



St Mary's Presbytery
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NRCDT – 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	26	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Shepherd</i>
Sunday	27	9.30am 11.30am 1.00pm	Eng Pol Pol	Fourth Sunday of Lent “Gaudete” (182,600,772,846)	<i>For the people</i>
Monday	28	12.30pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Liam Breathnach</i>
Tuesday	29	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Benefactors</i>
Wednesday	30	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>Monthly Requiem</i>
Thursday	31	No Mass	Eng	Lenten Feria	
Friday	1	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>Grandparents RIP</i> <i>(N.M.)</i>
Saturday	2	9.30am 4.00pm	Eng Eng	Vigil	<i>K Williams</i>
Sunday	3	9.30am 11.30am 1.00pm 4.00pm 5.30pm	Eng Pol Pol Latin Lith	Fifth Sunday of Lent “Passion Sunday” (182,609,627,872)	<i>For the people</i>

Stations of the Cross for this week: Thursday 6.30pm

Adoration/Holy Hour: Mon,Tues 3.00pm, Wed (see below),
Before Mass also on weekdays

Confessions Saturday 8.50am – 9.20am. 3.15pm – 3.50pm (**NOT 2nd April**)
Sunday 8.50am – 9.20pm Fr Stan is also available before the evening
Polish masses at 7.00pm

Other Devotions: Divine Mercy Devotions: Wednesdays 2.00pm

Parish Information



EASTER TRIDUUM TIMES:

HOLY THURSDAY 7.30PM GOOD FRIDAY 3.00PM EASTER VIGIL 9.00PM

(Please note the Easter Vigil must be celebrated during the hours of darkness and with Easter being late this year, I consulted with other priests and it was felt 9.00pm was the proper time to start.)

Diocesan Re-structure

Do please keep Bishop Patrick especially in your prayers as he journeys around our diocese and consults about how to move our diocese forward in structure so as to aid mission and also given our reduction in the number of priests available.

Some Questions

Have we set some time aside this Lent to allow Jesus to enlighten us through his holy Word?

1. Do we use our labours, our sufferings, to redeem? Do we offer them up for people in reparation for sin?
2. Have we meditated and thanked God for the great gift of the faith which truly allows us to understand the world, our role in it and the end for which we were created? Gratitude is the base for spiritual advancement and to entreat God for more gifts.
3. Like the blind man who had to endure exile from the synagogue are we prepared to let nothing stop us from declaring that Jesus is truly the Son of Man?
4. Do we prayerful read and ponder the Scriptures? Essential, essential, essential.....

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:

Blessed News! Pauline Jaricot, the founder of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith [APF] is to be beatified in Lyons on 22nd May 2022. Find out about this remarkable lay woman in the spring edition of Missio's 'Mission Today' magazine [available in the Lady chapel at the back of church] or visit missio.org.uk/pauline.

27th April Annv of Abortion Act. Would anyone be willing to host a coffee/cake meeting near this time to raise funds and spread the message? In Eastertide so we can celebrate.

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.

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

Spiritual Thought for the Week...



Silence and memory go well in hand. We know that silence is not a void, but on the contrary by its very nature a fullness; but a plentitude when our thoughts are made known. Speech that is a result of bustle and noise is bound to be superficial. The seat of silence should be the depth of our being and that “being” only utters something true and profound when it comes from that silence, and is its expression..... (Do) not be afraid to set aside as far as possible at least some moments for recollection, and to give some time to Him Who is within them. It is in that silence that He speaks to us, and bids us listen to him. (A Carthusian “They speak by silences.”)

Dates for Your Diary!

Tues 29th March 1.30pm WOMEN'S GUILD Thank you to the ladies who attended the Women's Guild Meeting. There was some valuable discussion and many plans were made. Ladies with small children are very welcome to attend. Thank you.

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

15th April Good Friday Walk of Witness 11.00am

Second Collection FLOWER COLLECTION 2nd/3rd APRIL

15th April Holy Places 8th May Clergy Formation 29th May World Communication

WE HAVE SENT OUT A PARISH EMAIL TO ALL THE EMAIL ADDRESSES THAT WE HAVE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED SO YOU CAN RECEIVE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL DETAILS TO THE PARISH EMAIL (INCLUDE YOUR NAME). SOME EMAILS WERE RETURNED (25) AND IT COULD BE THAT THE ADDRESS WAS WRONG OR INCOMPATIBLE WITH OUR ADDRESS

Sunday Collection: 20th March 2022

Envelope: £ Loose Plate: £ Candles: £ 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 UKRAINE COLLECTION £1021

GIFT AID BOXES FOR 2022/3

Those who continue to donate with an envelope, please note: Due the lockdown and people paying via their bank accounts we have an excess of unissued boxes. This year we will issue 2021/2 boxes again to those existing users however, the box number in some cases will be different to the one used for this year. PLEASE ENSURE ALL PREVIOUSLY UNUSED ENVELOPES ARE DESTROYED / RECYCLED AFTER SATURDAY / SUNDAY 2ND / 3RD OF APRIL 2022 Boxes are available for collection from this Saturday as usual. Any query, please see me after Sunday Mass or call on 07778840886. Many thanks – Chaz Mayhew

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,

Why is this Sunday called "Laetare Sunday?"

This Sunday is so called by the opening word of the mass (Entrance Antiphon): **Rejoice – Laetare**. The Church interrupts the solemnity of her Lent. Flowers are permitted, the organ can play more fully and Rose vestments can be worn – this is similar to the third Sunday of Advent "Gaudete." Why? Mother Church wants to encourage us, Lent is more than half-way over and the great joy of the Resurrection will soon be upon us. So we must persevere and today allow ourselves a tasting of the great joy to come when our labours are over and Christ is risen.

How is the solemnity of the Sunday, one of the most solemn of the year, marked in Rome? Firstly, the station mass – each day in Lent the Pope would celebrate mass at a particular church - is held at the basilica of the "Holy Cross in Jerusalem." This contained the inscription placed on the cross as well as other instruments of the passion. What is the significance of this? It points us to the heavenly Jerusalem, which is our real homeland. We have to follow Christ in his passion to arrive at the heavenly temple where we shall have unending bliss. Secondly, the Pope blesses a golden rose and can anoint it with Chrism, which is then bestowed on a deserving person or place. In recent times, the popes have granted it to a particular place of devotion. The significance of this is that the colour, fragrance and beauty of the rose make us think of the spiritual joy that should be ours on this Sunday – indeed throughout our lives.

What is the main theme of today's mass? To recap briefly, we started on the First Sunday with the theme of Lent – the 40 days of Jesus in the desert and his temptation; this was followed by the Church showing us the goal of our efforts: our transfiguration in Christ. Last Sunday (IIIrd) the Church put before us the important symbol of water in our journey in the desert and that Christ comes to pour out the Holy Spirit – the living water – upon us; so during Lent we must avail ourselves of the sacraments. Today, the Church uses the image of light which will become increasingly important, and climaxing with the blessing of the Paschal Candle and the entrance into the Church. Christ IS the Light of the World. He comes to bring us out of darkness into the light by **the gift of Faith**. (See second reading)

Why does John recount the miracle of the man born blind? Firstly, the significance that this man was blind from birth. To the Jews that created a problem since affliction was regarded as coming from sin and in this case how could he have sinned or was it his parents? Our Lord is going to point the way to an important rethinking of suffering: not just as a result of sin (either personal or communal) but as a means of joining oneself to Christ's passion and therefore, we have now **redemptive suffering**. Truly we should have joy that our Lent, our sufferings are redemptive. This was foreshadowed in a very important book of the Old Testament: the book of Job. Job is a type (figure) of Christ since he suffers although innocent. Although, difficult reading this book can be very revealing.

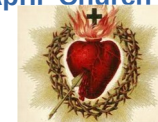
What is the most important miracle that happens? The account of John is masterly and humorous but the climax is not the cure but what comes at the end: namely, the man's profession of faith in Jesus: "Lord I believe." Throughout the Gospels, Jesus cures people not simply to make their lives easier but to increase their faith and love of him. Throughout the account, the man makes a profound journey. He speaks the truth and is prepared to accept rejection from the Pharisees rather than deny the truth. It may not seem a big deal to us, but the man was cast out of the synagogue because he stuck up for the truth; that meant a complete cutting off from society – he paid a heavy price for following the truth. But it leads him to **the greatest gift of all – the completely freely bestowed gift of faith**. It is that gift that should bring with it a spiritual joy and dedication to the gospel and being prepared to endure anything for the sake of the gospel truth. Note: being loyal to natural truth leads us with certainty to the supernatural truth of which it is in fact a part.

To believe is to see things in God's light. Often the evil of this world can get us down: adversity in our lives, economic hardship, anger in people etc and indeed the world is full of these things – "How can we see love when everything points the other way? We do not see it – we believe it. To believe is to see things in God's light; to leave everything to Him who says 'your bodily eyes and reason only see evil, but this is superficial. At the bottom of everything is love.....Believe my Word.' Faith does call for a big sacrifice but this same faith gives us a sense of security and peace, which might almost be called infinite, so surely does it rest on the word of God Himself. Here we have the profound secret of Christian serenity in the midst of the most painful trials, which are only passing, whereas the word of God is something eternal." (taken from a Carthusian monk "They Speak by Silences.")

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

