

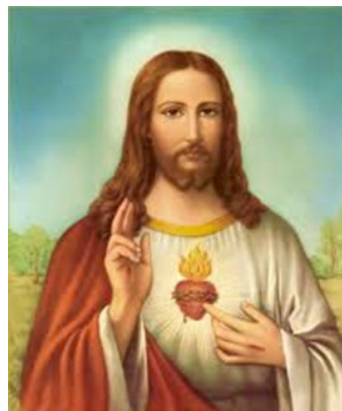
Dear Parishioners

The gospel today is the beautiful image that Jesus gives of himself as the Good Shepherd. We may initially wonder why this occurs during Eastertide. The image is a deeply paschal one since the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep willingly and without any coercion. Jesus is carrying out the Eternal Will of the Father that God himself by taking a human nature to himself is able to suffer and die for his sheep. The very many images of the shepherd (Psalm 23; Ezechiel Chp 34-37; Zechariah 13) now reach their fulfilment in Christ who is pierced to allow his healing remedies to flow upon mankind.

This whole chapter also sets the criteria necessary for those called to become shepherds; that they must enter through the door which is Christ and that they must follow him (cf John 21); so there is only ONE shepherd. Pope Emeritus Benedict points our four major points:

- 1) Beware the false shepherd – the thief – who is only concerned about his own life. Only Jesus can lead the sheep to eternal life, the good pasture where he will feed them with himself and they shall drink of living water. Hence the references to the Bread of Life discourse in chapter 6.
- 2) Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lays down his life and therefore, the cross is at the centre of this teaching and moves from an instrument of torture and death to a life giving tree of life.
- 3) The shepherd and the flock know each other’s voices. To this day shepherds in some countries have a particular call that only their sheep know. This relationship is both one of knowing and belonging. They belong not as we possess things but in a mutual relationship of love and responsibility both of which are bound up intimately with truth and which partake in the relationship that exists eternally between the Son and the Father: “I am the way, the truth and the life.
- 4) The last motif is that of unity: there is one flock and one shepherd. Jesus came to call all men to be baptised into his church. He will gather the scattered sheep together, there will be a new exodus.

Let us pray today for our shepherds and for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Let us also remember that shepherds come from the sheep and so we are all responsible for creating the right pasture for vocations. Let us also pray for Bishop Patrick who has the difficult task of finding priests for the various parishes at this time of great shortage. But above all let us rejoice in the Good Shepherd and that we have heard his call. God bless, Fr. Dominic.



Sacred Heart, Skegness
22, Grosvenor Road, Skegness. PE25 2DB and
Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Spilsby

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Day	Date	Prayer Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Sunday	25	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	SP SK Pol	4 th Sunday of Easter “Good Shepherd”	Pro Populo M.Kealey
Monday	26			Easter Feria	Ints Twin Hearts
Tuesday	27	12.00 noon	SP	Easter Feria	Holy Souls
Wednesday	28	10.00am	SK	St L de Montfort	McGiverns RIP
Thursday	29	10.00am	SK	Adoration St C of Sienna	T.O’Conner RIP
Friday	30	6.00pm	SK	Easter Feria	NDL
Saturday	1	10.00am	SK	St Joseph the Worker 1 st Sat	Fr.O’Neill RIP
Sunday	2	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	SP SK Pol	5 th Sunday of Easter	Pro populo Robert P GHO

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

SUNDAYS YEAR B GOSPEL OF SAINT MARK WEEKDAYS: CYCLE 1

Prayers

Alexandra Kecko will make her First Holy Communion at the 11.00am mass 2nd May

Fr Brian Dazeley Fr O'Neill RIP Fr. Colebrook RIP Fr J.Earley RIP

Those who are sick: Cath Ready; Ralph Booth; James Whittle

RIP Janet Enderby RIP Patricia Dorrington

RIP Philomena Weston RIP Duke of Edinburgh

Bishop Patrick would like to hear from you! The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a short survey in order to deepen its understanding of Covid-19's impact on all Catholics across the diocese. Bishop Patrick is eager to know more about peoples' experiences of the pandemic, with a view to ensuring that the faithful are well supported and understood in the years ahead. Please

visit WWW.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/share-your-story and fill out the short questionnaire. Please encourage other parishioners to do so.

The deadline for submissions is July 4th 2021

Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse (DPSA), 4th May 2021.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday 25th April – Good Shepherd Sunday.

This Sunday is our yearly opportunity to reflect on the Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. Also, we can contribute to the Clergy Formation Fund which helps train our future priests and contributes to our priests continuing formation. Please pray for the priests who serve you and encourage the young men [and may be the unattached young at heart!] to either consider the call to priesthood for themselves or encourage among their peers those whom they think would make good priests

Beauvale Pilgrimage 2021:

On Sunday 2nd May at 3pm Bishop Patrick will celebrate our annual Mass to honour the lives of the Beauvale Martyrs, Ss John Houghton and Robert Lawrence. Due to Covid restrictions, this year's Mass will **not** take place at the ruins of Beauvale Priory. Instead, it will take place at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Eastwood NG16 2AQ. The number of people coming to this Mass unfortunately has to be limited to a maximum of 48, but Mass will be live streamed. Go to YouTube and search 'Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Eastwood' and you will be able to follow the Mass with us. For more information please make contact directly with Fr Paul Newman: paul.newman@dioceseofnottingham.uk

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.