEEKDAYS: CYCLE 1

Prayers

GHO Sophie Duffy 4yr old with cancer requested by Kathy Ready
Rita Natale diagnosed with aggressive cancer
Eddie Robinson RIP Michael Nolan RIP
Madeline Blakey RIP (Judy Lumb's mother)
Sarah Meakin RIP (Yvonne and Kevin's niece)

SECOND COLLECTIONS

2nd April Holy Places

Walk with me Lenten Booklets: These are now available from the diocese.

Divine Will Formation Group

February 2nd 7.15pm Zoom Let Father know if you would like an invitation.

Collection: Loose £215.68 Mary's Meals £19.00 Sick and Retired Priests £115.90

Skegness Church Choir Director

Lent and Easter will soon be upon us and music will have to be prepared. I have had requests that parishioners might like to join a choir. Up until now the Titley-Bayes family have kindly supplied the music but they would welcome help. However, this means that we do need a choir director who would be willing to take on this task. So please if you are willing see Father. Also, if there is anyone who would like to sing the psalm please see Father.

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.

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

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.

A Couple of Reminders

- ◆ If you have been to Church and subsequently contract the coronavirus, could you please let myself or one of the stewards know so that we can notify the attendees.
- ◆ The Sunday obligation by the authority of Bishop Patrick is still not in force which means you are not obliged to attend Sunday mass or an holiday of obligation.
- ◆ If the priest is singing only the choir should make the responses and not the congregation.

Many thanks.