



St Mary's Presbytery
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NRCDD – Registered Charity - 1134449

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic O'Connor

Deacon Martyn Chambers, Deacon David Witherick (Ret.)

Priest to the Polish Community: Fr Stanisław Kowalski SChr,

School: St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Ashlawn Drive,
Boston, PE21 9PX TEL: 01205 362092

Hospital: Pilgrim Hospital, Sibsey Road, Boston PE21 9QS

Prison: HMP North Sea Camp

If you know of a parishioner who is an in-patient at the Pilgrim hospital, please contact our Eucharistic Minister John McGarel (07585774745) , or Father at the Presbytery (01205362056) or Deacon Martyn (07753531859) .

In the Parish of Saint Mary's



Our Lady of the Rosary

*In the end my Immaculate Heart will
triumph! Fiat!*

Liturgical calendar

Day	Date	Time		Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Saturday	5	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Ita Sweeny RIP</i>
Sunday	6	9.30am 11.30am 1.00pm 4.00pm 5.30pm	Eng Pol Pol Latin Lith	First Lent	<i>For the people</i> <i>Rita Smedley RIP</i>
Monday	7	12.30pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Josephina Pepi Ford RIP</i>
Tuesday	8	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	
Wednesday	9	7.30pm	Pol	Lenten Feria	
Thursday	10	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Victor Gorins RIP</i>
Friday	11	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	
Saturday	12	9.30am 4.00pm	Eng Eng	Lenten Feria Vigil	<i>Matthew Jacob RIP</i>
Sunday	13	9.30am 11.30am 1.00pm	Eng Pol Pol	Second Sunday of Lent	<i>For the people</i>

Stations of the Cross for this week: Thursday 6.30pm

Adoration: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 3.00-4.00pm Holy Hour.

Confessions Saturday 8.50am – 9.20am. 3.15pm – 3.50pm
 Sunday 8.50am – 9.20pm

Other Devotions: Divine Mercy Devotions: Wednesdays 2.00pm



Parish **SYNOD** Information



Synod 2023 - A worldwide listening process

The diocesan draft Response to the Synod is (published this weekend / available at the back of church / on the parish website). Please take some time to read it, and send any further responses or reflections, by Saturday 19th March, directly to the Diocesan Co-ordinators: Father David Cain (david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or Joe Hopkins, Adult Formation Director for Mission (joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

We shall use this process to help our parish develop. Please do pray the prayer for the Church in general and our parish in particular. Many thanks for everyone's contributions and they have been noted. We have chosen two actions to focus on:

- 1) To form the parish into an evangelising parish by first catechising ourselves.
- 2) To develop local domestic church groups to help build community.

GDPR

Dear Parishioners,

We shall be distributing GDPR forms for you to sign. This is very important since it will enable us to draw up a parish register from your parish registration forms. Please do ensure that you return them. If you have not filled in a parish registration form or your details have changed, these will also be available. Much appreciated, Fr. Dominic.

DEANERY CHANGES

There is a proposal that our current deanery (Skegness, Holbeach+Spalding, Sleaford and Boston) will be expanded to form a South Lincolnshire deanery (with Oakham, Melton, Bourne+Deeping, Stamford and Grantham being added.) If you have a comment please speak to Father or Deacon Martyn. It is felt that our current deanery is too small to be effective. The clergy support the proposal. I don't think it will significantly effect the laity.



Announcements:

Thursday 10th March is the start of the novena to Saint Joseph – he is a very powerful intercessor. We could at home pray the Litany of Saint Joseph daily to prepare.

On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent the gospel will be taken from Year A because it keeps the flow of Lent: The Temptation, The Transfiguration, The Woman at the Well; The cure of the man born blind, The Raising of Lazarus. There is an ongoing theme of the working of grace which links to the great theme of baptism.

Website: Is being updated to include easy to access bulletin as well as posts by Father

A parishioner is now the lead dementia practitioner at the Pilgrim hospital, and we are blessed that he has offered his expertise to help any parishioner who may be an inpatient and who has been diagnosed with dementia. His offer of charity also extends to advising and helping the family of the inpatient. In the first instance should these criteria apply, please contact Hospital Chaplain Deacon Martyn.

Times for Confession If you would like confession outside of the confessional, please make an appointment with Father.

Diocesan Retreats: Sat 12th March Women (Doubleday Hilton) Dominican Sisters
Sat 19th March Men (Briars) Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Bookings are now open for the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage – under the leadership of Bishop Patrick, from Monday 4th until Friday 8th July. Full details are on the Tangney Tours website: or for more details contact Father Simon Gillespie (simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

EU Settlement Scheme: If anyone would like help with applying for this scheme please contact: EUSS team on 0800 448 0734

Shalom World's program, HeartTalk, this Sunday features a TV Interview with Bishop Patrick. The bishop speaks about his early life, his mission, his vision, and the ministries he is involved in through our diocese and the wider Church. The interview can be seen on Sunday 20th February, 7.30pm on www.shalomworld.org



Spiritual Thought for the Week...

When you go to confession, to this fountain of My mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My heart always flows down upon your soul and ennoble it. Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My mercy with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of my grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I myself am waiting for you there. I am only hidden by the priest, but I myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of Mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. Jesus to St Faustina (1602)



Dates for Your Diary!

8th March 1.30pm Women's Guild Meeting Parish Hall

12/13th March Second collection will be taken up for the Ukraine.

16th March Mass in Spalding 7.00pm for Peace in the Ukraine

18th March Service and Mass here with Polish Community for the Ukraine. Adoration 6.30pm, Mass 7.30pm

2nd April Parish Retreat Day. A day of preparation for Passiontide and Easter 10.00am – 10.00am- 4.00pm

Second Collections: 13th March Ukraine 15th April Holy Places
8th May Clergy Formation 29th May World Communication

Sunday Collection: 27th Feb 2022

Envelope: £138 Loose Plate: £255 Candles: £28 If donating by cheque please make it payable to Boston Roman Catholic Parish. Thank you for your financial support and those too who pay through the bank. A refund from HMRC July-Sept £1884.05 and Gift Aid Oct-Dec 21 has been submitted £7284.01

It has been brought to my attention that it has been a while since a financial report has been reported to the parish. We shall post an end of year report. Until then I shall try to put together a brief resume. But rest assured our finances are stable thanks to your generous donations.

OF YOUR CHARITY PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Rita Smedley RIP – a Catholic resident at Vauxhall Court
- Jenny Hunter who has moved to be nearer her daughter in Peterborough.
- The sick and housebound and for those who need your prayers, Alan Potter, Liam Lane, Valerie Bianco, Graham Parkinson, Barbara Goemans, Margaret Allday, Sadie Wheate, Jenny Hunter and particularly Jack Newell who is in hospital.
- Our First Holy Communion and Confirmation Students
- Peace in the world, particularly in the Ukraine.



From the Parish Priest's Desk...Our Lenten Journey.

Dear Faithful,

The First Sunday of Lent lays the foundation for Lent: the Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. We first notice that the Holy Spirit drives Our Lord into the desert. Our Lord is totally open to his Father's wishes and also, we should note it happens immediately after his baptism: hence, the harmony between his humanity and his divinity.

Christ goes out into the desert – the traditional place for testing, where the spiritual battles are fought whether it be the desert, the water and most importantly in the hearts of men, where Jesus constantly tells us the real battle is fought. It is the characteristic of a disciple of Jesus that he is willing to undergo the battles that are sent to him and does not seek to bypass them.

What is at the heart of Jesus' temptations? The devil does not seek to stop his mission for he knows already that to be impossible; instead he seeks to convince Jesus that the better way to achieve his goal is through materialism, power and titillation of the senses: vain miracles. In short he knows that if Jesus seeks to accomplish his mission without the cross, he will fail. Bishop Fulton Sheen called it three cuts from the cross.

This is precisely where the world is going wrong and we must also be on guard in our hearts: the world seeks to obtain happiness and well-being but without God and without the cross and hence will always be at a loss to understand suffering. St Paul makes it quite clear that the cross will always be either seen as foolishness or as a scandal. Hence we must be on our guard against materialism, control and being overawed by the wonders of technology.

Fasting is essential in this battle. Jesus has shown us by his forty days of fasting that if we are to triumph we need to fast. This does not only refer to food but fasting from those things that undermine our spiritual wellbeing. Although, the Church only mandates fasting twice a year (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday), I would encourage people to fast more regularly during Lent particularly Wednesday and Fridays. Fasting quiets the passions, strengthens the soul, gains grace – indeed the liturgy continually implies daily that we are doing some type of fast. However, please note fasting should not be extreme; it is enough to have one main meal and two small ones. More importantly, is to try and avoid eating between them and keeping them simple.

The testimony to fasting (it is often in diets referred to as intermittent fasting or 16/8) for physical health as well is everywhere. I strongly encourage fasting (cutting down in other words) from media and technology. Why is this so important? There is a danger which is well documented and now even admitted by companies that it overwhelms the senses and effects our recollection and peace. (See Marshall McLuhan – a Catholic convert incidentally.)



Cutting down on these things opens the mind up for dialogue with God. It encourages silence and enables us to become contemplatives. Fr. Thomas Dubay holds this to be one of the most important things to do if we are to be disposed for prayer.

One last thing and a very important one which gives us hope and confidence. Christ during his temptation in the desert, underwent each and everyone of our temptations and conquered them. He has given us the grace to be victors in the battle but we have to call upon these graces. When we fail – and we shall – at the heart of our failure is that we have drifted away from Christ in some way and to some degree and so leave ourselves exposed. Secondly, all temptations start with a thought which leads to a desire; then we sense the delight of the temptation and finally we consent. So guarding our thoughts is of the greatest importance. We must constantly observe them and be on our guard. We must pray to God to change our way of thinking which is linked with a change of heart. We must put to death our human hearts and replace them with Jesus' divine thoughts.

It is that strange paradox that the power of God dwells most fully in human weakness. When we are being tried and we feel the press of temptation, we must cry out to God that without him we cannot conquer but with his help we shall. The beautiful words at the end of the Te Deum: "In you O Lord I have hoped, I shall never be confounded."

God bless, Fr. Dominic

Fiat!



Retreat Day: Saturday 2nd April Church Hall

The Heart of Jesus

9.00am Rosary in church

9.30am Mass

10.00-10.30 Coffee

10.30am Talk 1

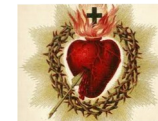
11.30-12.15pm Adoration with Benediction

Time for meditation/Confession

12.15pm Lunch – shared table

1.00pm Talk 2 – followed by meditation

2.45pm Wrap-up and depart



Bring bible, pen and paper and something for the shared table. If you can only attend one part of the day that is fine.

Parish Practices to help us:

RETREAT DAY (see below)

Held quarterly: Lent;
Easteride; September; Advent

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION:

Making reparation to the Sacred
Heart 5.00-7.00pm

