



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.)

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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	16	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
Sunday	17	8.30am 10.00am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Latin Pol	3rd Sunday of Advent "Gaudete"	<i>Parish Mary Morgan RIP</i>
Monday	18	9.30am	Eng	Advent Feria	<i>Nicholas Ford RIP</i>
Tuesday	19	9.30am	Eng	Advent Feria	<i>Sebastian Matthew RIP</i>
Wednesday	20	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Advent Feria	
Thursday	21	9.30am	Eng	Advent Feria	<i>Vocations</i>
Friday	22	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Advent Feria	<i>Treasa Sebastian RIP</i>
Saturday	23	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
Sunday	24	10.00am Noon 5.00pm 9.30pm 11.30pm	Eng Pol Eng Pol Eng	4th Sunday Christmas Vigil Midnight	<i>Parish</i>

NOTE MASS TIME CHANGES THIS WEEK.

**Adoration: Monday; Tues; Thurs 8.00am . Friday see separate page 6
Divine Mercy: 2.00pm Wednesdays**

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24th December

5.00pm Christmas Vigil (English)

9.30pm Polish

11.30pm Office of Readings and Midnight Mass (English)

Monday 25th December

6.45am Dawn Mass (Latin)

8.00am Lithuanian

10.00am Christmas Day Mass (English)

12.00 Polish

Tuesday 26th December Saint Stephen

10.00am (English)

7.30pm Polish

The diocese is producing a monthly podcast for the Year of Prayer called Encounter Prayer. Each month a different type of prayer will be showcased; this first episode is given by Bishop Patrick who introduces the Year of Prayer, his hopes for it, and shares insights from his own prayer life. The Podcasts can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music and Audible by searching Diocese of Nottingham; they are also on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer.

A reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer: Very often it happens that we do not pray, we don't feel like praying, or many times we pray like parrots, with the mouth, but our heart is not in it. This is the moment to say to the Spirit: "Come, come Holy Spirit, warm my heart. Come and teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, to look to the Son. Teach what the path of faith is like. Teach me how to love and, above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope."



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...

Nevertheless, it happens not infrequently in history, for more or less lengthy periods and under the influence of many different factors, that the moral conscience of many people becomes seriously clouded. "Have we the right idea of conscience?"-I asked two years ago in an address to the faithful" Is it not true that modern man is threatened by an eclipse of conscience? By a deformation of conscience? By a numbness or 'deadening' of conscience," Too many signs indicate that such an eclipse exists in our time. This is all the more disturbing in that conscience, defined by the council as "the most secret core and sanctuary of a man," is "strictly related to human freedom.... For this reason conscience, to a great extent, constitutes the basis of man's interior dignity and, at the same time, of his relationship to God." It is inevitable therefore that in this situation there is an obscuring also of the sense of sin, which is closely connected with the moral conscience, the search for truth and the desire to make a responsible use of freedom. When the conscience is weakened the sense of God is also obscured, and as a result, with the loss of this decisive inner point of reference, the sense of sin is lost. This explains why my predecessor Pius XI, one day declared, in words that have almost become proverbial, that "the sin of the century is the loss of the sense of sin." (Reconciliation and Penance St. JP II)

Dates for the diary:

- **NO 8.30AM MASS ON THE 24TH OR 25TH DECEMBER**

The ongoing reorganisation of the diocese, enabling us all to become more missionary in a way which recognises that we now have fewer clergy and fewer parishioners, continues to make steady progress. To date the 108 parishes we had in 2017 have been reduced to 88, with 32 parishes having been amalgamated to form 12 new larger parishes. Parishioners in all our parishes are on a journey of working more closely together, in a more missionary fashion, in our united effort to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, and to put that love into practice across the East Midlands.

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: 10 December 2023

Envelope: £239 Loose Plate: £375

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)

Second Collection last Sunday raised £280 for poor and needy parishes.

Second Collections: 10th Dec Poor/Needy Parishes

17th Collection for Christmas Flowers.

14th Jan Sick/Retired Priests 29th March Holy Places 21st April Clergy Formation

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 Trevor Vandervord
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates.

Dear Faithful,

Christmas is fast approaching and the words “getting into the Christmas spirit” or similar are used frequently. Our thoughts turn to the preparations that we need to make: cards, presents, preparing the food and drink. For many years Advent—especially as a penitential season—has really ceased to have any significance in the wider world or the fact that Christmas starts on the 25th December and lasts twelve days and then a further twenty-eight. Secular society has made going back to a correct appreciation of Christmas difficult if not impossible for most people.

What is the true spirit that we should be having at this time?

Contemplation: Our Lady constantly meditated on the mystery that was unfolding; pondering the words of the prophets, especially Isaiah. She must have suffered great trials and disruption in her life journeying to Bethlehem but she knew the Saviour was to be born. Nothing can replace a quiet time reading the scriptures which give us the true story of Christmas and the true story is something much more marvelous than we might think.

We have to base our life on the example of John the Baptist and his message. We have to change, we have to repent and to realize that in many ways our lives have fallen short of what the Lord has asked of us. This is going to mean doing violence to ourselves (cf Mt 11). Our conversion, however, has to be ongoing and real. This week Our Lord told us that from the day of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of God is suffering violence and the violent are bearing it away (Mt 11: 12). Very powerful words!

For our conversion to be real, deep, life-changing it is going to mean doing violence to our self-love, to our self-will. Sometimes this is going to lead to martyrdom as in many parts of the world—Pope Francis told us quite clearly that every Christian has to be prepared for this in spirit at least. But for most of us it is going to be the little way of St Therese. Doing violence to ourselves is simply conforming ourselves to God's will—to embrace what He sends us in our daily lives; to be loyal to our duties of state. That alone constitutes heroic sanctity and will gain us the Kingdom of Heaven. Quite simply let us pray for the grace to embrace what God sends us and to accomplish faithfully and with love the duties that He has also sent us. The Christmas spirit is that of the love of the Son for his Father and who was prepared to obey his Father's wishes even to taking flesh and being born in a stable.

Paradoxically, it is when we choose to live the Christ-Life that the real joy of Christmas come into our souls—a deep peace springing from the fact that the light has entered the darkness and the darkness could not overcome it. This in turn will enable us to bear witness to the truth as John the Baptist did. So whilst we will all have to conform in some ways to a pre-Christmas Christmas, let us at least in our hearts store up that expectation that whilst we approach the shortest day of the year and darkness is at its greatest, a new light is about to dawn for us and a Saviour will be born who is Christ the Lord. God bless, Fr.D



The three masses of Christmas

- 1) The first mass takes place at **Midnight** because as we learn from Wisdom 18: 14-15 (cf Introit for the mass of the Sunday within the octave of the Nativity) “all things are resting in a quiet silence and the night is in the middle of her journey, it was then that the almighty Word of God came down from heaven, from his mighty throne.” So all is quiet and silent, even the troubled Roman Empire is at peace. The plan of God from all eternity steals silently into our consciousness. Thus, it is important that the mass take place at Midnight. This mass in particular celebrates the historical birth of Jesus.
- 2) The historical birth of Christ prepares us for the birth that must take place in our hearts. For the Nativity will have no effect upon us, unless this second birth takes place in our souls. The second mass of Christmas is called the **Mass at Dawn** and it puts before us this theme. It is a pity that this mass is generally not as well attended.
- 3) The Church, as the mother she is, has led us through two of the mysteries: the historical birth and the spiritual birth in our hearts; but she has left the greatest mystery for what we call the **Day Mass**. It has no set time allocated to it – unlike the first two – because we are to contemplate something eternal, something which like the day itself enlightens all men coming into the world. For the child that was born for us is also the Son of God eternally generated by the Father. Hence the chants are going to be full of wonder and admiration.

These three masses are masses of Christmas, when we participate in them, we are participating in the mystery of Christmas. **The Vigil Mass** whilst fulfilling the obligation of attending mass is a mass of watching and expectation but the child is not born.

