



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	3	4.00pm	Eng	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>
Monday	5	<b>7.00am</b>	Eng	St Agatha	<i>NDL</i>
Tuesday	6	9.30am	Eng	SS Paul Mike &co	<i>NDL</i>
Wednesday	7	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	<i>Priests</i>
Thursday	8	7.00pm	Eng	St Josephine Bakhita	<i>Vocations</i>
Friday	9	9.30am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Saturday	10	4.00pm	Eng	St Scholastica Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
Sunday	11	8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<i>Sixth Sunday of the Year</i>	<i>Parish</i>

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

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



## PREPARING FOR LENT

Lent is such a blessed time of the year and there are so many graces available that it is worth preparing a plan for the season so that we reach the Paschal Mysteries with our hearts and minds made clean. Here are a few suggestions:

- 1) This might not be your first thought but SILENCE. Reduce the time spend on social media, internet etc and cultivate a listening heart. Without silence the work God will be able to do in your heart will be limited.
- 2) YES TO TRUST – NO TO WORRY. Try and plan this carefully as trust is so important; it is foundational. But we all tend to suffer from anxiety and fear etc but we need to put it aside. Again I recommend the Surrender Novena and a small book by Jacques Philippe “The Way of Trust and Love.”
- 3) FASTING. Yes officially the only days of fasting in the whole year are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. But fasting is so important – it purifies the soul and together with prayer and alms giving it is so powerful before God. It doesn't have to be severe at all. Fasting from media etc as above is a really productive fast. Try simply not to eat between meals at least on some days of the week.
- 4) PRAYER – We have been talking a lot about prayer since it is the year of prayer and so use Lent wisely to pray a bit more deeply if we can't manage more time. Pray from the heart – quality is much more important than quantity.
- 5) Some SPIRITUAL READING. Learn more about the faith.
- 6) MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION REGULARLY

## Dates for the diary:

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

Wednesday Feb 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday 9.30am and 6.00pm

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

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: 28 January 2024

Envelope: £168 Loose Plate: £865

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.
- Trevor Vandervord RIP Jack Newall RIP
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates.



There is a radical objection to prayer, which derives from an observation that we all make: we pray, we ask, and yet sometimes our prayers seem to go unheard: what we have asked for — for ourselves or for others — is not fulfilled. We often have this experience. If the reason for which we prayed was noble (such as intercession for the health of a sick person, or for the end of a war, for instance), the non-fulfilment seems scandalous. For example, for wars: we are praying for wars to end, these wars in so many parts of the world. Think of Yemen, think of Syria, countries that have been at war for years, for years. Countries ravaged by wars; we pray, and they do not come to an end. But how can this be? “Some even stop praying because they think their petition is not heard” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2734). But if God is Father, why does he not listen to us? He who assured us that he gives good things to his children who ask for them (cf. Mt 7:10), why does he not respond to our requests? We have all experienced this: we have prayed, prayed, for the illness of a friend, of a father, of a mother, and then they were gone. But God did not grant our request! It is an experience we have all had.

The Catechism offers us a good summary of the matter. It puts us on guard against the risk of not living an authentic experience of faith, but of transforming the relationship with God into something magical. Prayer is not a magic wand: it is a dialogue with the Lord. Indeed, when we pray we can fall into the risk that it is not we who serve God, but we expect it to be He who serves us (cf. 2735). This is, then, a prayer that is always demanding, that wants to direct events according to our own design, that admits no plans other than our own desires. Jesus, on the other hand, had great wisdom in teaching us the Lord’s Prayer. It is a prayer of questions only, as we know, but the first ones we utter are all on God’s side. They ask for the fulfilment not of our plan, but of his will for the world. Better to leave it to him: “Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done” (Mt 6:9-10).

And the Apostle Paul reminds us that we do not even know what is appropriate to ask (cf. Rm 8:26). We ask for our necessities, our needs, things that we want: “But is this more appropriate or not?” Paul tells us, we do not even know what we ought to ask. When we pray, we need to be humble: this is the first attitude for going to pray. Just as there is the habit in many places that, before going to pray in a church, women don a veil or people use holy water as they begin to pray, so too we must tell ourselves before praying what is most appropriate; may God give me what is most appropriate. He knows. When we pray we must be humble, so that our words may actually be prayers and not just idle talk that God rejects. We can also pray for the wrong reasons: such as to defeat the enemy at war, without asking ourselves what God thinks of such a war. It is easy to write “God is with us” on a banner; many are eager to ensure that God is with them, but few bother to check whether they are actually with God. In prayer, it is God who must convert us, not we who must convert God. It is humility. I go to pray but You, Lord, convert my heart so that it will ask for what is appropriate, for what will be best for my spiritual health.



However, the scandal remains: when people pray with a sincere heart, when they ask for things that correspond to the Kingdom of God, when a mother prays for her sick child, why does it sometimes seem that God does not listen to them? To answer this question, we have to meditate calmly on the Gospels. The accounts of Jesus’ life are full of prayers: many people wounded in body and in spirit ask him to be healed; there are those who pray for a friend who can no longer walk; there are fathers and mothers who bring him their sick sons and daughters. They are all prayers imbued with suffering. It is an immense chorus that invokes: “Have mercy on us!”

We see that at times Jesus’ response is immediate, whereas in some other cases it is delayed: it seems that God does not answer. Think of the Canaanite woman who begs Jesus for her daughter: this woman has to insist for a long time to be heard (cf. Mt 15:21-28). She even has the humility to hear a word from Jesus that seems a little offensive towards her: we must not throw bread to the dogs, to the pooches. But humiliation does not matter to this woman: her daughter’s health is what matters. And she goes on: “Yes, but even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table”, and Jesus likes this. Courage in prayer. Or think of the paralytic brought by his four friends: Jesus initially forgives his sins and only later heals his body (cf. Mk 2:1-12). On some occasions, therefore, the solution to the problem is not immediate. In our life too, each one of us has this experience. Let us look back a little: how many times have we asked for a grace, a miracle, let’s say, and nothing has happened. Then, over time, things have worked out but in God’s way, the divine way, not according to what we wanted in that moment. God’s time is not our time.

From this point of view, the healing of Jairus’ daughter is worthy of particular attention (cf. Mk 5:21-33). There is a father who is rushing, out of breath: his daughter is ill and for this reason he asks for Jesus’ help. The Master immediately accepts, but on their way home another healing occurs, and then news arrives that the girl has died. It seems to be the end, but instead Jesus says to the father: “Do not fear, only believe” (Mk 5:36). “Continue to have faith”: because it is faith that sustains prayer. And indeed, Jesus will awaken that child from the sleep of death. But Jairus had to walk in the dark for some time, with only the flame of faith. Lord, give me faith! May my faith grow! Ask for this grace, to have faith. Jesus, in the Gospel, says that faith moves mountains. But, having real faith. Jesus, before the faith of his poor, of his people, is won over; he feels special tenderness, before that faith. And he listens.

The prayer that Jesus addresses to the Father in Gethsemane also seems to go unheard. “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me”. It seems that the Father does not listen to him. The son must drink fully from the cup of the passion. But Holy Saturday is not the final chapter, because on the third day, Sunday, is the Resurrection. Evil is lord of the penultimate day: remember this well. Evil is never lord of the last day, no: the penultimate, the moment when the night is darkest, just before the dawn. There, on the penultimate day, there is temptation, when evil makes us think it has won: “Did you see? I won!”. Evil is lord of the penultimate day: on the last day there is the Resurrection. But evil is never lord of the last day: God is the Lord of the last day. Because that belongs to God alone, and it is the day when all human longings for salvation will be fulfilled. Let us learn this humble patience, of waiting for the Lord’s grace, waiting for the final day. Very often, the penultimate day is very hard, because human sufferings are hard. But the Lord is there. And on the last day, he resolves everything.

