



St Mary's Presbytery
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NRCDDT – Registered Charity - 1134449

Parish Priest: Fr Dominic O'Connor

Deacon Martyn Chambers, Deacon David Witherick (Ret.)

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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
Saturday	10	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
Sunday		8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<i>Sixth Sunday of the Year</i>	<i>NDL Parish</i>
Monday	12	12.30pm	Eng	Requiem Mass	<i>Jack Newall RIP</i>
Tuesday	13	7.00am	Eng	Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Wednesday	14	9.30am 6.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol	ASH WEDNESDAY	<i>NDL</i>
Thursday	15	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Vocations</i>
Friday	16	No Mass 7.30pm	Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>NDL</i>
Saturday	17	11.00am 4.00pm	Syro Eng	Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
Sunday	18	8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	<i>Parish</i>

Adoration: Wednesday 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.**

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 next weekend.

Sunday Feb 11th at 1.30pm Parish Dinner – see back page

Wednesday Feb 14th Ash Wednesday 9.30am and 6.00pm

Monday 12th 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 12th February

Tuesday 27th February: Women's Guild next meeting Church Hall

Friday 8th March Memorial Service 12.00 Trevor Vandervord

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

Friday 19th April: DATE FOR YOUR DIARY afternoon tea in the hall

Sunday Collection: 4 February 2024

Envelope: £123 Loose Plate: £483

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 16/17th March: Mission 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 Lockingl. Michael Campbell; Kathleen Bedford Tony Bass. Teresa Turpin
- Trevor Vandervord RIP Jack Newall RIP
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates.



Dear Faithful,

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey to the great Paschal Mysteries. I think the key word we should ponder is "Journey." In light of this I would strongly recommend reading the Book of Exodus; for this book narrates the journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the promised land. But it is also much more; it is a spiritual journey which teaches us many things.

Firstly, although we know the destination – heaven (and in our Lenten journey we could add conversion of the heart and a second baptism on Divine Mercy Sunday) – we don't know how God will lead us and what route it will take. It is very important that we don't confine the powerful work God wants to do in our souls – we must allow him complete freedom to act as He sees fit. So often our Lenten journey becomes preoccupied with our Lenten penances that we forget the greater work God wishes to do of which our penances are symbols. We could call this work a heart transplant. If we surrender our heart to him, he will make it one with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Therefore, I suggest this Lent to be completely open to what God wants to do – not what we think he should do.

The journey of the Israelites was only meant to take fifty days but because of the hardness of their heart, it took forty years and only two completed the journey. This is why it is so important that we realise that **the major work of our spiritual journey is to submit our will and the powers of our soul (intellect and memory) to God's Will.** This is the sole purpose of the Christian journey: Obedience to the will of God.

Secondly, what the Israelites lacked was TRUST. They simply did not trust that God knew what he was doing – just like Adam and Eve – so at every step of the way they hindered his plans for them and they were always complaining. Two weeks ago we emphasised the need to start our journey empty like the great water jars at Cana. We must start from nothingness, from our very weakness – as Saint Paul gloried in his very weakness. But we must add to that complete and absolute trust. The smaller we are, the greater our sinfulness, the greater our addictions, problems etc, the more we can rely on the power of God. This as Saint Therese taught is the time for little souls.

God can accomplish anything in a soul that trusts and very little in souls that distrust. We must have on our lips, "Jesus I trust in you." He is going to do the work, not us and since he is all powerful there is nothing that he cannot do in our souls provided we do not impede his action and we trust. If we remove the small pebble of our will, his grace will do the rest little by little. Jesus told Saint Faustina, "*If souls would put themselves completely in my care, I Myself would undertake the task of sanctifying them, and I would lavish even greater graces upon them.*" (1682)

It takes courage to surrender to Jesus because it is necessary that we surrender everything – all control, all anxiety, all worry, all our burdens, all our plans – everything. This is what Jesus told his disciples in a phrase that Saint John Paul II loved "Put out into the deep."

What are going to be our aids in this journey? Firstly, a devotion to Divine Mercy for this is the grace that he wishes to give us and is the grace for our times. We have to trust completely in his merciful Sacred Heart for it was from this that the blood and water poured out on Calvary. Secondly, devotion to Mary. We receive God's graces through Mary and so we need to be devoted to her, especially in praying the rosary daily. The rosary is our great weapon in the spiritual battle of Lent. Lastly, we must seek the Face of Christ which is our Bishop's episcopal motto. Where better can we do this than in adoration? During Lent, I wish to increase the times where this is possible. Please read the spiritual thought for the week in the bulletin.

So choose your Lenten penances wisely for these dispose us to receive God's grace but remember above all this is a journey of surrender – we want to hand ourselves over to God to be remade. In Matthew 11 when Jesus says "Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened I will give you rest" the literal meaning is Come to me and I will REMAKE you. So let us prepare with complete trust that God wants (more than we want) to take our nothingness and to fill it not simply with water but with the most inebriating wine.

God bless, Fr. Dominic

Fiat!

"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy."

- Pope Francis

Leaflet Missal

"Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor."

- Pope Francis

Leaflet Missal

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty."

- Pope Francis

Leaflet Missal

"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death."

- Pope Francis

Leaflet Missal

