

Dear Faithful

Fiat!

Watching the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe over Christmas with my nieces, I remembered the excitement as a child reading the passage when Lucy discovers the land of Narnia. We all have built into us the sense of another world, the heritage perhaps of the lost Garden of Eden. This realisation is at the heart of the mystery which we celebrate today: The Baptism of Jesus. The heavens are torn open and we have the theophany (= presentation of the divinity) with the Father saying, “You are my son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased.” A new world, a redeemed world is opened up for us and the Father is not just talking to Jesus but to all of us who are born again by water and the Spirit. We have passed through the mystery into a new creation.

This new creation is far more wonderful than any world we could dream up or imagine. It is more beautiful, more wonderful than Eden itself and we live in it. Just because it is not visible to our human eyes does not make it any less real. We need to always bring this reality to mind.

This mystery recounted by Mark closely resembles the creation of the world in Genesis when the Spirit hovers over the waters and the earth is a formless void. For before our baptism, we too were formless and without divine life. As Christians we must constantly remember that without God we would return to that state. “I take this to be the foundation of serious Christian existence: the deliberate choice repeated on a daily and hourly basis to return to the beginning, to our own individual “genesis” to a state where God’s spirit may create us anew. Formless, darkness, indetermination, wet, shapeless clay. Are these not the conditions for receiving the mercy of God in any way his mercy may choose to give it to us?” (Way of the Disciple, E.Merikakis p. 28)

Therefore, the sacrament of baptism means leaving behind the old man and his sinful ways; this is symbolised when the adult used to be submerged three times into the waters. It therefore also implies our sinfulness and bondage to the enemy. Although as a sacrament, baptism can only be administered once, nevertheless, our whole liturgy reminds us of the need to constantly renew it; e.g. the sign of the cross at the beginning of mass; the recitation of the creed. Most especially it can be seen in the sacrament of confession whereby our baptismal innocence is restored. Lastly, baptism is connected to Jesus’ death on the cross and the pouring out from his side of blood and water.

Let us always give thanks to God for the graces we received at baptism and renew our commitment to follow him in our Christian commitment that we made at our baptism. Let us also remember that this new life puts into perspective our earthly life and the trials that we encounter here below. There can now be no place for fear or worry since we are the Lord’s and rest in his arms.

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](mailto:sacredheartandspilsby@gmail.com)

Website: [www.skegnessparish](http://www.skegnessparish)

Safeguarding officer. Mrs Judy Lumb

Charity No 11349 Company no 7151646

Registered office: Willson house, NG1 5AW

Day	Date	Prayer Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
<b>Sunday</b>	10	<b>9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm</b>	<b>SP SK Pol</b>	<b>Baptism of OLJC (1st Sunday of Year)</b>	M.Flynn Sp Intn Pro populo
Monday	11			Feria	DCA
Tuesday	12	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>SP</b>	Feria	Lucy-Anne Lumb RIP
Wednesday	13	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>SK</b>	St Hilary	E+SLizzeroli
Thursday	14	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>SK</b>	Adoration	NDL
Friday	15	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>SK</b>	Feria	Mary Burgess
Saturday	16			BVM on Sat.	NDL
<b>Sunday</b>	17	<b>9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm</b>	<b>SP SK Pol</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Year</b>	Pro populo 3 OFM

**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

Eddie Robinson RIP          Jenifer Webster RIP          Michael Nolan RIP

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

17th January Sick and Retired Priests  
2nd April    Holy Places

**Collection:** Joint loose £181.13    Mary's Meals £35.57

**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.

**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.