

**POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI, R.I.P.** Pope Benedict died on 31st December, his funeral Mass and burial took place in the Vatican on 5th January. We pray for the repose of his soul and thank God also for the understanding of and love for the faith that he communicated in his writings, his teachings and his pastoral ministry throughout his years as a priest and bishop, and also as Pope. I offered Mass for the repose of his soul in Skegness yesterday and shall offer a Mass for him in Spilsby at 12.00 noon on Tuesday next.

At his opening address to the Church as Pope, upon the acceptance of his election as Pope in April, 2005, the new Pope had spoken of himself as “a humble servant in the vineyard of the Lord”. That is all that each and every one of us, as baptised disciples of Christ, can ever wish to be.

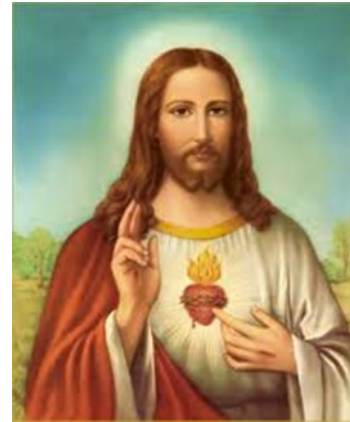
At the general audience on Wednesday, 4th Jan., Pope Francis said of Pope Benedict: “His acute, but respectful thinking was not something designed to draw attention to himself, but it was ecclesial (focused upon the Church) because he sought to accompany us towards our encounter with Jesus. Taking us by the hand, Jesus, crucified but risen from the dead, the Living One and the Lord, was the destination to which Pope Benedict has led us. May he help us to discover in Christ the joy of believing and the hope of life.” At the homily he delivered during the funeral Mass on 5th Jan., Pope Francis stated: “Benedict, faithful friend of the Bridegroom (Jesus), may your joy be complete, as you hear his voice now and for ever”. He added that the ecclesial community (the Church) wanted “to commend our brother into the hands of the Father”.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in pace. Amen.

**Prayer cards available at back of church.**

God bless you all.

Fr. G.J. Woodall



**Sacred Heart, Skegness**  
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Day	Date	Time	Place	Liturgical Calendar 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Is. 49:3-6; 1Cor 1:1-3; Jn. 1:29-34 Mass Intention <b>p. 560.</b>
Saturday	14	6.00pm	SK	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun.	15	9.00am 11.00am 3.15pm	SP SK SK	(Polish)	Lucy-Anne Lumb & Made-line Blakey, RIP William Gerard Nelson, RIP
Mon.- Fri	16-20			No Masses this week	
Sat. Sun.	21 22	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am 3.15pm 4.30pm	SK SP SK SK SK	3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - A p. 564. Polish (Tridentine)	People of the Parish Elizabeth Blythe, RIP Robert Watson, RIP Private int.
Mon. Tues.	23 24	10.00am 9.45am 12.00noon	SK SK SP	Feria St. Francis de Sales	Kitty Connolly's ints. Adoration Fr. John Fowler, RIP
Wed.	25	10.00am 7.00pm	SK SP	Conversion of St. Paul	Elizabeth Plaice, RIP Peter Steele, RIP
Thurs.	26	10.00am	SK	Ss. Timothy & Titus	Robert Watson, RIP
.Fri.	27	6.00pm	SK	Feria	Richardson family ints.
Sat.	28	6.00pm	SK	St. Thomas Aquinas Vigil	Denise, RIP
Sun.	29	9.00am 11.00am 3.15pm	SP SK SK	4th Sunday of Ordinary Time - A (Polish)	People of the Parish Michael Hodgetts, RIP

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** James Whittle, Angela Davis, Gwen Rigby, Kay O'Reilly, Joan Fletcher, Rosie Bell, Michael Forshaw and many others who are sick.

**ELIZABETH BLYTHE, R.I.P.:** In these last months since it was discovered that Elizabeth had a brain tumour, we have been praying as a parish for her, for Monica and David, her parents, and for Catherine, her sister. She died in New Zealand on Tuesday last. Now that her sufferings have ended, we pray with confidence to the Lord that He may bring her to the fulness of eternal joy; may she rest in peace. We pray for Monica, David and Catherine, that they may be strengthened by faith in the resurrection and be consoled by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

**THE PARISH MEAL** at Burgh-le-Marsh last week was a good opportunity for us to meet together and to relax, to celebrate also in this way the birth of Our Lord, especially after the difficulties of the last few years. Many thanks especially to Mary Flynn for organising this event and to the staff of The Windmill for looking after us so well.

**'WHITE FLOWER' APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SPUC** (Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child) last week. Thank you very much indeed for your very generous support once again for this Society, which seeks to defend innocent human life against deliberate direct suppression.

**SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND:** today.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** from 18th to 25th January each year we pray especially for Christian unity, together with Christians of other denominations. This week of prayer, also together, culminates, as always in the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

**MANY THANKS to Fr. Stanislaw Kowalski** for saying he 9.00 a.m. Mass in Spilsby on Sunday **and to Fr. Dominic O'Connor** for saying the 11.00 a.m. Mass in Skegness this weekend, especially at such short notice. I am most grateful to them both. I know that you will make them both very welcome and, in the case of Fr. Dominic O'Connor, will give a warm welcome back to your former parish priest.

God bless. Fr. G.J. Woodall.

**THE HALL:** open for teas and coffees after 11.00 a.m. Mass.

**GIFT AID:** This is a way for us to earn extra money on your offerings...it's free money from the government. For every £1 that you donate we can claim 25p back from the government this is crucial money because it goes towards the running cost of both churches. We were able to claim back £5,763 in 2021 which was critical in keeping both churches running. If you work or have a pension where you pay income tax and you haven't yet signed up to gift aid, then please think about it and sign up today. There are forms at the back of church, for you to fill in and return to Jacinta or me. If you want to discuss it first, then talk to Jacinta or email her on jacintalewis21@aol.com.

**FOOD BANKS:** The Food Bank in Spilsby has been operating for some time, that in Skegness had not resumed in the parish after the Covid outbreak. It is proposed to begin this once again in a couple of weeks' time, liaising with the Storehouse in Skegness. We shall need volunteers to take collected items (tinned and other NON-PERISHABLE foods) to the Storehouse. Please, let me know if you are willing to help in that capacity. Thank you for your help.

Collection:	Skegness	Spilsby	Total	INCOME: <u>8th Jan., 2023.</u>
Gift Aid:	£ 45-00	£125-00	£170-00	
Loose:	£180-66	£ 63-00	£243-66	
Total:	£225-66	£188-00	£413-66	= <b>£413-66.</b>
<b>SPUC White Flower Appeal:</b>	£119-79	£ 75-50	£195-29	= <b>£195-29.</b>
<b>Other:</b> Repository :		£17-82		
Mass offerings:		£30-00		
Mary's Meals (Crib offerings):	£ 6-57		Total:	= <b>£ 53-82.</b>
			<b>Overall:</b>	= <b>£662-77.</b>

Thank you very much.