



St Mary's Presbytery  
24 Horncastle Road  
Boston PE21 9BU  
Tel:01205 362056

Email: [saintmarysboston@gmail.com](mailto:saintmarysboston@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stmaryschurchboston.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurchboston.org.uk)

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*



*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	27	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	
Sunday	28	8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<i>Fourth Sunday of the Year</i>	<i>Parish</i>
Monday	29	12.30pm	Eng	Feria	<i>Perp D</i>
Tuesday	30	9.30am	Eng	Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Wednesday	31	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	St John Bosco	<i>Jamie</i>
Thursday	1	<u>9.30am</u>	Eng	Feria	<i>Sheila</i>
Friday	2	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	The Presentation of Our Lord	
Saturday	3	4.00pm	Eng	St Blaise Vigil	<i>Izabelle</i>
Sunday	4	8.30am 10.00am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Latin Pol	<i>Fifth Sunday of the Year</i>	<i>Parish</i>

**The Feast of the Presentation, Friday, Candle Procession starts from the Hall.**

**Adoration: Tuesday, Thursday 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.  
Raffle and Prizes**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH at 1.30pm  
Sign up sheet to bring a national dish at back of Church.**

**Children's Picture Competition: Draw/colour on A4 a picture of Our Lady in your national image. Put on back: Name; Age; Nationality; Contact Number. There will be prizes. Due date no later than Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

#### 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



C.S. Lewis wrote in the Screwtape Letters that there were two unhealthy errors regarding the devils; one would be to disbelieve in their existence, the other to have an unhealthy interest in them. One might also add an unhealthy fear of them. The Screwtape Letters are the correspondence between a senior tempter and his junior. We can learn much from them that helps us to be on our guard against their tactics. They are available to read free online.

Here is an extract from one of the letters:

“ I wonder you should ask me whether it is essential to keep the patient in ignorance of your own existence. That question, at least for the present phase of the struggle, has been answered for us by the High Command. Our policy, for the moment, is to conceal ourselves. Of course this has not always been so. We are really faced with a cruel dilemma. When the humans disbelieve in our existence we lose all the pleasing results of direct terrorism and we make no magicians. On the other hand, when they believe in us, we cannot make them materialists and sceptics. At least, not yet. I have great hopes that we shall learn in due time how to emotionalise and mythologise their science to such an extent that what is, in effect, belief in us, (though not under that name) will creep in while the human mind remains closed to belief in the Enemy. The “Life Force”, the worship of sex, and some aspects of Psychoanalysis, may here prove useful. If once we can produce our perfect work — the Materialist Magician, the man, not using, but veritably worshipping, what he vaguely calls “Forces” while denying the existence of “spirits” — then the end of the war will be in sight. But in the meantime we must obey our orders. I do not think you will have much difficulty in keeping the patient in the dark. The fact that “devils” are predominantly comic figures in the modern imagination will help you. If any faint suspicion of your existence begins to arise in his mind, suggest to him a picture of something in red tights, and persuade him that since he cannot believe in that (it is an old textbook method of confusing them) he therefore cannot believe in you. “

### Dates for the diary:

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. There will be a procession with candles from the hall before the 9.30am Mass.

Sunday Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm Parish Dinner – see back page

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February: 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**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February: Women’s Guild next meeting Church Hall

March 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Daughters of Divine Love will make our annual mission appeal.

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

Sunday Collection: 21 January 2024

Envelope: £90 Loose Plate: £362

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:**

25 Feb White Flower Appeal 16/17<sup>th</sup> March: Mission 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.

## Article by Constance T Hull

I was praying before the Tabernacle in my parish yesterday afternoon meditating on the Agony in the Garden. Funnily enough, I was exhausted and I was struggling with drowsiness as I read once more about how St. Peter, St. James, and St. John could not keep their eyes open as Our Lord underwent His agony in prayer before His betrayal and Passion. Physical drowsiness and exhaustion are a part of our human experience. Everyone battles it in prayer. This drowsiness can help us to enter more deeply into the spiritual significance of what Christ was trying to teach His Apostles, namely that spiritual drowsiness deadens the soul and gives the Enemy free reign in our lives.

While Our Lord prays to perfectly unite His human will to the Father's Divine will, he asks His disciples to remain vigilant. They are still living with considerable spiritual blindness. They do not understand what is imminent and so they slip in and out of sleep as Christ prepares for the torture and death He will suffer for their sakes and for all of mankind. This same struggle is a part of our own spiritual lives. We often fall into sloth. Our prayer lives lose out to "more" important matters in our daily schedules. This leads us into a sort of spiritual drowsiness, which is in fact dangerous, because it opens us up to greater temptations from the Enemy, the flesh, and the world. We may forget in our busyness that we must be on guard at all times because we do not know when our own hour will come. The Enemy constantly seeks to lull us into a false sense of security.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his book *Jesus of Nazareth Holy Week: From the Entrance Into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, discusses the great importance and emphasis Christ places on the spiritual alertness that we are called to:

*"The summons to vigilance has already been a major theme of Jesus' Jerusalem teaching, and now it emerges directly with great urgency. And yet, while it refers specially to Gethsemane, it also points ahead to the later history of Christianity. Across the centuries, it is the drowsiness of the disciples that opens up the possibilities for the power of the Evil One."*

The reason this spiritual drowsiness is so insidious is because it creeps in slowly. We are no longer alert to the temptations we are constantly dealing with and we begin to let more and more in over time. This is a struggle for all of us in our Fallen state, which is why regular reception of the Sacrament of Confession is crucial for progressing in holiness. If Confession is not available, then a daily examination of conscience will help us to stay on top of our daily sins and failings until we can return to the Sacrament.



Pope Benedict explains what happens in this state of drowsiness:

*"Such drowsiness deadens the soul, so that it remains undisturbed by the power of the Evil One at work in the world and by all the injustice and suffering ravaging the earth. In its state of numbness, the soul prefers not to see all this; it is easily persuaded that things cannot be so bad, so as to continue in the self-satisfaction of its own comfortable existence. Yet this deadening of souls, this lack of vigilance regarding both God's closeness and the looming forces of darkness, is what gives the Evil One power in the world."*

The call to remain vigilant is crucial in our spiritual lives. In a time when the ordinary means of sanctifying grace are not readily available to many of us in the way they have been for the entirety of our lives, we must remain constantly cognizant of our spiritual state. Are we slipping in our daily prayers? Are we tempted to forgo watching Sunday Mass because "it isn't the same"? Do we sense a sort of drowsiness overtaking us as we progress through this exile? We will all experience periods of weakness and temptation during this period of waiting. It is true for the entirety of our lives. Given that this Holy Week is unlike any other we in the Western world have faced, it is essential that we seek to draw closer to Christ. We must rouse ourselves from slumber and wait and watch with Him.

We must also be on guard against assuming that we are strong enough to endure any temptations this period away from the Sacraments may bring. Our strength is in Christ. It's important to remember that we are all capable of incredible darkness, including forms of sloth that could tempt us away from the Church. This reminder of our weaknesses helps us to cling to Him even more. During this period of trial and exile, we must dig deep spiritually and find new ways to enter into communion with Christ in our private prayer and with our families. There is a very real danger that we may all come back to smaller parishes when we are finally able to attend public Masses again. Let us pray that we may not undergo the test, but if we must, that Christ will give us the strength to cling to Him regardless of what struggles we face in the coming weeks and months.

Constance T Hull - April 9, 2020 Catholic Exchange

