



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,
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 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	18	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Mary Ward RIP</i>
Sunday	19	9.30am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Pol Latin Pol	6th Sunday of the Year	<i>Parish Carol Fox RIP</i>
Monday	20	12.30pm	Eng	Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Tuesday	21	9.30am	Eng	Feria	
Wednesday	22	10.00am 6.30pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol	Ash Wednesday	
Thursday	23	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>A. Rethinam RIP</i>
Friday	24	No Mass 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	
Saturday	25	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Bernadette Ward RIP</i>
Sunday	26	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	1 st Sunday of Lent	<i>Parish</i>

Please note change of mass times/adoration this week.

Divine Mercy: Wednesday 2.00pm

Adoration/Holy Hour: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4.00-5.00pm

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

ORGANISATION OF THE PARISH

We need to bring the parish together and improve our organisation.

- We are gradually improving our **parish data base** but please will new parishioners fill in a form in the narthex (entrance).
- Also, we would like to improve **email communication**. Alas, a fair few entered came back. We will send out this week send an email to those whose information we have. If you don't receive one and would like to be on the list please email us at the parish email address on the front cover giving also your full name. Thanks.
- Lastly, more details will be forthcoming of this – we should like to organise the parish into local groups which will aid greatly our parish unity, power and mission. We could call these **parish cells** in the sense that they contain the living dna of the parish.
- The plan that seems to have found widespread acceptance is to **unify the parish** under one umbrella rather than the danger of Saint Mary's becoming simply a physical church for different communities.

This organisation is vital but we need your help and involvement. The organisation though is not an end but a means to becoming a holy, unified parish of one heart and mind. See Act 2

Father will be working at how best to make available the means of salvation.

As always Deacon Martyn and Fr. Dominic are open to your comments, advice etc.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2: 42-47)



Unbound: 'Freedom in Christ' Conference in Lincoln, UK:12th-14th May 2023 WEEKEND: Friday 12th May, 6:00pm start to Sunday 14th May, 5.00pm finish @ Our Lady of Lincoln Roman Catholic Church, Laughton Way, Lincoln LN2 2HE Teaching Conference to learn about the 5 Keys of Unbound Prayer ministry. Find out how to close the doors on sin and evil influences and live an abundant life in Jesus! For more details see website for unbound Lincoln: unboundprayer.com

Retreats in the Diocese of Nottingham this Lent – After the great success last year, The Diocese of Nottingham is again offering day retreats to help you grow closer to God this Lent. There is a FREE Young Adults (18-35) retreat in Derby on Saturday 11th a Men's Retreat on Saturday 18th March and a Women's Retreat on Saturday 25th March. The Men's and Women's Retreat will be held at the Rosmini House of Prayer (LE7 4SJ) and cost £20 which will include lunch and a light breakfast. To book your place or for more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events, email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham or call 0115 953 9841.



Spiritual Thought for the Week...

*When you come to adoration, put aside every anxiety and care of yours, and allow the Holy Spirit gently to unite you to the prayer that arises from my Eucharistic Heart to the Father. Every need of yours is contained in the prayer I offer my Father. Be at peace. You may want to pray for this thing or that and such prayer is pleasing to my Father, but there is another way, a higher way, and that is to yield to the prayer of my Sacred Heart present in the most holy Eucharist and in the glory of heaven.
(In Sinu Jesu The journal of a priest at prayer.)*

Dates for your diary!

Weekend 25/26th Fr Simon Gillespie is kindly covering the weekend masses.

Stations of the Cross in Lent: English Thursday 6.00pm Keralan Friday 6.00pm

AFTERNOON TEA An afternoon tea in aid of Centrepoint Boston will be held on Friday 24th March at 2pm in St Mary's Church Hall Tickets £10 each. Raffle and entertainment. Please support this worthwhile charity as part of our Lenten appeal. All welcome.

Abel ,Akhil and Reece would like to say a massive 'thank you' to you all , for your wonderful generosity and charity . You have contributed £800.00 which is a great help in enabling them to go on the Dioceses Pilgrimage to Lourdes for the Sick and disabled ,when they will be busy as part of the caring team. Thank you so much.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Thanks to everyone who came to the meal at Prezzo's. A good time was had by all.The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st February in the church hall at 1;30pm. We will focus on Lent and the contribution we can make to charities. The following meeting is on Tuesday 14th March .All welcome. Thank you.

Second hand books for sale in the narthex – make a donation as you see fit.
Second Collections: 7th April Holy Places; 30th April Clergy formation Fund.

Sunday Collection: 5th February 2023

Envelope: £118 Loose Plate: £218 Candles: £30 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. The Gift Aid return for December has been submitted for £6756.80. Thank you all for gift aiding your donations. Chaz Mayhew. (07778840886)

Second Collection: Sick and Retired Priests: £273

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

PLEASE NOTE THIS LIST WILL BE UPDATED IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS SO IF YOU WISH THE UNDERLINED/ITALICS INTENTION TO CONTINUE PLEASE SEE FATHER. THANKS.



From the Parish Priest's Desk...Our Lenten Journey.

Dear Faithful,

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey to the great Paschal Mysteries. I think the key word we should ponder is "Journey." In light of this I would strongly recommend reading the Book of Exodus; for this book narrates the journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the promised land. But it is also much more; it is a spiritual journey which teaches us many things.

Firstly, although we know the destination – heaven (and in our Lenten journey we could add conversion of the heart and a second baptism on Divine Mercy Sunday) – we don't know how God will lead us and what route it will take. It is very important that we don't confine the powerful work God wants to do in our souls – we must allow him complete freedom to act as He sees fit. So often our Lenten journey becomes preoccupied with our Lenten penances that we forget the greater work God wishes to do of which our penances are symbols. We could call this work a heart transplant. If we surrender our heart to him, he will make it one with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Therefore, I suggest this Lent to be completely open to what God wants to do – not what we think he should do.

The journey of the Israelites was only meant to take fifty days but because of the hardness of their heart, it took forty years and only two completed the journey. This is why it is so important that we realise that **the major work of our spiritual journey is to submit our will and the powers of our soul (intellect and memory) to God's Will.** This is the sole purpose of the Christian journey: Obedience to the will of God.

Secondly, what the Israelites lacked was TRUST. They simply did not trust that God knew what he was doing – just like Adam and Eve – so at every step of the way they hindered his plans for them and they were always complaining. Two weeks ago we emphasised the need to start our journey empty like the great water jars at Cana. We must start from nothingness, from our very weakness – as Saint Paul gloried in his very weakness. But we must add to that complete and absolute trust. The smaller we are, the greater our sinfulness, the greater our addictions, problems etc, the more we can rely on the power of God. This as Saint Therese taught is the time for little souls.

God can accomplish anything in a soul that trusts and very little in souls that distrust. We must have on our lips, "Jesus I trust in you." He is going to do the work, not us and since he is all powerful there is nothing that he cannot do in our souls provided we do not impede his action and we trust. If we remove the small pebble of our will, his grace will do the rest little by little. Jesus told Saint Faustina, "*If souls would put themselves completely in my care, I Myself would undertake the task of sanctifying them, and I would lavish even greater graces upon them.*" (1682)

It takes courage to surrender to Jesus because it is necessary that we surrender everything – all control, all anxiety, all worry, all our burdens, all our plans – everything. This is what Jesus told his disciples in a phrase that Saint John Paul II loved "Put out into the deep."

What are going to be our aids in this journey? Firstly, a devotion to Divine Mercy for this is the grace that he wishes to give us and is the grace for our times. We have to trust completely in his merciful Sacred Heart for it was from this that the blood and water poured out on Calvary. Secondly, devotion to Mary. We receive God's graces through Mary and so we need to be devoted to her, especially in praying the rosary daily. The rosary is our great weapon in the spiritual battle of Lent. Lastly, we must seek the Face of Christ which is our Bishop's episcopal motto. Where better can we do this than in adoration? During Lent, I wish to increase the times where this is possible. Please read the spiritual thought for the week in the bulletin.

So choose your Lenten penances wisely for these dispose us to receive God's grace but remember above all this is a journey of surrender – we want to hand ourselves over to God to be remade. In Matthew 11 when Jesus says "Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened I will give you rest" the literal meaning is Come to me and I will REMAKE you. So let us prepare with complete trust that God wants (more than we want) to take our nothingness and to fill it not simply with water but with the most inebriating wine.

God bless, Fr. Dominic

Fiat!

"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy."

- Pope Francis

Leaflet Missal

"Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor."

- Pope Francis

Leaflet Missal

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty."

- Pope Francis

Leaflet Missal

"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death."

- Pope Francis

Leaflet Missal

