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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>	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>John Mundon RIP Parish</i>
<b>Monday</b>	26	12.30pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Harwoods</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	27	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Harwoods</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	28	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>Harwoods</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	29	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Vocations</i>
<b>Friday</b>	1 Mar	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	St David	<i>NDL</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	2	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	3	8.30am 10.00am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Latin Pol	<b><i>Third Sunday of Lent</i></b>	<i>Parish</i>

### Adoration:

Confessions: Saturday 3.20pm-3.50pm Sunday 7.55am-8.20am and 9.20am – 9.50am available before daily mass. After daily mass upon request.

### 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:

This Weekend White Flower Appeal Second Collection

**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

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 7pm Kirton Brass Band Concert Thomas Middlecote Academy  
Tickets £12.50 from Carolyn. Proceeds to Boston Food Bank and Centrepoint.

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: 18 February 2024

Envelope: £118 Loose Plate: £284

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.



Dear Faithful,

There is the most intimate link in our faith between suffering and glory. This can be seen in the gospel today when Matthew places the Transfiguration six days after Peter confesses Jesus to be the Christ and Jesus then speaks about his passion and the necessity for anyone who wishes to be his disciple to take up his cross and lose his life for the sake of gaining it. The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus underwent the suffering of his passion for the glory that was held out to him. The transfiguration therefore reminds us that our lenten journey via our self-immolation will bring us to true transfiguration or transformation in Christ.

What in essence does Jesus mean by losing our life? Clearly, he is not talking simply about physical life – although some are called to martyrdom. But it is more essential than that – it is to lose what is most essential to us – our will. The greatest obstacle to being transformed lies in our hanging on to our will; hanging onto control; hanging on to what we want and thus, keeping some part of our life – however small – separate from God's. Losing our life means to jettison all our plans, wishes and desires and sacrificing them to God. When we surrender our will to God, the real transformation begins to take place. We begin to grow in spiritual sight, we begin to see everything in a new light. Indeed the next Sundays in Lent give us practical examples of what happens when we say yes to Jesus: the Samaritan woman; the man born blind and the resurrection of Lazarus.

Adam and Eve at the beginning of Genesis were clothed in the invisible light of God because they were continually using their will to say yes to God's Divine Will. But then when they disobey God and separate their wills from his they are no longer clothed in God's light and they realise that they are naked.

The Transfiguration is an incredibly rich event which stretches back to creation itself and to the new creation when there will be a new heaven and a new earth. The transfiguration took place at the same time as the Jewish feast of Tabernacles when the Jews lived not in their house but in make shift tents. This was to remind them of nature and the original creation; secondly, to remind them of God's saving acts in their history and lastly, to point forward to the end of time. Hence Peter wishes to build three tabernacles because he thinks that this is the final end of history.

One of the most important themes in Lent is that of light which will reach its hight at the Easter Vigil when the congregation light their candles from the Paschal Candle (Christ) and the darkness of the night is scattered. During Lent it is well worthwhile reading through the Easter Vigil because it is the end to which we are aiming.

“In Jesus' view, losing the instinctual and self-willed self is finding the genuine and God-willed self. Such paradoxical language in fact catapults our limited, conventual being into God's inner and outer space, breaking open its earthly straitjacket, liberating our self and making it travel gloriously through galaxies of stars never before imagined. Only if we abandon our lives into his hands can God show us his created cosmic universe and the uncreated universe of his own Heart.” (E. L.Merikakis Vol 2)

We need to start now. How to do it simply? Tell Jesus that you surrender the small pebble of your own will in exchange for receiving his. He will then do the rest, step by step. We can practice this constantly and have on our lips Jesus' prayer in the garden of Olives: “Not my will but thine be done.”

This is the only way to heaven, this is the narrow gate and the narrow way. It is how Jesus redeemed us. Jesus at every moment did the will of the Father. It is why the Eternal Son took flesh so that once again a human will (remember Jesus had both a human will and a divine will) would perfectly carry out the will of the Father.

Let us ask Mary to teach us how to let our wills be absorbed into the divine. Let us also always listen to Jesus and wherever we look: whatever or whoever we are looking at to see only Jesus.

God bless, Fr. Dominic  
*Fiat!*

*Raphael: The Transfiguration*

