

MISSIO

Calling all Red Box holders! It is time to bring in your boxes, for the contents to be counted. Please leave them in the sacristy. They can be collected from the table in the church entrance when empty. Thank you. TERESA

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING BANK: The Women's Guild is operating a clothing bank, initially for clothes to fit under 11 year olds. If you don't have any children you may purchase new underwear and socks. Thanks for the kind donations of excellent quality already received. **If donations need collecting text: C.C.B to 07827274251.**



This is our annual opportunity to give public witness to the real presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. It also brings much grace to the town and ensures protection for it.

WE WOULD LIKE TO START SENDING INFORMATION ELECTRONICALLY TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF MASS CHANGES, BULLETIN ETC. If you would like to be on the parish email circular, please send an email to: info@saintmarysboston@gmail.com

Face Book



DONATIONS: Just scan the QR code with your phone to donate to our parish. Don't forget to gift aid if you can.



In the Parish of Saint Mary's Our Lady of the Rosary



St Mary's Presbytery
24 Horncastle Road Boston PE21 9BU
Tel: 01205 362056
Email: saintmarysboston@gmail.com

Website: www.stmaryschurchboston.org.uk

NRC DT - 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 .

Liturgical calendar

Day	Date	Time		Liturgical Calendar	Mass Intention
Saturday	21	4.00pm	Eng	Vigil	
Sunday	22	8.30am 10.00am Noon 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	Corpus Christi (Week 12)	Parish
Monday	23	9.00am	Eng	Feria	
Tuesday	24	9.30am	Eng	Nativity of John the Baptist	
Wed.	25	7.00am	Eng	Feria	
Thurs	26	7.00pm	Eng	Vigil of Sacred Heart	
Friday	27	9.00am 7.30pm	Eng Pol	The Sacred Heart	Tony Markham
Saturday	28	9.00am 4.00pm	Eng	Immac Heart Vigil	
Sunday	29	8.30am 10.00am 12.00 7.30pm	Eng Eng Pol Pol	St Peter and St Paul (Wk 13)	Parish

Divine Mercy: Wednesday 2.00pm

Stations of the Cross:

Adoration/Holy Hour: Tuesday 8.15am

Confessions: Saturday 3.20pm-3.50pm Sunday 7.50am-8.20pm and 9.30am-9.50am and before weekday masses and on request.



Dates for the diary:

22nd June Corpus Christi procession c.1.00pm followed by 2.00pm BBQ etc in Polish Mission Gardens. See Poster

MISSIO - See back page regarding collection of boxes

Michael Follows died 31st May - he was for many years a parishioner here at St Mary's and was very involve. May he rest in peace.

Claire Sheldrake died 9th June - May she rest in peace.

THURSDAY 24TH JULY ANNUAL PARISH TRIP TO WALSTINGHAM
(CONFIRMED - £10 A PERSON special rate for families.)

Sunday Collection: Rather than weekly, a monthly report will be made.

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 quarterly return for Gift Aid 5 April 2025 amounting to £8424 had previously been submitted. Thank you for all your gift aid donations to our parish.

If you have recently joined our parish or started to pay tax on personal income, please consider completing a Gift Aid declaration. For further information please contact me on 07778840886 or email

giftaid.bt@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Many thanks. Chaz Mayhew"

Second Collections: 15 June Day for Life; 29th June Peter's Pence; 13th July Stella Maris (Sea Sunday)

OF YOUR CHARITY PLEASE PRAY FOR

- The sick and housebound and for those who need your prayers, Sadie Wheate, Rosalyn, Mary, Fay Cowell, David Locking. Michael Campbell; Kathleen Bedford Sally Wallington; Coco. Claire Sheldrake; Margaret Fretwell
- Linda O'Neil
- 1st Holy Communion candidates
- Michael Follows RIP Claire Sheldrake RIP DEFEAT OF ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MASS – An extract from Fr Walter Cizsek's Book "He Leadeth Me."

"When I reached the prison camps of Siberia, I learned to my great joy that it was possible to say Mass daily once again. In every camp, the priests and prisoners would go to great lengths, run risks willingly, just to have the consolation of this sacrament. For those who could not get to Mass, we daily consecrated hosts and arranged for the distribution of Communion to those who wished to receive. Our risk of discovery, of course, was greater in the barracks, because of the lack of privacy and the presence of informers. Most often, therefore, we said our daily Mass somewhere at the work site during the noon break. Despite this added hardship, everyone observed a strict Eucharistic fast from the night before, passing up a chance for breakfast and working all morning on an empty stomach. Yet no one complained. In small groups the prisoners would shuffle into the assigned place, and there the priest would say Mass in his working clothes, unwashed, disheveled, bundled up against the cold. We said Mass in drafty storage shacks, or huddled in mud and slush in the corner of a building site foundation of an underground. The intensity of devotion of both priests and prisoners made up for everything; there were no altars, candles, bells, flowers, music, snow-white linens, stained glass or the warmth that even the simplest parish church could offer. Yet in these primitive conditions, the Mass brought you closer to God than anyone might conceivably imagine. The realization of what was happening on the board, box, or stone used in the place of an altar penetrated deep into the soul.

Distractions caused by the fear of discovery, which accompanied each saying of the Mass under such conditions, took nothing away from the effect that the tiny bit of bread and few drops of consecrated wine produced upon the soul. Many a time, as I folded up the handkerchief on which the body of our Lord had lain, and dried the glass or tin cup used as a chalice, the feeling of having performed something tremendously valuable for the people of this Godless country was overpowering. Just the thought of having celebrated Mass here, in this spot, made my journey to the Soviet Union and the sufferings I endured seem totally worthwhile and necessary. No other inspiration could have deepened my faith more, could have given me spiritual courage in greater abundance, than the privilege of saying Mass for these poorest and most deprived members of Christ the Good Shepherd's flock. " (Image Catholic Books)

Corpus Christi MMXXV



"Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament. . . . There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves on earth, and more than that: Death: by the divine paradox, that which ends life, and demands the surrender of all, and yet by the taste—or foretaste—of which alone can what you seek in your earthly relationships (love, faithfulness, joy) be maintained, or take on that complexion of reality, of eternal endurance, which every man's heart desires." J R R Tolkien Letter 43

"The only cure for sagging or fainting faith is Communion. Though always itself, perfect and complete and inviolate, the Blessed Sacrament does not operate completely and once for all in any of us. Like the act of Faith it must be continuous and grow by exercise. Seven times a week is more nourishing than seven times at intervals." Letter 250



From the Parish Priest's Desk...Our Lenten Journey.

Dear Faithful,

We celebrate this weekend the beautiful feast of Corpus Christi which puts before us this great mystery of the faith – the Most Holy Eucharist and the mass. The Catechism tells us that the Sacraments are God's masterpieces and that the Eucharist is the sacrament of sacraments. All other sacraments flow from this. It contains within it the mystery of Christ's passion, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. It also contains within it all the mysteries of Christ's life.

What is its purpose? CCC1091 tells us that the Holy Spirit desires and wants to transform us so that both us and the Church lives from the life of the risen Christ. In the earthly liturgy which we attend we already share and have a taste of the heavenly liturgy which is constantly being celebrated. The power of the Eucharist is such that it can transform the most sinful man into a great saint because it is the power of Christ working within us.

But as Fr Mike Schmitz points out in his podcast the sacraments are not magic – they always work but their effect depends upon our reception and co-operation with grace. We need to prepare ourselves for this encounter with the Lord. How do we prepare? Firstly, we prepare our hearts and ask the Holy Spirit to awaken faith within us. Secondly, we need to prepare by the conversion of our hearts and thirdly, we need to decide henceforth to always conform to the will of the Father. (see ccc1098)

Dispositions to receive Holy Communion

1. We must be in a state of grace; that is not aware that we have committed any serious sin. (e.g. Have we missed mass for no good reason?) If we have, we should go to Confession first.
2. We must be thoughtful and prayerful about what is happening. If we have been misbehaving or purposefully not concentrating, it would be better not to receive Jesus.
3. We must not have eaten or drunk anything within the hour before communion. The exceptions are water and medicine. Coffee, tea, juice are not allowed.
4. We must have appropriate bodily gestures and dress in respect for Christ. This means we are dignified in how we act and how we dress.

PLEASE REMEMBER NOT TO ATTEND MASS WITHOUT A SERIOUS REASON IS GRAVE SIN AND REQUIRES CONFESSION BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION. This is not being over-critical it is the law of the church so as to protect us because to receive communion unworthily brings death to the soul (St Paul)

“Our culture has filled our heads but emptied our hearts, stuffed our wallets but starved our wonder. It has fed our thirst for facts, but not for meaning or mystery. It produces 'nice' people, not heroes.” --Peter Kreeft

Fr John Hardon S.J. taught that the greatest need in the Church today was to understand the Eucharist and that the great crisis of our time has as its root belief in the real presence. There can be no doubt about this when one simply reflects on the decline in mass attendance and the decline in attendance at Adoration. As Richard Weaver wrote, “Ideas have consequences.” As human beings what we think should govern our actions. If something is true, then we must act upon it; it must govern our lives. If we don't, eventually how we act will change the way we think.

We should all examine ourselves on this. What priority does mass have in our lives? Do we make any preparation or thanksgiving? Do we respect the real presence in Church by refraining from unnecessary talk? Do we receive Holy Communion with reverence and awareness?

The Blessed Sacrament requires thought and meditation; we have to reflect upon this mystery if it is going to play a role in our lives. Moreover, we should only receive Holy Communion if we are in a state of grace and are committed to living a full catholic life. We need also to be able to pass this on to others— what a gift we have to offer to others that God is truly present amongst us and we can be in his presence. This requires courage, the sort of courage of a Margaret Clitherow who sacrificed everything for the sake of the mass and the priests who celebrated it; we need heroes.

This is clear when we consider belief in the Eucharist: either it is what the Church teaches—the most profound sacrifice, grace, act of love, the real presence of God amongst us, the greatest gift we have, OR it is not. Yet so often we do not put this clearly at the front of our minds and think about what consequence this should have in our lives. I firmly believe that the crisis in today's society is not about disbelief in God or materialism but a philosophy called relativism that seeks to deny an absolute truth and that this absolute truth must govern our lives. It is not that people don't believe in God but that people don't want to ask themselves the important questions because of where this might lead them in their lives—the necessity to repent and to deny the self.

God bless, Fr. Dominic *Fiat!*

