

Dear Faithful,

The Epiphany – or the showing forth of the Divinity – contains three separate events in the life of Our Lord. Firstly, the visit of the Magi; secondly, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and lastly, the marriage feast of Cana. What is God trying to tell us through these events and what is the connection between them.

Firstly, and most importantly, the showing forth of God – in the human nature of Jesus – shows us just how much he loves us, how dear to him we are. So dear that he was prepared to become one of us, in all things but sin. He became a little child so that no one dare not approach him. Everything in our lives must start from this fundamental reality: God loves us.

Secondly, God loves us so much that he wants to communicate his very life to us so that we might participate in it. He did not come to simply put a plaster over our wounds and let us continue as we were. No! He comes to transform, to baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire so that we might be taken up into his very life. This will be accomplished at the beginning through Baptism which brings about instantaneously this very change.

Thirdly, we see the manifestation of the divinity in total humility and self- denial. The Son totally abased himself, was born in a stable, suffered and was prepared to undergo John's baptism to teach us that.

What must we do?

- Acknowledge our nothingness, realise that all we need to do is to go to the fountain of living water, to drink without having to pay.
- Acknowledge that we need conversion and repentance – that we need to be transformed like the water at Cana into wine. That is all that is needed: acknowledge our need and open our hearts.
- Follow his example: learn to give of our very being in love to others.

Why do so many then refuse the invitation?

- We don't like to surrender; we like to (as Adam and Eve did) believe that we are gods. That we are not nothing, that we do not require God's love and transforming power.
- In a strange paradox, we have burdens but we don't actually want to put them down.

The Chosen Season 3 is upon us and I strongly recommend Episode 3 that deals with this very problem. Jesus proclaims that he has come to set us free – right now – but whilst some accept, many reject – almost because it is all too normal, too seemingly ordinary = after all he was the son of a carpenter. Let us ask Mary to always keep us humble, always needy, always desiring the wedding feast of the Kingdom. Blessings to all for 2023, Fr. Dominic.

Saint Mary's Parish *Our Lady of the Rosary*



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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 Deacon Martyn (07753531859) .

Liturgical calendar

Day	Date	Time		Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Saturday	7	4.00pm		Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
Sunday	8	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	The Baptism of O.L.J.C	<i>Parish</i>
Monday	9	12.30pm	Eng	Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Tuesday	10	9.30am	Eng	Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Wednesday	11	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	<i>Friends/ Benefactors</i>
Thursday	12	7.00pm	Eng	Feria	<i>Simone's Intns</i>
Friday	13	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	<i>Jacinta</i>
Saturday	14	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Chad</i>
Sunday	15	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	2nd Sunday of the Year	<i>Parish</i>

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIMES THIS WEEK.

Divine Mercy: 2.00pm

Adoration/Holy Hour:

Confessions: Saturday 3.15-3.50pm Sunday 8.55-9.20am

Dates for your diary!

Pickup your blessed chalk and information to bless your houses this Epiphany

Prayer Group resumes after Thursday evening mass.

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: 1st January 2023

Envelope: £143 Loose Plate: £416 Candles: £50 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)

Second Collection Christmas Flowers £199

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

- 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
- Pope Benedict RIP Beryl Pierson RIP
- Sofia Fovaite who was baptised this Saturday.

