



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>Lucy's Intn</i>
Sunday	19	9.30am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Pol Latin Pol	4 th Sunday of Lent Laetare	<i>Parish</i>
Monday	20	9.30am 12.00 7.00pm	Eng Pol Eng	Saint Joseph Solemnity	<i>M C Thomas RIP</i>
Tuesday	21	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Nadiezda RIP</i>
Wednesday	22	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>James Smith RIP</i>
Thursday	23	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>FM Perp B</i>
Friday	24	No Mass 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	
Saturday	25	11.00am 4.00pm	Syro-M Eng	The Annunciation	
Sunday	26	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	5th Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday	<i>Parish</i>

NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIMES MONDAY

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

Divine Mercy: Wednesday 2.00pm

Adoration/Holy Hour: Monday, Thursday 4.00-5.00pm

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

SIGN UP SHEET FOR READERS FOR HOLY WEEK AT THE BACK OF CHURCH AND SIGN UP SHEET FOR WASHING OF THE FEET.

CONFIRMATIONS: Any candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please see Father.

Monday in Holy Week

- 12.30pm Mass

Tuesday in Holy Week

- 9.30am Mass
- 11.30am Altar Servers' practice
(for Thursday and Friday Liturgies)

Wednesday in Holy Week

- Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

Maundy Thursday

- 10.00am Confessions
- 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (Divine Mercy Novena Starts)

- 9.00am Office of Reading and Morning Prayer "Tenebrae"
- 11.00am Walk of Witness Centenary Church
- 2.00pm Confessions
- 3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion and Death of O.L.J.C.
(Confessions heard afterwards)

Holy Saturday

- 9.00am Office of Reading and Morning Prayer "Tenebrae"
- 10.00am Confessions
- 12.00pm Altar Servers' Practice (Those involved in vigil)
- 4.00pm Confessions
- 9.00pm Solemn Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

- 9.30am Mass



Spiritual Thought for the Week...

“O God, one in the Holy Trinity, I want to love you as no human soul has ever loved you before; and although I am utterly miserable and small, I have, nevertheless, cast the anchor of my trust deep down into the abyss of your mercy.....In spite of my great misery, I fear nothing, but hope to sing you a hymn of glory forever. Let no soul, even the most miserable, fall prey to doubt; for as long as one is alive, each one can become a great saint, so great is the power of God’s grace. It remains only for us not to oppose God’s action.” Saint Faustina

“I exhort you to hold firm to hold firm to what I told you. The wooden plank that will carry you safely into the harbour of salvation, the divine weapon that will lead you to a victory song is the complete unquestioning submission of our judgement to the dictates of the one who is charged to guide us through the shadows, perplexities and battles of life. If Jesus reveals himself to you thank him and if he hides himself from you thank him for that too it is all part of his game of love. It is my hope that when you reach the point of being with Jesus on the cross you can softly exclaim with Jesus, “it is finished.” (John 19:30) Padre Pio to R Cerase. 19.5.1914



Dates for your diary!

MONDAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Saturday 25th is the Feast of the Annunciation: The 4.00pm Saturday mass will be the Feast of the Annunciation **not** the vigil for the fifth Sunday of Lent. This will enable people to celebrate this feast.

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.

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.

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 Parish has received £1689.20 from HMRC for the December quarter return”

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,

Why is this Sunday called “Laetare Sunday?” This Sunday is so called by the opening word of the mass (Entrance Antiphon): Rejoice – **Laetare**. The Church interrupts the solemnity of her Lent. Flowers are permitted, the organ can play more fully and Rose vestments can be worn – this is similar to the third Sunday of Advent “Gaudete.” Why? Mother Church wants to encourage us, Lent is more than half-way over and the great joy of the Resurrection will soon be upon us. So we must persevere and today allow ourselves a tasting of the great joy to come when our labours are over and Christ is risen.

How is the solemnity of the Sunday, one of the most solemn of the year, marked in Rome? Firstly, the station mass – each day in Lent the Pope would celebrate mass at a particular church - is held at the basilica of the “Holy Cross in Jerusalem.” This contained the inscription placed on the cross as well as other instruments of the passion. What is the significance of this? It points us to the heavenly Jerusalem, which is our real homeland. We have to follow Christ in his passion to arrive at the heavenly temple where we shall have unending bliss. Secondly, the Pope blesses a golden rose and can anoint it with Christ, which is then bestowed on a deserving person or place. In recent times, the popes have granted it to a particular place of devotion. The significance of this is that the colour, fragrance and beauty of the rose make us think of the spiritual joy that should be ours on this Sunday – indeed throughout our lives.

What is the main theme of today’s mass? To recap briefly, we started on the First Sunday with the theme of Lent – the 40 days of Jesus in the desert and his temptation; this was followed by the Church showing us the goal of our efforts: our transfiguration in Christ. Last Sunday (IIIrd) the Church put before us the important symbol of water in our journey in the desert and that Christ comes to pour out the Holy Spirit – the living water – upon us; so during Lent we must avail ourselves of the sacraments. Today, the Church uses the image of light which will become increasingly important, and climaxing with the blessing of the Paschal Candle and the entrance into the Church. Christ IS the Light of the World. He comes to bring us out of darkness into the light by the gift of Faith. (See second reading)

Why does John recount the miracle of the man born blind? Firstly, the significance that this man was blind from birth. To the Jews that created a problem since affliction was regarded as coming from sin and in this case how could he have sinned or was it his parents? Our Lord is going to point the way to an important rethinking of suffering: not just as a result of sin (either personal or communal) but as a means of joining oneself to Christ’s passion and therefore, we have now **redemptive suffering**. Truly we should have joy that our Lent, our sufferings are redemptive. This was foreshadowed in a very important book of the Old Testament: the book of Job. Job is a type (figure) of Christ since he suffers although innocent. Although, difficult reading this book can be very revealing.

What is the most important miracle that happens? The account of John is masterly and humorous but the climax is not the cure but what comes at the end: namely, the man’s profession of faith in Jesus: “Lord I believe.” Throughout the Gospels, Jesus cures people not simply to make their lives easier but to increase their faith and love of him. Throughout the account, the man makes a profound journey. He speaks the truth and is prepared to accept rejection from the Pharisees rather than deny the truth. It may not seem a big deal to us, but the man was cast out of the synagogue because he stuck up for the truth; that meant a complete cutting off from society – he paid a heavy price for following the truth. But it leads him to the greatest gift of all – the completely freely bestowed gift of faith. It is that gift that should bring with it a spiritual joy and dedication to the gospel and being prepared to endure anything for the sake of the gospel truth. Note: being loyal to natural truth leads us with certainty to the supernatural truth of which it is in fact a part.

To believe is to see things in God’s light. Often the evil of this world can get us down: adversity in our lives, economic hardship, anger in people etc and indeed the world is full of these things – “How can we see love when everything points the other way? We do not see it – we believe it. To believe is to see things in God’s light; to leave everything to Him who says ‘ your bodily eyes and reason only see evil, but this is superficial. At the bottom of everything is love.....Believe my Word.’ Faith does call for a big sacrifice but this same faith gives us a sense of security and peace, which might almost be called infinite, so surely does it rest on the word of God Himself. Here we have the profound secret of Christian serenity in the midst of the most painful trials, which are only passing, whereas the word of God is something eternal.” (taken from a Carthusian monk “They Speak by Silences.”)

God bless, Fr. Dominic [Fiat!](#)

