



St Mary's Presbytery
24 Horncastle Road
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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,

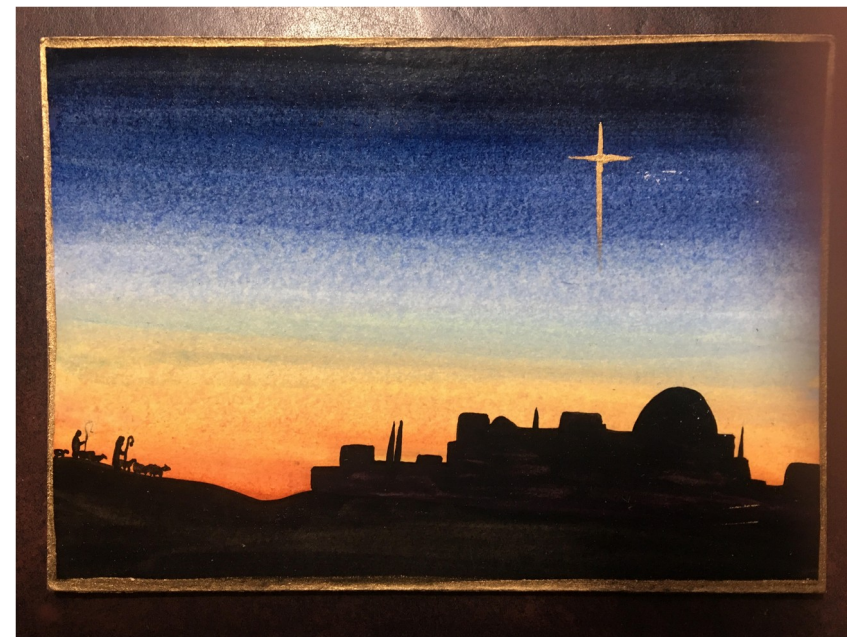
School: St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Ashlawn Drive,
Boston, PE21 9PX TEL: 01205 362092

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	6	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>ndl</i>
Sunday	7	8.30am 10.00am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Latin Pol	<i>The Epiphany</i>	<i>Parish</i> <i>Alison</i>
Monday	8	12.30pm	Eng	The Baptism of Our Lord	<i>Friends and Benefactors</i>
Tuesday	9	9.30am	Eng	Feria	<i>Monthly Requiem</i>
Wednesday	10	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	
Thursday	11	7.00pm	Eng	Feria	<i>Vocations</i>
Friday	12	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	
Saturday	13	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	
Sunday	14	8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<i>Second 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 and after daily mass.

Epiphany Inscription Over the Doorway of the Home:

20 + C + M + B + 24

For the glorious feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, here again is the traditional blessing from the Roman Ritual with a little explanation of it. The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*. May Christ bless the house.” The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing.

The crosses represent the protection of the Precious Blood of Christ, Whose Sacred Name we invoke, and also the holiness of the Three Magi sanctified by their adoration of the Infant Christ.

The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God’s blessing. The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and protector of the beginning and end of things. This blessing “christens” the ancient Roman observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by the Adorable and Eternal Word of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

To bless your home this Epiphany, first read the Prologue of Saint John’s Gospel, followed by the Our Father, and the Collect of the Epiphany(See below); then write the inscription for this year above your front door with blessed chalk. (from lineonthedhedgerow.blogspot)

Collect:

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



From the parish priest's desk

Dear Faithful

The Epiphany is a glorious feast which celebrates three different events in Our Lord's life, all of which are connected: firstly, the visit of the kings; secondly, the Baptism of Our Lord and thirdly, the marriage feast of Cana. They are all manifestations or epiphanies of the Lord where he demonstrates that he is divine. The Baptism of Our Lord is celebrated on the octave day of the Epiphany and the Wedding at Cana traditionally on the second Sunday of the Year. So it is a great feast that we must celebrate well. It also has its own octave and so I suggest keeping Christmas decorations up until the 7th January. The Epiphany also has the traditional blessing of the chalk with which we bless our houses for the year. The blessing is given opposite and blessed chalk will be available at Church. God bless, Fr. Dominic.

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!

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: 31 December 2023

Envelope: £105 Loose Plate: £405

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 Angels raised £107 – many thanks for this support.

Second Collections:

14th Jan Sick/Retired Priests 25 Feb White Flower Appeal 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 RIP
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates.



From the Parish Priest's Desk...Our Lenten Journey.

Dear Faithful,

The Epiphany – or the showing forth of the Divinity – contains three separate events in the life of Our Lord. Firstly, the visit of the Magi; secondly, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and lastly, the marriage feast of Cana. What is God trying to tell us through these events and what is the connection between them.

Firstly, and most importantly, the showing forth of God – in the human nature of Jesus – shows us just how much he loves us, how dear to him we are. So dear that he was prepared to become one of us, in all things but sin. He became a little child so that no one dare not approach him. Everything in our lives must start from this fundamental reality: God loves us.

Secondly, God loves us so much that he wants to communicate his very life to us so that we might participate in it. He did not come to simply put a plaster over our wounds and let us continue as we were. No! He comes to transform, to baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire so that we might be taken up into his very life. This will be accomplished at the beginning through Baptism which brings about instantaneously this very change.

Thirdly, we see the manifestation of the divinity in total humility and self-denial. The Son totally abased himself, was born in a stable, suffered and was prepared to undergo John's baptism to teach us that.

What must we do?

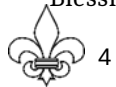
- Acknowledge our nothingness, realise that all we need to do is to go to the fountain of living water, to drink without having to pay.
- Acknowledge that we need conversion and repentance – that we need to be transformed like the water at Cana into wine. That is all that is needed: acknowledge our need and open our hearts.
- Follow his example: learn to give of our very being in love to others.

Why do so many then refuse the invitation?

- We don't like to surrender, we like to (as Adam and Eve did) believe that we are gods. That we are not nothing, that we do not require God's love and transforming power.
- In a strange paradox, we have burdens but we don't actually want to put them down.

The Chosen Season 3 I strongly recommend - Episode 3 that deals with this very problem. Jesus proclaims that he has come to set us free – right now – but whilst some accept, many reject – almost because it is all too normal, too seemingly ordinary = after all he was the son of a carpenter. Let us ask Mary to always keep us humble, always needy, always desiring the wedding feast of the Kingdom.

Blessings to all for 2024, Fr. Dominic.



Some Parish Updates.

Dear Faithful,

We shall very shortly be advertising for a parish administrator. The increasing burdens on the parish priest necessitate that this be removed from his shoulders so as to enable him to concentrate on priestly duties. This is being encouraged across the diocese. Secondly, the particular nature of the parish with its diverse communities and liturgies means that these will need co-ordinating particularly in the light of our need to form a common mission and goal. Thirdly, Father's apostolate can also take him outside of the parish.

This position will be similar on a parish level as the Chief Executive officer of the Diocese. I have tried to interest other parishes in sharing in this appointment without success.

This role will involve a high degree of responsibility and trust and therefore, we shall have to pay a salary commensurate with this. It will also necessitate that the person has a mission orientated outlook. I envision that the salary will be tied to the goals asked rather than an hourly rate.

I ask your prayers that God sends us someone that will fit well this task.

Secondly, in January I have invited Gabriel Gillick to meet with me to help plan the renovation/redecoration of our church as we head towards our bicentennial anniversary in 2027.

Lastly, it is time to focus on the goal the Holy Father has set as we move towards the jubilee in 2025 that this year focuses on prayer.

Wishing you all a blessed Epiphany, Fr. Dominic.

