



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
<b>Saturday</b>	19	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	
Sunday	20	9.30am 11.30am 1.00pm 2.30pm 4.00pm	Eng Pol Pol Lith Latin	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	<i>For the people</i>
<b>Monday</b>	21	12.30pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Grimley/West RIP</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	22	9.30am 5.30pm 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>Emma RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	23	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	
<b>Thursday</b>	24	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Anna+Lilly RIP</i>
<b>Friday</b>	25	9.30am 5.30pm 7.30pm	Eng Syro Eng/Pol	THE ANNUNCIATION	
<b>Saturday</b>	26	9.30am 4.00pm	Eng Eng	Vigil	<i>Pepi Ford RIP</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	27	9.30am 11.30am 1.00pm	Eng Pol Pol	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	<i>For the people</i>

### Stations of the Cross for this week: Thursday 6.30pm

**Adoration/Holy Hour:** Tues 3.00pm, Wed (see below), Thurs 6.00pm Fri 3.00pm as well as before daily mass.

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

### Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Will be made by Pope Francis 25<sup>th</sup> March 4pm UK time. The English and Welsh Bishops will join this. Bp Patrick will do so at the end of his 1pm mass.

We shall join at 4.00pm at the end of our holy hour on Friday.

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION** – For this great feast there will be two masses 9.30pm and 7.30pm. I will be celebrant at the evening mass – it will be an English mass but we shall also have the gospel in Polish.

### 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.



## 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](http://missio.org.uk/pauline).

27<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Full details are on the Tangney Tours website: or for more details contact Father Simon Gillespie ( [simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto: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...



Every moment of our life has a purpose, every action of ours, no matter how dull or routine or trivial it may seem in itself has a dignity and a worth beyond human understanding. No man's life is insignificant in God's sight, nor are his works insignificant – no matter what the world or his neighbours or friends of family may think of them. Yet what a terrible responsibility is here. For it means no moment can be wasted, no opportunity missed, since each has a purpose in man's life and each has a purpose in God's plan. Think of your day..think of the people you met...of the work you did...what did it mean to you and what might it have meant for God?

(He Leadeth Me, Walter Cisek p.207)

## Dates for Your Diary!

**Tues 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Second Collection** 15<sup>th</sup> April Holy Places 8<sup>th</sup> May Clergy Formation 29<sup>th</sup> May World Communication

### **Sunday Collection:**13th March 2022

Envelope: £324 Loose Plate: £233 Candles: £21 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

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,

**What is the importance of the book of Exodus?** The book of Exodus is the story of Moses leading the people out of slavery in Egypt through the blood sprinkled on their lintels to the promised land. Christ, the new Moses, as we saw last week will start a new exodus from slavery and sin to the promised land by His own blood. However, the story of the journey in the desert teaches us a lot about the spiritual journey. The Jews were meant to make a short journey to the promised land in fifty days (cp Easter to Pentecost) but they would not trust in God and continued therefore to fail in the ten tests He set them (cp Ten plagues of Egypt). They would not leave behind them the gods of Egypt. God gave them what was to be a place of rest (Rephidim – Ex 17:1) so that they could accomplish the journey easily but they would not trust Him thinking it impossible that He could provide drink for so many people and cattle. Therefore they rebelled and it became a place of bitterness. (Massah)

**What is the relevance for our Lenten journey?** Like the Israelites, we shall face tough tests in Lent because we are fighting an internal battle against our faults. We must learn to trust in God believing that He has the power to heal us and to provide help in our battle with our faults even when it seems hopeless to us and that we are going to die of thirst. We must also leave aside our own gods – whatever they be – if we are not going to perish in the desert like the first generation of the Israelites – why perish? Because this life will not accept mediocrity or half-heartedness or lukewarmness (cp Hebrews). We must throw away the weights that hinder us from moving quickly. “The desert does not allow any compromise: it brutally obliges you to make a choice: between the inhospitable path, the endless advance with the bare minimum of baggage – or death.” (The Hermitage Within)

**What will be our food in our Lenten journey?** God fed the people with bread from heaven, Manna (Ex 16:15) but we shall be fed with something far greater: The eternal word who took flesh (Feast of the Annunciation on Monday) will be our food: we have scripture and contemplation where we will receive spiritual refreshment and of course the Eucharist: the Holy Spirit will guide us surely with sweetness and light through the desert of our trial – as the angels ministered to Jesus.

**What will be our drink? The importance of the Gospel.** The greatest danger in a desert is dehydration and thirst. It was a test that was given to the Israelites three times. Water is essential. God led the people to Elim where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees (Ex 15:27 – Lc 10): twelve apostles and seventy disciples. God then gave them water from the rock at Horeb (Numbers 20:8) Moses took his staff and struck the rock. This episode is important because the rock is a type of Christ who gives us the real water of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul himself tells us this: “they all drank from the supernatural rock that accompanied their travels – and that rock was Christ.” St. Paul also warns us “these events happened as symbols to warn us not to set our desires on evil things as they did.”

**Water and the Gospel of St. John.** Water is a vital image in the Gospel of Saint John. Why? It is the first element of life and therefore of humanity and occurs in different forms with different meanings: springs = source of life, element of creation; great rivers = give life to the land; the sea = power and majesty, crossing the sea implies baptism. (cf Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict XVI). In Chapter 3 Jesus tells Nicodemus that “no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from water and the Spirit.” Chapter 7 sees Jesus’ cry “if anyone is thirsty let him come to me; whoever believes in me let him drink.” Chapter 9 the blind man has to wash; Chapter 13 Jesus washes the apostles’ feet and at the crucifixion (19) water pours from the side of Christ. Some very important themes not least that water is changed into wine (Cana) and wine into blood (Last supper) and that blood is poured out for us.

**The Samaritan Woman** She is so like us; we focus on the material plane of things, we think of what we need for our bodily well being and can be in danger of losing sight of the spiritual message. But Christ, as he did with the Samaritan woman, will lift us higher and make us thirst for the only true water that can quench our thirst. All that is required on our part is to drink from the rock and to worship “in spirit and in truth.” But if we ponder the Gospel message that requires that we are ready to listen, ready to be lifted higher and then ready ourselves to go out to the harvest to bring others to the spring of life.

Have we set some time aside this Lent to refresh ourselves in the desert with Jesus? What are our gods? What keeps us weighed down in the desert and stops us moving to the oases? Attachment to certain sins? Attachment to material goods? Pride? Have we meditated on the great gifts that we have been given on our journey? Do we make use of the sacraments of confession and the Eucharist? Are we reading the word of God? Have we considered that like the pillar of cloud and fire we must move when God commands and rest when He commands? Rest is important. Leisure is the basis of true culture. Do we take enough rest so that Jesus can refresh us? (to refresh means to make anew.) God bless, Fr. Dominic *Fiat!*

### **Retreat Day: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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;  
Eastertide; September; Advent

### **FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION**

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION:**  
Making reparation to the Sacred  
Heart 5.00-7.00pm

