



St Mary's Presbytery
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NRCDDT – 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	2	4.00pm	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>
Monday	4	12.30pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Baldomero Gomes RIP</i>
Tuesday	5	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Idinha Gomes RIP</i>
Wednesday	6	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Eng/Pol	Lenten Feria	
Thursday	7	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	
Friday	8	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>Mary, Michael, Clifford Speed RIP</i>
Saturday	9	9.30am 4.00pm	Eng Eng	Vigil	<i>J. Antao RIP</i>
Sunday	10	9.30am 11.30am 1.00pm	Eng Pol Pol	Palm Sunday	<i>For the people</i>

Stations of the Cross for this week: Thursday 6.30pm

Adoration/Holy Hour: Thurs 5.30pm 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: Not this Wednesday (6th April)

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.



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.

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...



Two things are necessary for prayer to grow beyond the stage of set formulas and petitions to the stage when it becomes a personal encounter with the most loveable man ever to walk on this earth. The first is to find space and time in which to stop being busy about many things so there can be time to come to terms with Christ's death and to celebrate his continuing life and love. The second thing is to read and re-read every word that has been written about him in the Gospels and to read everything that he said because that is addressed to us personally. These sacred words are precious so they should be read slowly and carefully to experience their impact.

(Wisdom from the Christian Mystics. D. Torkington)

Dates for Your Diary!

10th April Palm Sunday: Procession from Hall

15th April Good Friday Walk of Witness 11.00am (outside Centenary Church – Red Lion street nr Market Square)

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

Sunday Collection: 27th March 2022

Envelope: £133 Loose Plate: £246 Candles: £40 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 Oct-Dec £1890.50 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

- 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 this Sunday and why did it used to be called Passion Sunday? The fifth Sunday of Lent used to be called Passion Sunday – now this tends to be used for Palm Sunday – because it marked the two weeks leading to Easter when we now focus exclusively on Our Lord's passion. In the Divine Office one is still permitted to use the Liturgical hymns for Holy Week. So we are now entering into this solemn period of the Church's Liturgical year.

What marks out Passion Sunday?

In contrast with Laetare Sunday with its flowers, organ, rose vestments and a joyful presence, the Church begins its period of the commemoration of Our Lord's passion with the cross, statues of Our Lady and the saints being veiled in purple. Although, often this is not done in Churches – or it is carried out on Palm Sunday – this is an excellent practice and one that can be followed in our homes. Why? Because our attention now must be focused on Our Lord. The malice of his enemies grows and they plot his death. We must commiserate during this time with Jesus. This is not a time for joy and festivities but grief.

What is the main theme of today's mass and what is its significance?

The gospel account of the raising of Lazarus dominates this Sunday. But to understand its significance we must first take a step back. Three themes dominate Lent and all the Liturgical readings must be seen in their light: Firstly the passion of Our Lord; secondly, the preparations of the catechumens who will receive baptism at the Easter Vigil and thirdly, the reconciliation of sinners to the Church – in olden days public penitents were readmitted to Church on Maundy Thursday. (This last is not so common but is very important, since we shall be renewing our baptismal vows cleansed of sin.) These are all connected for it is our Lord's death on the cross that gives new life to those being baptised and brings forgiveness of sin. Hence, the bodily resurrection of Lazarus prefigures our spiritual rebirth at Easter – the mystery was accomplished once and for all when our Lord gave up his life on the cross and rose from the dead; but that same mystery we are about to live through and participate in it again – really and truly. Those being baptised at the Easter Vigil are going to receive new life, a baptism into Our Lord's death and resurrection. But we also are going to renew our baptismal vows.

What is the pattern of the gospels leading up to Easter?

Holy Mother Church teaches us through the Liturgy which is the fount of all wisdom and from which we draw our lives. We have had three readings from John: The Samaritan woman by the well (chp 4), the cure of the man born blind (Chp 9) and now the raising of Lazarus (chp 11). We know from ancient liturgical texts that these were placed on these particular Sundays. Why? They relate to the examination of the candidates for baptism, termed "Scrutinies" which take place on these Sundays. These gospels contain the essence of the faith.

The Samaritan woman points the catechumens – incidentally this word simply means one instructed – to the Messiah who is going to pour out the "living water"; hence, she is the model for those who wish to learn more and who wish to proclaim Jesus the messiah. The episode of the Blind Man shows their journey of faith that they must follow and that they must confess Jesus as Lord whatever that may cost and by doing so publically in baptism they enter into a solemn covenant. Finally, the resurrection of Lazarus is rich in meaning: we see the growth in faith of Martha and Mary - Martha proclaims him to be the Christ, the one who was to come into the world." Mary acknowledges that if he had been present her brother would not have died. But most importantly, the resurrection clearly points to the resurrection of Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live."

What is the dramatic import of the raising of Lazarus from the dead in Our Lord's life?

We see a sadness in Our Lord – He is deeply disturbed, he is in great distress. Why? Partly human sorrow for Lazarus; partly, sadness at the lack of faith of those around him but Jesus also recognises that this his greatest and most clearly demonstrated miracle will not be enough for some – they are now set upon his death and also the death of Lazarus; for this miracle had been witnessed by many and brought about their conversions. But Jesus also knew what was in men's hearts and what he was about to suffer and this episode ushers in the greatest of all dramas.

An aside: the importance of praying these scriptures and following the liturgical texts.

Throughout these Lenten pieces, we have emphasised that by reading and re-reading the scriptures we come to see the face of Jesus and the Holy Spirit enlightens our hearts. Pope Emeritus Benedict : "This encounter with the divine Word must lead to a profound change of life, to a radical identification with the Lord and his Gospel, to become fully aware that it is necessary to be solidly cemented in Christ, acknowledging that 'one does not begin to be Christian because of an ethical decision or a great idea, but because of the encounter with an event, with a Person, who gives a new horizon to life and, with it, a decisive orientation'" ("Deus Caritas Est," No. 1). So all we need to do in the next two weeks is follow what the Church puts before her in the mass and solemn liturgical ceremonies....but prayerfully.

How is our preparation for the Paschal mystery going? Are we spiritually well prepared? We still have time – now is the time of grace if we but ask.

God bless, Fr. Dominic *Fiat!*

