



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	11	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Thomas Doyle RIP</i>
Sunday	12	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	Third Sunday of Lent	<i>Parish</i>
Monday	13	9.00am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Annamma RIP</i>
Tuesday	14	9.00am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Matthew Jacob RIP</i>
Wednesday	15	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	
Thursday	16	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>LillyKutty Thomas RIP</i>
Friday	17	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Saint Patrick	<i>Antony Thomas RIP</i>
Saturday	18	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Lucy's Intns</i>
Sunday	19	9.30am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Pol Latin Pol	4 th Sunday of Lent Laetare	<i>Parish</i>

NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIMES MONDAY + TUESDAY

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

Divine Mercy: Wednesday 2.00pm

Adoration/Holy Hour: Monday, 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.

Mill Hill Fathers: Their national novena takes place at this time and they will be offering a novena of masses for their mission and for those who support their work. The masses are available on zoom: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena (see poster)



Spiritual Thought for the Week...

On the one hand it isn't true that we shall lose our personal differences by letting Christ take us over. But Christ can't take us over as long as we are bothering about what will happen to our personality. If a person did not know about salt, he would think the strong taste would kill the taste of other things – but as a matter of fact it brings out their real taste. With Christ, when you completely give yourself up to his personality you will then for the first time in your life be developing into a real person.

He made the whole world; he invented it as an author invents characters in a book all the different men you and I were intended to be – our real selves are so to speak already waiting for us in him. What I call myself now is hardly a person at all. It's mainly a meeting place for various natural forces, desires and fears etc some of which come from our ancestors, education, some from devils. The self you were really intended to be is something which lives not from nature but from God.

We are personalities in God – I go further: now there are no real personalities anywhere else – I mean no full complete personalities. It is only when you allow yourself to be drawn into his life do you turn into a true person. On the other hand its just no good at all going with Christ for the sake of developing our personality – you haven't really begun. Because the first real step to getting a real self is to forget about the self. It will only come if you are looking for something else.

Even in social life you never make a good impression on other people until you stop thinking about what impression you make . That principle runs all through life from the top to the bottom: give up yourself and you will find your real self. Submit with every fibre of your being and you will find eternal life. Look for Christ and you will get him and with him everything else thrown in.

Look for yourself and you will get only hatred, loneliness, despair ruin.

C.S. Lewis (Talk on youtube 'The lie of self-help.)



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.

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

Parish Administrator/Secretary: We are currently looking to appoint an Administrator\ Secretary for our parish office based near to the Spalding town centre. The successful applicant will be mainly based at our Spalding office, but will also, from time to time, be required to work from our soon to be constructed office in Holbeach. Minimum 20 hours per week, but open to negotiation. For full job description, please contact the Parish Priest, Fr. Jim Burke, jim.burke@dioceseofnottingham.uk Closing date for applications is the 23rd March 2023.

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: 5 March 2023

Envelope: £151 Loose Plate: £297 Candles: £34 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
- Let us pray for a successful retreat for our Keralan community this week.

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,

Victor Frankl wrote a book, "Man's search for meaning," in which he pointed out that the one necessity for man is to have a meaning for his life. With that meaning he can endure all things, without it he can endure very little. We might add that man's meaning rests in his identity – who he truly is. In this realisation of his true identity lies peace, joy, confidence; without realising his true identity, there will always be fear, worry, anxiety.

Pope St John Paul II told us that only Jesus can reveal to man who he truly is. In other words it is only when we see ourselves as God sees us that we begin to realise whom God created us to be. But our view of God is often distorted and with this goes our true identity. Our view of God can be obscured by our wounds, false identities that people have labelled us with and which we have knowingly or unknowingly brought into and the ultimate cause of our brokenness – sin.

Let us see this in action in Adam. Before original sin he was totally at peace in his identity as beloved of the Father. After believing the lies of the devil, his view of God becomes distorted and therefore, at the same time he loses his own true worth. Jesus – in his human nature – never doubted his true identity as a son of the Father and therefore, out of all men, he was most truly himself, most truly at peace, most truly good and beautiful.

We see this journey to discovering our true self in today's gospel. The Samaritan woman is broken, in bondage to sin, in bondage to being rejected by her neighbours. She has a bitterness and a deep seated doubt about the goodness of God. (I strongly recommend that you watch season 1, episode 8 of the Chosen). Yet through her encounter with the Messiah, the Christ, this changes. She begins to see the goodness of God present before her in Jesus and through this is able by Jesus' actions to realise the immense love that God has for her. From this flows the restoration of her true identity as a daughter of the Father, loved unconditionally despite her need for forgiveness. Through this she then becomes an evangelist in bringing the rest of the town to Jesus.

An American psychologist, Conrad Baars, believed that very few people have received unconditional love in their lives and hence need a deep healing. The words of John Paul II should be tremendously reassuring and they move me every time I read them:

*"You are not the sum of your weaknesses and failures,
you are the sum of the Father's love for you and the very real possibility of
becoming the image of his son."*

My experience and sharing those of others is that there is so much brokenness in our lives: sin, wounds, lies we have brought into, that the face of the Father is now veiled – so much so that we doubt his goodness and mercy. When we don't seek our identity before God, we will then try and find it in the wrong places: what people think of us, through our wealth, our achievements etc. Often, we become our own accuser, our own judge and sentencer with the result that we judge ourselves far more harshly than God does. This I believe also explains the decline in confessions in a paradoxical way.

But the good news – that is the Gospel! - is that we can be healed, we can be made whole once again. The beautiful collect last week : "O God the RESTORER and lover of innocence." It is also only in this healing and restoration of our true identity that we can then begin to accept our neighbour. Hence, the command of Jesus makes total sense: Love your neighbour AS YOURSELF. For until we love ourselves we are incapable of loving others.

Our identity is unique – each one of us has a name on a white stone (book of Revelation). We are loved unconditionally by the Father. We must therefore during Lent strive to have an encounter with the living Lord who alone can heal us by his love and give us our true identity.

We can make up our own prayer to help in this: We can tell God that we renounce in the name of his Son, Jesus, all our false identities, our false idols; we can tell him we renounce our seeking our false identity in other peoples opinions and judgements. We can tell him we surrender to his image of us and ask him to wipe us clean so that we come to true life and fulfilment once again.

It is in a true surrender of our wills to God, that we discover our true personality – see the previous section Spiritual Thought for the week which is a beautiful passage by C.S. Lewis. Let us ask the intercession of Mary. I will end with another beautiful quote this time by Caryl Houselander:

"God will never ask of you more than he asked of Mary and all that he asked of Mary was her yes."

God bless, Fr. Dominic
Fiat!

