



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	14	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Chad</i>
Sunday	15	9.30am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Pol Latin Pol	2 nd Sunday of the Year	<i>Parish</i>
Monday	16	12.30pm	Eng	Feria	<i>Brigitta</i>
Tuesday	17	9.30am	Eng	St Anthony Abbot	<i>Tyron</i>
Wednesday	18	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Thursday	19	7.00pm	Eng	Feria	<i>J.Lynch RIP fm</i>
Friday	20	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	<i>Thomas M.C. RIP</i>
Saturday	21	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Foundational Mass</i>
Sunday	22	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	3 rd Sunday of the Year	<i>Parish</i>

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.

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.

Excellent Podcast Available: The Catechism in a Year with Fr Mike Schmitz – good way to get to know your faith.

ADORATION

Thanks to those who have expressed an interest in helping with adoration. Please could they either email or write down days/times of their availability. Many thanks.

Divine Mercy: Wednesday 2.00pm

Adoration/Holy Hour: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 3.00pm this week.

Confessions: Saturday 3.30pm; 8.50am Father Stan also hears confessions before the Polish Masses.





At the general audience on Wednesday, 4th Jan., Pope Francis said of Pope Benedict: “His acute, but respectful thinking was not something designed to draw attention to himself, but it was ecclesial (focused upon the Church) because he sought to accompany us towards our encounter with Jesus. Taking us by the hand, Jesus, crucified but risen from the dead, the Living One and the Lord, was the destination to which Pope Benedict has led us. May he help us to discover in Christ the joy of believing and the hope of life.”

Pope Benedict XVI – we mourn the loss of a great and holy man who sacrificed himself out of love of Christ and for the Church. He may well have been the greatest theologian of the twentieth century. Apart from his papal encyclicals and numerous books, he left us his three volume work “Jesus of Nazareth.” He felt this was so important that he took time from his busy schedule to write it He wanted to remind us of the importance of meeting Jesus – this has an historical dimension but of far greater importance is the spiritual meeting that transcends time and space.

I was privileged to meet him when he was still a cardinal and what struck me most was his gentleness and humility; also, his ability to listen. Let us continue to pray for the repose of his soul. I hope that one day he will be canonised and become a doctor of the Church.



Dates for your diary!

PLANS TO OPEN THE CHURCH DURING THE DAY IN THE NEW YEAR

These are nearly complete but it will mean that the door from the sanctuary to the sacristies will be kept locked. The key to access the sacristies (counters, florists, sacristans, Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist) will be in the key safe outside the Church. Code is available from Father. I would also like to start regular periods of Adoration so please see Father if you would be willing to take a slot – we would require two people for each slot.)

Second Collections: 15th January Sick and Retired Priests; 7th April Holy Places; 30th April Clergy formation Fund.

Sunday Collection: 11th December 2022

Envelope: £121 Loose Plate: £294 Candles: £24 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)

Nativity Angel/Crib Donations: £272

Cards, Angels etc raised £358.50 for Care Home India The Claretian fathers are very grateful for your 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
- Alvin and Eia who will be married this Friday.
- RIP Pope Benedict; Cardinal Pell; Beryl Pierson



From the Parish Priest's Desk....

The death of Pope Benedict marks the passing of one of the great thinkers of the last hundred years and also one of the guardians of the faith. I do not think it a coincidence that he died on the vigil of the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. He was a man often misunderstood, often misjudged and often unfairly vilified. Yet he possessed the ability to appeal to a wide range of people and to be able to overcome their prejudices. I think of his visit to the UK in the Autumn of 2010. There was a frenzy of media criticism and everyone expected the visit to be a public relations disaster.

Yet it was a triumph. His visit was not only received lovingly by Catholics but his speech to the civil society in the Palace of Westminster was a tour de force. He has the ability – although a professional theologian – to write in a manner understood by many. However, his greatest battle and the one which was most understood was his defence of orthodoxy.

Let me make a personal selection of his important contributions:

- To seek God – *quaerere Deum* – everything must be orientated to this and anything that separated itself from this – be it culture, politics, morality – will eventually lose its way. Therefore, we can learn from our monastic inheritance and the life of monks. “Their goal was: *quaerere Deum*. Amid the confusion of the times, in which nothing seemed permanent, they wanted to do the essential – to make an effort to find what was perennially valid and lasting, life itself. They were searching for God.” He goes on to say that their lives were therefore centred on what was eternal as opposed to what was temporal. Benedict did not set out to found a culture or restore civilisation – he sought to seek God and culture was what resulted from this. Hence why he chose the name, Benedict.
- Pope Benedict taught that God has left us signposts for this journey which will guide us most surely: Firstly, the Word of God.

“We ourselves are brought into conversation with God by the word of God. The God who speaks in the Bible teaches us how to speak with him ourselves. Particularly in the book of Psalms, he gives us the words with which we can address him, with which we can bring our life, with all its highpoints and low points, into conversation with him, so that life itself thereby becomes a movement towards him.”

But influenced by Jean Leclercq, he taught that love of God also requires a culture, a love of learning. Christianity does not exist in a vacuum, it will engender and at the same time depend upon culture as its seed bed. Hence the importance of the Library, the pursuit of Science in the proper sense of the word – natural knowledge. We call things by subjects now: Physics, Chemistry etc but in reality they are philosophy (wisdom/knowledge) of the natural world.



- The importance and love of beauty. Benedict saw beauty as the most important way to evangelise, for in beauty we glimpse the other. Hence, his promotion of beautiful liturgy, the importance of chanting the psalms which lifts us up to God. For Benedict beauty was not subjective, just based on personal preferences but was an objective reality and to leave behind our inheritance is to undermine the foundations of culture and the Church. We must remember the three things that transcend everything: the GOOD, the TRUE and the Beautiful. Therefore, Liturgy that is not beautiful will undermine the reality that is being sought.
- Finally, Pope Benedict in his book “The Spirit of the Liturgy” sought to bring into contemporary times the spirit of liturgical renewal of the 1920s.. In his own words he did not seek to produce a scholarly, academic work but to produce a work that would help our understanding of faith and how to give that faith its central form of expression in the liturgy. In other words how does our mass reflect and express our faith and how to we best participate in this.

In all these aspects Pope Benedict sought to address what he saw as the Number one problem in the world and the church – relativism. For him there was objective truth and that truth was Jesus Christ. But to pursue him requires a discipline, a fidelity to Truth.

- Pope Benedict after he retired gave himself to a life of prayer for the Church. Pope John Paul II wanted to give an example to the Church that one must persevere to the end and lay down one's life for the flock. Pope Benedict gave a parallel example that when all is said and done, in the end our achievement will lie in whether we are people of prayer. A life of prayer is a life of sacrifice which is a life of love. We shall not know at the present time what spiritual role Benedict has played since his retirement but I suspect that it was his greatest.

God bless, Fr. Dominic.

