



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,
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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 Father at the Presbytery (01205 362056) 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	10	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil <i>Dec Clergy Assoc</i>
Sunday	11	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete <i>Parish</i>
Monday	12	10.30am	Eng	Requiem Mass <i>Lucy Hilton RIP</i>
Tuesday	13	9.30am	Eng	St Lucy
Wednesday	14	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	St John of the Cross <i>NDL</i>
Thursday	15	No Mass		Advent Feria
Friday	16	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Advent Feria <i>Sebastian Matthew RIP</i>
Saturday	17	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil <i>Adv Angels intns</i>
Sunday	18	9.30am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Pol Latin Pol	4th Sunday Advent <i>Parish</i> <i>Amanda Marie RIP</i>

Divine Mercy: Wednesday 2.00pm

Adoration/Holy Hour:

Confessions: Saturday After morning mass and 3.15-4.00pm **Sunday** 8.55-9.20am

Dear Parishioners, Our Lady is asking us to pray for peace. Please come and join us in our Holy Rosary and hour of prayer. We meet every Wednesday at 2pm Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas. God bless, Divine Mercy Group.

Church Cleaners: my sincere thanks to everyone who helps with our Church cleaning. Thank you for giving up your time all year round to keeping our Church looking spotless through all your hard work. Wishing you and your families a Holy and Peaceful Christmas

APPEAL FOR MORE CHURCH CLEANERS. Please see Father or Reji. Monday mornings. If we get enough people we could have a rota. The burden is now falling on just a few. If you would like to clean but Monday mornings don't work, don't worry.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24th Vigil Mass 5.00pm
Midnight Mass starts 11.30pm with Office of Readings

25th 6.45am Dawn Mass (Latin)
9.30am Day Mass



IMPORTANCE OF ONGOING FORMATION/CATECHESIS

NO PRAYER GROUP THIS THURSDAY

CATECHISTS' FORMATION & TRAINING - SEE NOTICE IN NARTHEX.

Spiritual Thought for the Week...

Nevertheless, it happens not infrequently in history, for more or less lengthy periods and under the influence of many different factors, that the moral conscience of many people becomes seriously clouded. "Have we the right idea of conscience?"-I asked two years ago in an address to the faithful" Is it not true that modern man is threatened by an eclipse of conscience? By a deformation of conscience? By a numbness or 'deadening' of conscience," Too many signs indicate that such an eclipse exists in our time. This is all the more disturbing in that conscience, defined by the council as "the most secret core and sanctuary of a man," is "strictly related to human freedom.... For this reason conscience, to a great extent, constitutes the basis of man's interior dignity and, at the same time, of his relationship to God." It is inevitable therefore that in this situation there is an obscuring also of the sense of sin, which is closely connected with the moral conscience, the search for truth and the desire to make a responsible use of freedom. When the conscience is weakened the sense of God is also obscured, and as a result, with the loss of this decisive inner point of reference, the sense of sin is lost. This explains why my predecessor Pius XI, one day declared, in words that have almost become proverbial, that "the sin of the century is the loss of the sense of sin." (Reconciliation and Penance St. JP II)

Dates for your diary!

This weekend 11th December Second Collection : Poor and Needy parishes

Monday 12th November Funeral Mass for Lucy Hilton RIP

Sunday 18th December retiring collection for Christmas Flowers.

The Women's Guild will meet in the church hall on Tuesday 13th December at 1:30pm. We will have fun and party games, a raffle and a Bring and Buy stall. Everyone is welcome. Thank you.

Every weekend of Advent from 26th November to 18th December handmade angels will be on sale at £1 each in the narthex. Place your angels dedicated to your loved ones on the tree or take them home to place on your own tree. All angels have been made by members of the Women's Guild.

The 4pm Mass on Saturday 17th December will be said for all the intentions mentioned on the Advent Angels Tree. Thank you for supporting Care Home India.

Adult Instruction/Prayer group weekly on Thursdays after evening mass 7.30-8.30pm (NOT 15th December)

Diane Chambers on behalf of Boston Women's Refuge , wishes to extend their thanks and most sincere appreciation for the wonderful donation of £519.30 which was recently collected. Thank you so much everybody for your generosity and your support. Please remember the refuge staff and their resident families in your prayers.

Sunday Collection: 4th December 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. We have now received repayments from HMRC in respect of your Gift Aid claim for the quarter ended 30/09/22. The amount due to the parish is £1639.00

Thank you all for gift aiding your donations. Chaz Mayhew. (07778840886)

WOMEN'S REFUGE APPEAL: £519 – thank you for your great generosity.

OF YOUR CHARITY PLEASE PRAY FOR

- RIP Patrick Walsh. Teresa Stillwell. Lucy Hilton RIP. Patrick Nolan RIP
- The sick and housebound and for those who need your prayers, Alan Potter, Liam Lane, Valerie Bianco, Graham Parkinson, Sadie Wheate, Fay Cowell, David Locking and Jack Newell. Michael Campbell



From the Parish Priest's Desk....

Dear Faithful,

Christmas is fast approaching and the words “getting into the Christmas spirit” or similar are used frequently. Our thoughts turn to the preparations that we need to make: cards, presents, preparing the food and drink. For many years Advent – especially as a penitential season – has really ceased to have any significance in the wider world or the fact that Christmas starts on the 25th December and lasts twelve days and then a further twenty-eight. Secular society has made going back to a correct appreciation of Christmas difficult if not impossible for most people.

What is the true spirit that we should be having at this time?

Contemplation: Our Lady constantly meditated on the mystery that was unfolding; pondering the words of the prophets, especially Isaiah. She must have suffered great trials and disruption in her life journeying to Bethlehem but she knew the Saviour was to be born. Nothing can replace a quiet time reading the scriptures which give us the true story of Christmas and the true story is something much more marvelous than we might think.

We have to base our life on the example of John the Baptist and his message. We have to change, we have to repent and to realize that in many ways our lives have fallen short of what the Lord has asked of us. This is going to mean doing violence to ourselves (cf Mt 11). Our conversion, however, has to be ongoing and real. This week Our Lord told us that from the day of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of God is suffering violence and the violent are bearing it away (Mt 11: 12). Very powerful words!

For our conversion to be real, deep, life-changing it is going to mean doing violence to our self-love, to our self-will. Sometimes this is going to lead to martyrdom as in many parts of the world – Pope Francis told us quite clearly that every Christian has to be prepared for this in spirit at least. But for most of us it is going to be the little way of St Therese. Doing violence to ourselves is simply conforming ourselves to God's will – to embrace what He sends us in our daily lives; to be loyal to our duties of state. That alone constitutes heroic sanctity and will gain us the Kingdom of Heaven. Quite simply let us pray for the grace to embrace what God sends us and to accomplish faithfully and with love the duties that He has also sent us. The Christmas spirit is that of the love of the Son for his Father and who was prepared to obey his Father's wishes even to taking flesh and being born in a stable.

Paradoxically, it is when we choose to live the Christ-Life that the real joy of Christmas come into our souls – a deep peace springing from the fact that the light has entered the darkness and the darkness could not overcome it. This in turn will enable us to bear witness to the truth as John the Baptist did. So whilst we will all have to conform in some ways to a pre-Christmas Christmas, let us at least in our hearts store up that expectation that whilst we approach the shortest day of the year and darkness is at its greatest, a new light is about to dawn for us and a Saviour will be born who is Christ the Lord. God bless, Fr.D

The three masses of Christmas

- 1) The first mass takes place at **Midnight** because as we learn from Wisdom 18: 14-15 (cf Introit for the mass of the Sunday within the octave of the Nativity) “all things are resting in a quiet silence and the night is in the middle of her journey, it was then that the almighty Word of God came down from heaven, from his mighty throne.” So all is quiet and silent, even the troubled Roman Empire is at peace. The plan of God from all eternity steals silently into our consciousness. Thus, it is important that the mass take place at Midnight. This mass in particular celebrates the historical birth of Jesus.
- 2) The historical birth of Christ prepares us for the birth that must take place in our hearts. For the Nativity will have no effect upon us, unless this second birth takes place in our souls. The second mass of Christmas is called the **Mass at Dawn** and it puts before us this theme. It is a pity that this mass is generally not as well attended.
- 3) The Church, as the mother she is, has led us through two of the mysteries: the historical birth and the spiritual birth in our hearts; but she has left the greatest mystery for what we call the **Day Mass**. It has no set time allocated to it – unlike the first two – because we are to contemplate something eternal, something which like the day itself enlightens all men coming into the world. For the child that was born for us is also the Son of God eternally generated by the Father. Hence the chants are going to be full of wonder and admiration.

These three masses are masses of Christmas, when we participate in them, we are participating in the mystery of Christmas. **The Vigil Mass** whilst fulfilling the obligation of attending mass is a mass of watching and expectation but the child is not born.

