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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
<b>Saturday</b>	17	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
<b>Sunday</b>		8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<b><i>First Sunday of Lent</i></b>	<i>Parish</i>
<b>Monday</b>	19	No Mass		Lenten Feria	
<b>Tuesday</b>	20	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>NDL</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	21	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>Priests</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	22	7.00pm	Eng	The Chair of St Peter	<i>Vocations</i>
<b>Friday</b>	23	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>NDL</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	24	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Rethinam RIP</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	25	8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<b><i>Second Sunday of Lent</i></b>	<i>Parish</i>

**Adoration: Tuesday 8.00am Friday 8.00am**

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

**Many thanks to all who helped on Sunday last. It was a great success and a very good turnout had a very enjoyable time.**

### 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



## THEME FOR LENT

TURN TO FACE CHRIST – LET US REORIENTATE OURSELVES TO  
CHRIST AS THE CENTRE OF OUR LIVES

What can we do for Christ this Lent?

This Lent we want what Jesus wants

- Christ wants to live his life in us and to share the whole mystery of his life with us – joys and sorrows.
- He is looking for souls to take a little sip of the bitter chalice that he had to drink.
- See everything that happens in our lives (apart from sin) as Jesus living in us, sharing with us.
- He is looking for souls this Lent to keep him company when he was deserted by his closest friends.
- Meditate on the Passion. Jesus revealed to Saint Faustina that an hour meditating on his passion was more than a year of rosaries. Meditate particularly on the Garden of Gethsemane
- Keep Silence – Listen – Remove the little world that surrounds us – thoughts of creatures, imagination, the voices that inundate us (worry, anxiety, control, fear) so that we can hear the voice of Jesus and so that he can enter freely into our hearts.
- Make good and regular confessions. Confession is saying I chose this creature, this pleasure etc rather than choosing Christ.

Pray for courage and put into the deep. We can truly come to the Paschal mysteries having undergone a profound conversion if we allow the Holy Spirit to purify us.

Dates for the diary:

Thanks to Fr. Simon Gillespie who will be covering the masses this weekend.

**Stations of the Cross in Lent: English Thursday 6.00pm Keralan Friday 6.00pm**

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

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March Memorial Service 12.00 Trevor Vandervord

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: 11 February 2024

Envelope: £ 98 Loose Plate: £166

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 Lockingl. Michael Campbell; Kathleen Bedford Tony Bass. Teresa Turpin
- Trevor Vandervord RIP Jack Newall RIP
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates.



Let us remember that Jesus took on himself all our temptations and conquered them. St Augustine says that this is the great motive for trust and confidence. We have already conquered in Christ. Therefore, the secret in our battles is to have the greatest trust in the power of Christ working within us, and therefore, to surrender ourselves totally to him.

Temptations mostly arise and gain their power when we have already separated ourselves from Christ. Like Saint Peter who fell by denying Christ because he walked AT A DISTANCE from him.

Stay close to Christ, enveloped beneath the wings of the Most High (psalm 90) and wrapped in the mantle of Mary, these are the means for conquering.

1.Lent is a time of Grace, a vital time given each year to help us become true children of God with our baptismal innocence restored.

2.The main battle in Lent is against sin—to battle our own demons and to make a thorough conversion of heart: The antiphon for day time prayer: Now is the time for redeeming sin and for saving souls.

3.It is a time of saving souls and therefore we must look outwards in works of Charity and proclaiming the gospel. The Liturgy emphasises almsgiving in particular.

4.It is a time for greater diligence in prayer particularly attending the Liturgy during this time.

5.Although we may choose to give up things or do things extra, fasting is the primary means the Church puts forward in this season. This is not only because it works symbolically—we fast from food, as we fast from sin and are fed by the word of God; but also because fasting has a salutary effect on our health; our minds become clearer and certain temptations (e.g. against purity) are lessened. I would strongly urge that unless medical conditions determine otherwise fasting plays some role in our Lent. Very simple: one main meal, two lesser meals. which combined do not exceed the main meal; no snacking in between. This is great wisdom: not too onerous but very productive.

6.Whatever we choose to do should not be so onerous that it detracts from prayer and our spiritual battle, or so light that there is no aid given in this battle. The Liturgical prayers assume that we are doing penance and that we realise we are in a battle.

7.Lent is a time for preparation—it makes no sense unless seen in the light of the Easter Vigil when we celebrate new birth with the baptism of the Catechumens and ourselves are made full of grace. The First Lenten preface is beautifully constructed in this respect:

“Each year You give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed. You give us a spirit of loving reverence for You, our Father, and of willing service to our neighbour. As we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ, You bring the image of Your Son to perfection within us.”

8.Lent is a time of Joy because our minds are being made pure.

“Christ does not seek comfort; he goes only to places where divine battles are fought – the heart of man, the depths of Jordan’s waters where demonic monsters were though to lurk, and the desert, where only the saint or demon can survive.....The desert offers two diametrically opposed solutions to the plight of man: either capitulation to the comforts of the satanic attitude – food, power, possession – or surrender to the mercy of God’s providence. The desert is the place of utter poverty and therefore, potentially, of heroic trust in God.....When man experiences his own bareness, when he is most in need then is the time of the decisive crises. Will he accept easy, immediate remedies and compromise his vocation as child of God, or will he wait in silence and privation, fasting from all the world has to offer for the perfect length of God’s pleasure – represented by the forty days and nights.”  
(E.L.Merikis Commentary on St Matthew vol 1)

God bless, Fr. Dominic