



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,  
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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!*

*2024 YEAR OF PRAYER*



Liturgical calendar					
Day	Date	Time		Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Saturday	20	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>M C Thomas RIP</i>
Sunday	21	8.30am 10.00am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Latin Pol	<i>Third Sunday of the Year</i>	<i>Parish</i>  <i>Matthew</i>
Monday	22	12.30pm	Eng	Feria	<i>Joan Bourke</i>
Tuesday	23	9.30am	Eng	Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Wednesday	24	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	St Francis de Sales	<i>Priests</i>
Thursday	25	7.00pm	Eng	Saint Paul Conversion	<i>Unity</i>
Friday	26	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	SS Timothy and Titus	<i>NDL</i>
Saturday	27	4.00pm	Eng	St Angela Vigil	
Sunday	28	8.30am 10.00am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Latin Pol	<i>Fourth Sunday of the Year</i>	<i>Parish</i>

**NOTE MASS TIME CHANGES THIS WEEK.**

**Adoration: Thursday 6.00pm Tuesday and Friday 8.00am**

Confessions: Saturday 3.20pm-3.50pm Sunday 8.50am-9.20pm – available before daily mass. After daily mass upon request.

**PARISH DINNER TO CELEBRATE REDECORATION OF THE PARISH HALL.  
And PRE LENT CELEBRATION**

**And to foster and integration amongst our parish communities.**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH at 1.30pm  
Bring a national dish.**

**DIOCESAN TIMETABLE – PREPARATION FOR AND FOLLOW UP FROM THE UNIVERSAL JUBILEE YEAR IN 2025**

**2024 – ENCOUNTER : PRAYER**

From Advent 2023 there will be a whole year of Encounter, to tie-in with the Year of Preparation focusing on Prayer in its many forms. Each month there will be a different prayer theme considered across the Diocese, with a scriptural quotation and a focus for prayer. See the resources section to download and use these bespoke materials. Scroll down to access our Year of Prayer resources. Dates: First Sunday of Advent (3rd December 2023) – Christmas Eve morning (24th December 2024)

**2025 - DISCIPLESHIP**

The Jubilee Year 2025 will be a whole year of Discipleship, looking at some of the themes of the Year including care for creation, food poverty, modern slavery, cancelling debt, forgiveness, and rest and worship. Dates: Year of Jubilee 2025 – Discipleship – Christmas Eve evening (24th December 2024) – Epiphany (6th January 2026)

**2026 - MISSION**

The following year will look at Mission, as a thanksgiving for the Jubilee, and a response-in-action to the blessing and graces received during the Jubilee: we will be encouraged afresh to be those Missionary Disciples which is God's gift to us at our baptism. Dates: Post-Epiphany (7th January 2026) – end of ordinary time (28th November 2026)

IN ADDITION WE ARE PREPARING FOR OUR TWO HUNDRED ANNIVERSARY IN 2027



**TRANSFORMING PRAYER – EXTRACT FROM SPE SALVI  
(BENEDICT XVI)**

47. Some recent theologians are of the opinion that the fire which both burns and saves is Christ himself, the Judge and Saviour. The encounter with him is the decisive act of judgement. Before his gaze all falsehood melts away. This encounter with him, as it burns us, transforms and frees us, allowing us to become truly ourselves. All that we build during our lives can prove to be mere straw, pure bluster, and it collapses. Yet in the pain of this encounter, when the impurity and sickness of our lives become evident to us, there lies salvation. His gaze, the touch of his heart heals us through an undeniably painful transformation “as through fire”. But it is a blessed pain, in which the holy power of his love sears through us like a flame, enabling us to become totally ourselves and thus totally of God. In this way the inter-relation between justice and grace also becomes clear: the way we live our lives is not immaterial, but our defilement does not stain us for ever if we have at least continued to reach out towards Christ, towards truth and towards love.

Indeed, it has already been burned away through Christ's Passion. At the moment of judgement we experience and we absorb the overwhelming power of his love over all the evil in the world and in ourselves. The pain of love becomes our salvation and our joy. It is clear that we cannot calculate the “duration” of this transforming burning in terms of the chronological measurements of this world. The transforming “moment” of this encounter eludes earthly time-reckoning—it is the heart's time, it is the time of “passage” to communion with God in the Body of Christ[39].

The judgement of God is hope, both because it is justice and because it is grace. If it were merely grace, making all earthly things cease to matter, God would still owe us an answer to the question about justice—the crucial question that we ask of history and of God. If it were merely justice, in the end it could bring only fear to us all. The incarnation of God in Christ has so closely linked the two together—judgement and grace—that justice is firmly established: we all work out our salvation “with fear and trembling” (Phil 2:12). Nevertheless grace allows us all to hope, and to go trustfully to meet the Judge whom we know as our “advocate”, or parakletos (cf. 1 Jn 2:1).

Dates for the diary:

3/4th February Daughters of Divine Love will make our annual mission appeal.

Sunday Feb 4th at 1.30pm Parish Dinner – see back page

*Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Jack Newall who died last Saturday. The funeral will be at 12.30pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> February*

*We welcome Lukas Mickevicius to the parish. Lukas is a seminarian of the Nottingham diocese currently in his propaedeutic year at Valladolid. Lukas will be with us for the month of January.*

*Women's Guild next meeting 27<sup>th</sup> February 1.30pm Church Hall*

*DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April afternoon tea in the hall*

Sunday Collection: 14 January 2024

Envelope: £84 Loose Plate: £359

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: Sick and Retired Priests £260

**Second Collections:**

3 Feb Mission Appeal 25 Feb White Flower Appeal 29<sup>th</sup> March Holy Places 21<sup>st</sup> 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 RIP Jack Newall RIP
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates.

## *From the Parish Priest's Desk....*

Dear Faithful,

The Liturgy today gives to us an urgent call to repentance – St Paul tells us in the second reading that time is growing short. Just as Jonah preached to the Ninevites and they heeded the call, for us everyday is a call to ongoing repentance. When Jesus speaks in the gospel, he is talking directly to us in the here and now – the time has come, the Kingdom of God is near at hand.

It has a double warning for us as the world drifts to war and melt-down and a great apostasy. What Our Lady warned us about is taking place before our very eyes – Cardinal against Cardinal. But far from being disheartened we should rejoice because these labour pains signal the imminent establishment of the period of peace and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart promised at Fatima. However, we have to be awake and switched on so that we can pass through the doors of mercy which Our Lord told St Faustina.

It is unpopular today but many do not take the vital importance seriously enough. In the rule of Saint Benedict for 20<sup>th</sup> January he advises us: “live in fear of the day of judgement and have a great horror of hell. Day by day remind yourselves that you are going to die and watch over all that you do, aware that God’s gaze is upon you.” This is not morbid teaching but a healthy attitude which is directly from the gospels. Especially because the saints and mystics tell us to make use of the door of mercy before it is closed.

So we are called to repentance. What is repentance? There could be many definitions of this but I like to think of it as an about turn. Ceasing to look in the direction in which “I” am heading and turning around one hundred and eighty degrees. Why do we turn around? So that we can turn and receive the gaze of Jesus and have a profound encounter with his Holy Face – a devotion which St Therese loved. It is this gaze of Jesus that pierces and burns away our impurities and all that hinders our journey to be transformed into an icon or him.

Pope Benedict writes about this purifying ordeal in *Spe Salvi* and I have included a beautiful section on page 6 – please read this carefully and ponder it. There is a simple message – we cannot save our souls unless we are first purified and yes this involves a pain but it is a pain that is beautiful because when we are undergoing it we sense that our true life is just beginning. He also emphasises that there must be both Justice and Mercy – Mercy and justice. There tends to be an assumption today that everyone is saved and that salvation only requires that one is a decent sort of person – attends Church fairly regularly and prays a bit.

Now, the place where this takes place, the furnace of smelting and purifying as mentioned in Ecclesiasticus 2 and Saint Peter, is mystical prayer. What is mystical prayer? Just that prayer which transforms; indeed for the early Christians if you mentioned prayer that would be what they assumed you are talking about. Indeed as David Torkington writes in his books the single greatest tragedy in the Church today is that we have forgotten this prayer.

What is mystical transforming prayer? To sit quietly in the ones cell open to the transforming gaze of Christ and the transforming fire of the Holy Spirit and slowly in God’s own time be purified. This is difficult and requires perseverance and courage because at first we seem to be getting worse and all our sins both those we know and those that are unknown rear their heads and we realise the serious nature of what sin means and what it did to Jesus. But if we persevere then gradually these are burnt away and we come out of the furnace a new creation and we discover finally who we were truly created to be.

THAT BEAUTY AND FREEDOM IS BEYOND ANYTHING WE CAN IMAGINE AND  
WHAT HAPPINESS AND RICHES AND ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS FIGHTING  
WITH ALL OUR MIGHT AND BEING OPEN TO GOD’S WORK.

GOD BLESS, FR. DOMINIC.

