



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.)

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
Saturday	2	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>NDL</i>
Sunday	3	8.30am 10.00am Noon 4.00pm 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Latin Pol	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	<i>Parish C+K Fox RIP</i>
Monday	4	12.30pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Susan Freeman</i>
Tuesday	5	9.30am	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Perp C</i>
Wednesday	6	7.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Lenten Feria	<i>Priests</i>
Thursday	7	7.00pm	Eng	Lenten Feria	<i>Vocations</i>
Friday	8	12.00 7.30pm	Eng Pol	Memorial Mass	<i>T.Vandervord RIP</i>
Saturday	9	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	<i>Roger Ward RIP</i>
Sunday	10	8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent "Laetare"</i>	<i>Debra+Donald Griffin Parish</i>

Adoration: Tuesday 8.00am

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.

NOVENA TO SAINT JOSEPH 11-19TH MARCH

Novenas are powerful forms of intercessory prayer whereby we invoke a particular feast or saint to aid us in achieving a particular intention. They are nine continuous days of prayer. The first and only official novena in the Church was that from the Ascension to Pentecost. Prayers for the novena are sometimes suggested but often can be left up to the particular person's choice. A very powerful novena that I have mentioned before is to Mary, Untier of Knots.

Saint Joseph is a very powerful intercessor – the most powerful after Mary of course. He is also patron and protector of the universal Church. The church is in a fair degree of turmoil at the moment so I am asking as many people as possible to pray a novena to Saint Joseph for the intentions of holy Mother Church. The Litany to Saint Joseph is a very powerful way to pray the novena as is the prayer below:

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him close in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen.

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:

Friday 12.00 (noon) Memorial Mass for Trevor Vandervord RIP

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

Friday 8th March Memorial Service 12.00 Trevor Vandervord

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

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

Sunday Collection: February 2024

Envelope: £124 Loose Plate: £467

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: White Flower Appeal £224.15

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,

Our Lenten journey has to be seen as a journey to the Easter Vigil and to the baptisms of those being received into the Church. Whether any baptisms take place in a parish, does not stop this being the case. The whole Church is going to welcome new children into her midst and she rejoices over this great grace. Indeed in a certain sense we should approach the Easter Vigil, as if we are to receive baptism as if for the first time. Hence we renew our baptismal vows.

Why is this theme of baptism so important for our Lenten Journey? It is the completion of what our efforts in Lent were leading to. We have through penance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, cleared away all those things that hindered us from receiving in its fullness the Life of Christ. In olden times the candidates for baptism would before the ceremony face North (which symbolised pagan ways) and renounce all their past, their sins and their false treasures. They were aware that they were going to go into the baptismal font to die to their old self and to be born again in Christ. It was a real participation in Christ's death and resurrection. They would then put away their clothes and be clothed in white garments to symbolise the new man. To the early Christians this was so powerful and real, that truly for them their old life was past and they lived for Christ and Christ lived in them. With this strength they could face any challenge.

We have to ask ourselves the question: are we really willing to die to the old man, completely and unreservedly? That means our whole life becomes an offering to God for him to do with as he sees fit. Otherwise, we live a life of compromise. For example: Jesus tells us in the gospel that if our eye causes us to sin, we must pluck it out.(Mark 9:47) Now although he is not meaning this literally, he is still implying a great force is needed to rid ourselves from those things that stop us entering into heaven.

Let us look at a modern example. Mobile phones can be great causes of temptation in many ways and many fall. If our mobile phone cause me to sin, am I ready to get rid of it and just get a dumb phone? Do we really need all the social media, our computer games etc? Jesus is saying that yes if these things stop us on our journey to paradise, we MUST get rid of them.

This is a must part of our Lenten journey – to be aware of just how deep our conversion must go. That not a single part of us must remain. That decisions have to be made that effect the way we live our lives for good, never to return to them.

We can make up our own prayer to help in this: We can tell God that we renounce in the name of his Son, Jesus, all our false identities, our false idols; we can tell him we renounce our seeking our false identity in other peoples opinions and judgements. We can tell him we surrender to his image of us and ask him to wipe us clean so that we come to true life and fulfilment once again

But the good news – that is the Gospel! - is that we can be healed, we can be made whole once again. The beautiful collect last week : “O God the RESTORER and lover of innocence.” It is also only in this healing and restoration of our true identity that we can then begin to accept our neighbour. Hence, the command of Jesus makes total sense: Love your neighbour AS YOURSELF. For until we love ourselves we are incapable of loving others.

Now the greatest thing we must renounce and that which hinders us from perfection is our will. It is in a true surrender of our wills to God, that we discover our true personality. Let us ask the intercession of Mary. I will end with two beautiful quotes one by Caryl Houselander:

“God will never ask of you more than he asked of Mary and all that he asked of Mary was her yes.”

And one by Pope St John Paul II:

“You are not the sum of your weaknesses and failures, you are the sum of the Father's love for you and the very real possibility of becoming the image of his son.”

God bless, Fr. Dominic
Fiat!

Fiat!