



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,

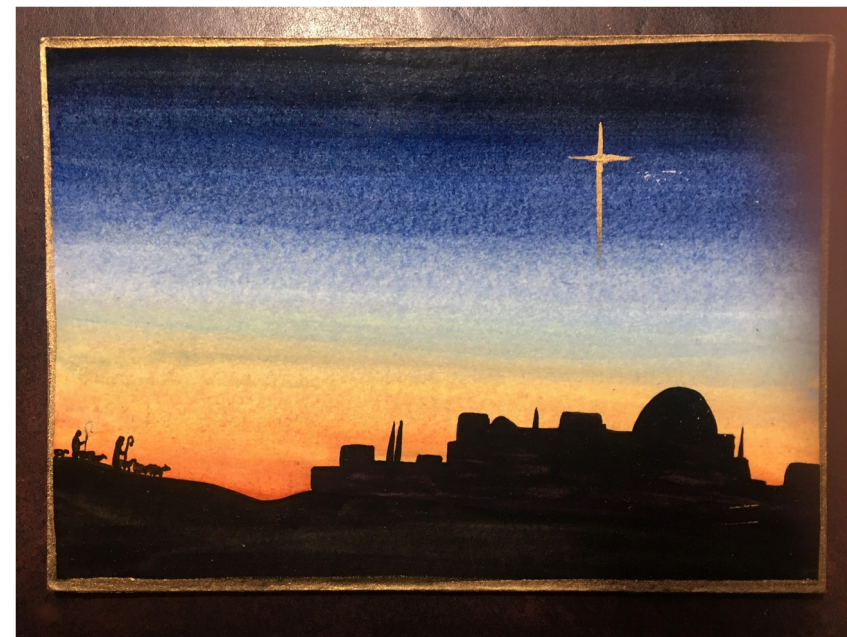
School: St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Ashlawn Drive,
Boston, PE21 9PX TEL: 01205 362092

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



Pia Gillick 2022

*Our Lady of the Rosary
In the end my Immaculate Heart will
triumph! Fiat!*

Liturgical calendar

Day	Date	Time	Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention	
Saturday	23	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil <i>NDL</i>	
Sunday	24	10.00am	Eng	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> ***** <i>Vigil Mass (Christmas)</i> <i>Midnight Mass</i>	<i>Parish</i> <i>Peace</i> <i>DW</i>
		Noon	Pol		
		5.00pm	Eng		
		9.30pm	Pol		
11.30pm	Eng				
Monday	25	6.45am	Latin	Dawn Mass (CHRISTMAS) Day Mass	<i>DW</i> <i>DW</i>
		8.00am	Lith		
		10.00am	Eng		
		12.00	Pol		
Tuesday	26	10.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	St Stephen	<i>Simone</i>
Wednesday	27	7.30pm	Pol	St John	
Thursday	28	7.00pm	Eng	Holy Innocents	<i>Paul Louis</i>
Friday	29	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	St Thomas	<i>Thanksgiving JJ Family</i>
Saturday	30	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Advent Angels</i>
Sunday	31	8.00am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<i>The Holy Family</i>	<i>Colin Peates RIP Parish</i>

NOTE MASS TIME CHANGES THIS WEEK.

Adoration: Thursday 6.00pm Friday 8.0am

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

Wishing everyone a
Blessed Christmas and
New Year. May the
Lord bless you all in
abundance during this
joyful time.

Fr Dominic



Joseph Ratzinger [Benedict XVI], quoting Hans Urs von Balthasar in *The God of Jesus Christ: Meditations on the Triune God*, 2nd Edition (Ignatius Press, 2018), 84-85

What does Jesus learn from his mother?

He learns to say “Yes, F i a t”. Not just any Yes, but a Yes that goes ever further, without getting weary. Everything that you desire, my God....

‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word.’ . . .

This is the Catholic prayer that Jesus learned from his human mother, from the Catholic Mater who was in the world before him and who was inspired by God to be the first to speak this word of the new and eternal covenant.

Dates for the diary:

St Mary's Women's Guild - The ladies wish the whole community a blessed and peaceful Christmas. May 2024 be full of happiness, joy, hope and health. The next meeting is lunch at The Mill Spilsby Road on Thursday January 11th at 12:30pm. All are welcome. Perhaps joining the Guild could be your New Year's Resolution!

Prayers for the repose of the soul of Trevor Vandervord who died last week. Our condolences go to his wife, Sue, and family.

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.

Sunday Collection: 17 December 2023

Envelope: £110 Loose Plate: £424

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)

Flower Collection: 185

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, +

Two simple points today:

Firstly, Jesus will shortly be with us and this last day of preparation is of great importance – we can prepare our souls for His coming by prayer, penance and making a good confession. He has come so that we might have life and life to the fullest. (Cf Jn 10.10); this implies that it is no longer our life that we live but God's life in us. Padre Pio put it most beautifully:

“The great good of your soul is to belong wholly and entirely to God. The one who completely belongs to God never grieves except for having offended God. That grief is transformed into a profound but tranquil and peaceful humility and submission, after which the soul is lifted up into divine goodness by a sweet and perfect confidence that is devoid of melancholy or remorse.

The one who completely belongs to God seeks nothing but God himself. Since God is no less present in tribulation than in prosperity, that person can live at peace in the midst of adversities.

The one who completely belongs to God thinks about him continually throughout all of life's events and always tries to improve in God's eyes. That person finds and admires God in all his creatures and exclaims with Saint Augustine that all of God's creatures tell us to love him.....

Therefore, my dearest daughter, always belong to God and live only in him, desiring only to please him and the creatures in him, through him, and for him.”
(Letter August 17, 1918 ed. G. Pasquale)

Secondly, we must be on our guard against fear which is constantly being used in the media. Indeed, at the beginning of the pandemic they admitted that fear was used as a weapon of control. Fear has no place in the life of a Christian. Christ is coming to bring peace and trust. We have of course to use prudence in these times but also remember, that God's wisdom is above human prudence.

Health of the soul far outweighs health of the body, and since this current situation is going to go on for a few years, we need to make sure that we are attending mass and the sacraments. To isolate from Christ makes no sense. Far more is gained by receiving him than anything else in this world.....infinitely more! The Church is a very safe place – not just humanly speaking but because the Author of Life itself lives there. Let us encourage people who are wavering to return to mass.....even if they feel they have to attend on a weekday. God bless, Fr. Dominic.

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.

