



St Mary's Presbytery
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NRCDDT – 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



**CHANGES TO MASS TIMES
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY MASS TIMES
8.30AM AND 10.00AM
(VIGIL STILL 4.00PM)**

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>Nov Dead List</i>
Sunday	12	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	32nd Sunday	<i>Parish</i>
Monday	13	12.30pm	Eng	Feria	<i>Nov Dead List</i>
Tuesday	14	9.30am	Eng	Feria	<i>Nov Dead List</i>
Wednesday	15	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	<i>Nov Dead List</i>
Thursday	16	7.00pm	Eng	Feria	<i>Nov Dead List</i>
Friday	17	7.00am 7.30pm	Pol	St Hugh of Lincoln Feast	<i>Nov Dead List</i>
Saturday	18	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Nov Dead List</i>
Sunday	19	9.30am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Pol Pol	33rd Sunday	<i>Parish</i>

NOTE CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

Adoration: Thursday 6.00pm

Divine Mercy: 2.00pm Wednesdays

Confessions: Saturday 3.20pm-3.50pm Sunday 8.50am-9.20pm – available before and after daily mass.

St. Mary's Church Project Group. Parish update Number 1

As hopefully, many of you will be aware, our Church Project Group has been active for over a month. Our agreed mission statement is that our Church should be missionary and sacramental; should encourage unity and community; should embrace diversity and multiculturalism; should positively invest in the younger generation; should engage in outreach and should encourage a culture of Catholic Christian learning. We are pleased to report that our membership represents the culturally diverse nature of our Church community, and we are working well together.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested, please speak with Rev. Deacon Martyn.

To date, we report that the first project progresses well and will result in all the church building roofs being cleaned, all guttering being cleaned and repair work where necessary completed. Hence the cherry picker platform you may have seen, and some slight disruption caused. The project group are obtaining quotations for a refurbishment of the church hall, to be started as soon as possible. We are also working with all concerned, to try to be able to open our church for more extended periods of time to provide the opportunity for confessions, adoration, quiet reflection and prayer and more time to be in communion with Our Lord.

Summary of projects:

- Parish Hall Refurbishment
- Sacristy cleaning and refurbishment.
- Moving confessional to Our Lady's Chapel
- Painting of the Church inside.
- Painting of the windows and front wall of the Church.
- With planning permission, the installation of a cross on the top of the Church.
- Moving the organ to the balcony (whilst re-enforcing the floor) to enable a little altar/alcove perhaps to Divine Mercy.

Pictures and plans soon to be available to look at.



Friday Devotions in Advent December: 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd

- 1) Adoration and Confession 8.00-9.20am Fr Dominic
- 2) English Mass 9.30am
- 3) 10.15-12.00 Adoration and Confession Fr Stan
- 4) 5.00-6.30pm Adoration and Confession Fr Dominic
- 5) 6.30-7.25pm Adoration and Confession Fr Stan
- 6) 7.30pm Polish mass
- 7) 8.15-9.30pm Adoration and Confession Fr. Stan

Spiritual Thought for the Week

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION, 'C'est la confiance', on 'Confidence in the love of God', issued by Pope Francis on 15th October (feast of St. Teresa of Avila), is issued for the 150th anniversary of the birth of St. Theresa of Lisieux, the Little Flower. It commends her trust, humility and simplicity of seeking the joy of heaven in the ordinary events of life everyday, in the great vocation of love, not just for her own fulfilment, but also through her burning desire for the salvation of all God's people. (from Sacred Heart Bulletin - Fr George)

Dates for the diary:

- *Guild Meeting Tuesday 21st November Presbytery 1.30pm*
- *BLESSING OF GRAVES 2.00pm 26th November*
- *CONFESSIONS: if during Rosary, Adoration etc you would like to have your confession heard especially before or after weekday mass please simply sit on the small bench next to the confessional or just tap me on the shoulder.*

ADVENT ANGELS

Angels will be on sale on December 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th. The angels have been handmade by members of the Women's Guild. Please dedicate your angel to loved ones, living or deceased. You may hang them on the tree or send them as a gift. Angels are £1 each. All the money will be given to Care Home India.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Sunday Collection: 5th November 2023

Envelope: £ Loose Plate: £

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 £1,425.82 refund for the June quarter.

Thank you all for gift aiding your donations. Chaz Mayhew. (07778840886)

CARE HOME INDIA raised £958.90 Blessings for your generosity.

Second Collections: 10th Dec Poor/Needy Parishes
17th Collection for Christmas Flowers.

OF YOUR CHARITY PLEASE PRAY FOR

- The sick and housebound and for those who need your prayers, Sadie Wheate, Rosalyn, Mary, Fay Cowell, David Locking and Jack Newell. Michael Campbell; Kathleen Bedford
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From the Parish Priest's Desk...Our Lenten Journey.

Dear Faithful,

I would like to use this week's bulletin to bring you up to date with plans in the parish – where we are at? What we are doing? A few months ago the local priests and myself met to discuss the position of the Polish Mission in our parishes. That led to a fruitful meeting with Fr. Stan and Deacon Martyn. This also led me to consider the parish of Saint Mary's as a whole, reflecting and praying about where we are at and where we need to go. We are a varied community with many different ethnicities and language groups which gives us a rich cultural heritage. The largest groups now are Keralan and Polish but the Africans too are a significant group and many others. This has meant that it has been understandably a difficult time for the English/Irish and I understand the concerns/grievances that they have especially that there has not been much effort at integration on the part of some of the groups.

I considered several factors in my assessment:

- The parish was becoming a building that was being used by different communities with little contribution or consideration of the Parish itself.
- The parish was bearing a disproportionate burden of the costs whilst others were using the parish more: (66% nearly of the costs whilst 20% of the usage. The other major communities: 33% of the cost and 80% of the use) Now let us be clear this was not intentional and there is no ill will but it does need addressing and they are willing to do this.
- The burden of administering the parish now also needs to be shared.
- The Church needs redecorating as does the hall and a number of other things will greatly help – see back page. This necessitates the help of all. The Church also needs extending with a renovation of the Sanctuary.
- We need to plan for the future – we have to become one parish; communities all need to be involved in decision making but at the same time also in the financial and administrative burden. "That they be one."
- But this will also require changes in areas to reflect our diversity: the Liturgy for example.

To facilitate this we started an integration group (see back page) to kick start this. The new banner is to set the tone for a new start. The initial projects seemed to me to be both urgent and necessary. Pictures will be made available so that people can see what is envisioned. Perhaps the major one is the moving of the confessional. In my opinion, this is essential. At the moment it is very difficult to have a confidential confession and often people are sitting right outside. I think this maybe a factor in the small numbers coming to confession.

However, I am clear in my mind that unity has to be a substantial unity and that there has to be major changes in this regard. Also, Saint Mary's is and will remain – being in the Diocese of Nottingham – an English speaking parish. I will be making this clear in my meetings. Fr Stan very kindly has overseen the renovation of the Church/Sacristy roof and the cleaning of the Servers' sacristy. The Polish are becoming more involved in flowers and the cleaning of the Church. The Keralans are going to become more involved also in the parish. So I have requested that we have representation on the finance committee.

So yes there are hurdles, issues, difficulties and change is never easy but at the same time change there has to be. Managing change well is perhaps the hardest thing which requires great prudence.

However, it is also a time of hope and excitement. But I think most importantly we have to consider the signs of the times and prepare ourselves for spiritual battle which is why the opening of the Church and an increase in adoration is most important. Hence, the plans for the Fridays in Advent. I think we need to heed what Our Lady is telling us. We need to fast and pray (especially Scripture and the Rosary) because the world is in a precarious position.

But those that follow the Lord and are close to Mary need have to fear.

Please talk to Deacon Martyn or myself as I know you will have questions, thoughts, ideas.

God bless, Fr. Dominic *Fiat!*

