



St Mary's Presbytery
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Parish Priest: Fr Dominic O'Connor

Deacon Martyn Chambers, Deacon David Witherick (Ret.)

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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	4	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Foundational Mass</i>
Sunday	5	9.30am Noon 2.30pm 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Pol Lith Latin Pol	First Sunday of Lent	<i>Parish</i> <i>Dec friends + benefactors</i>
Monday	6	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Johnson Fund</i>
Tuesday	7	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Simone's intns</i>
Wednesday	8	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	
Thursday	9	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	
Friday	10	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>Faithful of the Parish RIP</i>
Saturday	11	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Thomas Doyle RIP</i>
Sunday	12	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	3 rd Sunday of Lent	<i>Parish</i>

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

Divine Mercy: Wednesday 2.00pm

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

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

NOVENA TO SAINT JOSEPH 11-19TH MARCH

Novenas are powerful forms of intercessory prayer whereby we invoke a particular feast or saint to aid us in achieving a particular intention. They are nine continuous days of prayer. The first and only official novena in the Church was that from the Ascension to Pentecost. Prayers for the novena are sometimes suggested but often can be left up to the particular person's choice. A very powerful novena that I have mentioned before is to Mary, Untier of Knots.

Saint Joseph is a very powerful intercessor – the most powerful after Mary of course. He is also patron and protector of the universal Church. The church is in a fair degree of turmoil at the moment so I am asking as many people as possible to pray a novena to Saint Joseph for the intentions of holy Mother Church. The Litany to Saint Joseph is a very powerful way to pray the novena as is the prayer below:

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him close in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen.



Spiritual Thought for the Week...

The theme of light is central to the biblical account of salvation and to our understanding of God himself. In the creed we profess the Eternal Son as being “light from light” and in the beginning of Saint John’s gospel we are told that Jesus is the true light that gives light to everyone coming into the world. The light referred to is the uncreated light that is God. This is the light that pours out from Jesus at the transfiguration and which is setting before us our destiny to be absorbed into the life of God. When Jesus says that he is the light of the world, he is not speaking merely symbolically but that within him dwells the uncreated light of God’s glory. Jesus’ humanity is penetrated through by this light and is taken up into the divine life of God. This, dear friends, difficult as it is to imagine, is our destiny too.

Hence the physical sun is one of the most important symbols that we have. Without the light of the sun, we simply could not survive: it brings life, it warms, it penetrates, enlightens and brings beauty. Bodies on whom the sun shines radiate. But this points to an even deeper truth that God’s uncreated life penetrates the soul and brings to it extraordinary beauty and the source of that light is God himself. As this event of the Transfiguration is so important I encourage you to look at the following passages of Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16 where Peter looks back at the event; Paul 2 Cor 3:12-4:7 and Romans 8:18.

During our Lenten journey when we shall undergo a period of trial, we need to keep our destiny firmly fixed in our minds. As the book of Hebrews tells us, even Christ only underwent the cross for the sake of the glory that was held out to him. So we must meditate deeply upon this because just a taste would enable us to suffer anything to gain this crown. The trials we undergo now, as Paul tells us, is nothing compared to the glory that will be revealed in us. (Rom 8:18)

Now just as we are undergoing our personal journey to glory, so too the world and the Church is undergoing their purification. There is a great shaking of the nations. God is permitting the events we are living through now so that man may repent and return to his creator. God is not punishing us but rather showing us that we punish ourselves when we turn away from him. As John tells us throughout his gospel, the absence of Christ brings darkness. What are our most important spiritual weapons in the fight against darkness?

Mary told us:

- 1) Pray the rosary – daily.
- 2) Offer up our sacrifices in reparation for sin and to save souls.
- 3) Keep the First Saturdays (i.e. the first Saturday of the month.)

Jesus told us:

- 1) Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and invoke God’s merciful love. Bring sinners to him and immerse them in his precious blood.
- 2) Trust and do not be afraid – surrender everything to him
- 3) Prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday



Dates for your diary!

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MASS: It is quite important that we restore this now but we will need volunteers to be on a rota so that it is not too onerous. Please see Father, Deacon Martyn, or Tony Coates if you would be willing to be on this rota.

Group from Church meeting at the Kings Arms pub on Horncastle Road for St Patricks night on 17th March from about 7pm.

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.

WOMEN’S GUILD

The following meeting is on Tuesday 14th March .All welcome. Thank you.

Second Collections: 7th April Holy Places; 30th April Clergy formation Fund.

Sunday Collection: February 2023

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. 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,

There is the most intimate link in our faith between suffering and glory. This can be seen in the gospel today when Matthew places the Transfiguration six days after Peter confesses Jesus to be the Christ and Jesus then speaks about his passion and the necessity for anyone who wishes to be his disciple to take up his cross and lose his life for the sake of gaining it. The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus underwent the suffering of his passion for the glory that was held out to him. The transfiguration therefore reminds us that our lenten journey via our self-immolation will bring us to true transfiguration or transformation in Christ.

What in essence does Jesus mean by losing our life? Clearly, he is not talking simply about physical life – although some are called to martyrdom. But it is more essential than that – it is to lose what is most essential to us – our will. The greatest obstacle to being transformed lies in our hanging on to our will; hanging onto control; hanging on to what we want and thus, keeping some part of our life – however small – separate from God's. Losing our life means to jettison all our plans, wishes and desires and sacrificing them to God. When we surrender our will to God, the real transformation begins to take place. We begin to grow in spiritual sight, we begin to see everything in a new light. Indeed the next Sundays in Lent give us practical examples of what happens when we say yes to Jesus: the Samaritan woman; the man born blind and the resurrection of Lazarus.

Adam and Eve at the beginning of Genesis were clothed in the invisible light of God because they were continually using their will to say yes to God's Divine Will. But then when they disobey God and separate their wills from his they are no longer clothed in God's light and they realise that they are naked.

The Transfiguration is an incredibly rich event which stretches back to creation itself and to the new creation when there will be a new heaven and a new earth. The transfiguration took place at the same time as the Jewish feast of Tabernacles when the Jews lived not in their house but in make shift tents. This was to remind them of nature and the original creation; secondly, to remind them of God's saving acts in their history and lastly, to point forward to the end of time. Hence Peter wishes to build three tabernacles because he thinks that this is the final end of history.

One of the most important themes in Lent is that of light which will reach its height at the Easter Vigil when the congregation light their candles from the Paschal Candle (Christ) and the darkness of the night is scattered. During Lent it is well worthwhile reading through the Easter Vigil because it is the end to which we are aiming.

“In Jesus' view, losing the instinctual and self-willed self is finding the genuine and God-willed self. Such paradoxical language in fact catapults our limited, conventual being into God's inner and outer space, breaking open its earthly straitjacket, liberating our self and making it travel gloriously through galaxies of stars never before imagined. Only if we abandon our lives into his hands can God show us his created cosmic universe and the uncreated universe of his own Heart.” (E. L. Merikakis Vol 2)

We need to start now. How to do it simply? Tell Jesus that you surrender the small pebble of your own will in exchange for receiving his. He will then do the rest, step by step. We can practice this constantly and have on our lips Jesus' prayer in the garden of Olives: “Not my will but thine be done.”

This is the only way to heaven, this is the narrow gate and the narrow way. It is how Jesus redeemed us. Jesus at every moment did the will of the Father. It is why the Eternal Son took flesh so that once again a human will (remember Jesus had both a human will and a divine will) would perfectly carry out the will of the Father.

Let us ask Mary to teach us how to let our wills be absorbed into the divine. Let us also always listen to Jesus and wherever we look: whatever or whoever we are looking at to see only Jesus.

God bless, Fr. Dominic
Fiat!

Raphael: The Transfiguration

