



*Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Stamford*

## **Saint Mary and Saint Augustine**

The Presbytery, 13 Broad Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1PG Tel: (01780) 762010

Parish Website: [www.catholicstamford.com](http://www.catholicstamford.com)

Parish Priest: Canon Peter Vellacott (Email: [priest.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:priest.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk))

Deacon: Reverend Charles West-Sadler (retired)

Parish Secretary: Carrie Ann Gates (Email: [office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk))

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Carrie Ann Gates (Email: [carrieann.gatespsr@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:carrieann.gatespsr@dioceseofnottingham.uk))

Parish Director of Music: Ruth Proctor (Mobile: 07826 017487 / Email: [ruthproctor73@gmail.com](mailto:ruthproctor73@gmail.com))

Hall Bookings: Parish Office (Tel: 01780 762010 / Email: [office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk))

Parish Primary School: Saint Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Stamford (Tel: 01780 762094)

Part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham Diocesan Website: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk)

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Company Number: 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449

**Please note that the Parish Office is closed now from 21<sup>st</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**26<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025: Seventeenth Sunday of the Year**

**Psalm Response:** *On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord*

### **Reflection**

Though we be “but dust and ashes,” we can presume to draw near and speak boldly to our Lord, as Abraham dares to do in this weekend’s First Reading. But even Abraham – the friend of God, our father in the faith, did not know the intimacy that we know as children of Abraham, heirs of the blessings promised to his descendants.

The mystery of prayer, as Jesus reveals to His disciples in the Gospel, is the living relationship of beloved sons and daughters with their heavenly Father. Our prayer is pure gift, made possible by the “good gift” of the Father – the Holy Spirit of His Son. It is the fruit of the New Covenant by which we are made children of God in Christ Jesus (cf. Galatians 4:6–7; Romans 8:15–16). Through the Spirit given to us in Baptism, we can cry to Him as our Father – knowing that when we call, He will answer.

Jesus teaches His disciples to persist in their prayer, as Abraham persisted in begging God’s mercy for the innocent of Sodom and Gomorrah. For the sake of the one righteous Man, Jesus, God spared the city of man from destruction, “cancelling the record of debt that stood against us” as Paul says in his Epistle. On the Cross, Jesus bore the guilt of us all. He cancelled the debt we owed to God, the death we deserved to die for our transgressions. We pray as ones who have been visited in our affliction and saved from our enemies, as ones who have been spared.

We pray always a prayer of thanksgiving, which is the literal meaning of “Eucharist.” We have realized the promise of this weekend’s Psalm: we bow down towards his holy temple, in the presence of angels, exalting His name. In confidence we ask, knowing that we will receive, that He will bring to completion what He has done for us – raising us from the dead, bringing us to everlasting life along with Him.

**Tea & Coffee:** Takes place after the 9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m. Masses. Do come through to the Parish Hall and take up the opportunity to catch up with fellow parishioners.

**Children's Liturgy:** Has taken a break now for the summer holidays and will return in September.

**Thank you and best wishes:** Some of you may know that our Head Teacher of our school, St Augustine's, is moving on to pastures new in September. Our thanks to Tina Cox for all she has done for the pupils, staff and parents of our wonderful Parish School. Her tireless work, inspirational leadership, her cheerfulness and enthusiasm for Catholic education will be missed. In the last four years she has strengthened the bond between school and parish, so as we say thank you to her for her time with us, we wish her every blessing and good luck in her new post: their gain is our loss.

**Dona - Electronic Giving:** For your convenience, digital payment by card is now available using the Dona machine at the back of Church. You are able to donate via card to make a general donation, for your Sunday offering, for Second Collections (listed by name when taking place) and for lighting a candle. Simply follow the on-screen instructions. You can also gift-aid the donation if applicable by selecting the option and entering the details requested.

**SVP Raffle Tickets:** From this weekend (26<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> July) SVP Raffle Tickets will be on sale after all Masses. There are fantastic cash prizes to be won with proceeds going towards supporting the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society nationally and at parish level. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Enabling our Mission Campaign:** Our parish is currently undertaking the Enabling Our Mission Campaign which aims to support our mission of becoming more outward looking, while also striving to ensure that the fewer priests now available for active ministry across the Diocese are best able to serve our communities. The Enabling Our Mission campaign focuses on three key priorities:

- To provide for a Diocesan Mission Enabling Fund which parishes across the diocese can then apply to for money, which they may not have themselves, in the form of a grant to kickstart a mission project in their parish.
- To put in place and resource structures to support the fewer clergy, now just 52 in active ministry across the Diocese, by relieving them of admin and compliance issues etc. through Deanery hubs for example that will take on this burden.
- To support parishes directly as 40% of whatever is raised comes back to the parish as part of this campaign so that the parishes themselves benefit directly and immediately from any fundraising (as well as of course being able to apply to the Mission Enabling Fund supported by the fundraising campaign as per above for specific projects).

**Foodbank:** In particular need at present are: biscuits; treats (crisps, sweets etc.); tins of rice pudding; tinned beans or spaghetti with sausages; tins/jars hot dogs; tinned spaghetti hoops; tinned peas, carrots, potatoes; toothbrushes; deodorant; shower gel. Thank you so much for your continued support.

**World Day Against Trafficking in Persons:** This Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, marks the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Human trafficking is one of the great human rights challenges of our time, described by Pope Francis as a "crime against humanity". Join the Santa Marta Group for an evening of awareness and sharing, as Kevin Hyland OBE and other speakers discuss the scale of human trafficking in our local and global communities, and the role of the Catholic Church and faith groups in preventing it. Register to attend the webinar at <https://bit.ly/trafficking2025>

**The National Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life:** Is being celebrated at Walsingham by Bishop John Keenan on Saturday 2nd August. The Pilgrimage can be followed on livestream at [www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/](http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/) or for more details, visit [www.prolifepilgrimage.org](http://www.prolifepilgrimage.org) or see the poster in the porch.

**The Celebrate Festival - Witnesses to Hope:** Is being held this summer at Worth School, in the beautiful West Sussex countryside. It is going to be a fun, family and faith-filled event with a Festival Big Top! There will be eight children's and youth groups for all ages from babies in the creche to the Joel's Bar youth (16-22 years). Held between Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August, amazing speakers will include Father Roberto Pasolini, the Papal Preacher; Father Columba Jordan CFR; Rachel Turner; and more. For details and booking, visit: [www.celebratetrust.org/festival](http://www.celebratetrust.org/festival)

**Youth 2000 Summer Festival:** Taking place in the grounds of Ampleforth College from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August, the Youth 2000 Summer Festival provides young adults (aged 16-35) from across the UK the opportunity to come together and explore faith, build relationships and find hope. This four-day festival includes great speakers, social time, break-out sessions, Daily Mass, 24/7 Adoration and much more! Register your place at: [youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025](http://youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025). Tickets are also available for priests, religious, families and groups. If you have any questions, please email [events@youth2000.org](mailto:events@youth2000.org).

**Concert for the Independence Day of Ukraine:** There will be a concert for the Independence Day of Ukraine on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 4p.m at Browne's Hospital, in Stamford. There will be Ukrainian songs, piano and chamber music in aid of the charity HUGS, 'Helping Ukraine - Grassroots Support'. Tickets: £12 (if bought in advance); £15 on the door, limited to sixty seats in the venue. Further information is available at [www.highnotesmusic.org/ukraine-2025/](http://www.highnotesmusic.org/ukraine-2025/)

**Jubilee of Hope Pilgrimage:** Will be held at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, starting with Mass at 2:00p.m., together with a family picnic, Marian Procession, and Adoration. For more details email [jnoakes@englishmartyrs.org](mailto:jnoakes@englishmartyrs.org).

**Young Adults' Pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome for the Canonisation of Carlo Acutis:** Join the diocese for a special Young Adults' Pilgrimage to Rome between Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. The Pilgrimage is open to anyone aged 18-35, costing £475 per person based on sharing a room, with financial help available. For more information and to book a place email: [vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

**UK March for Life 2025:** On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September the annual UK March for Life 2025 will take place in London. Join with thousands of others from all over the UK who believe that all life is sacred, as we march through the streets of London to the Houses of Parliament. The Walk is peaceful, legal and always spiritually uplifting. There will be a coach from Nottingham, picking up from Good Shepherd, Arnold and Cathedral, Derby Road, costing adults £30, unwaged including students £15, under 16s £10. To book on the coach or for more information contact Marie ([marielangford@live.co.uk](mailto:marielangford@live.co.uk), 07948 151264).

**The CSAN Jubilee of Social Justice:** Will be celebrated in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, at 12:00noon, by the Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP, Emeritus Archbishop of Liverpool, followed by a light lunch and Social Action Exhibition in the Pontifical Hall. See the poster in the porch for more details.

**40 Days For Life:** Takes place between Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilisation to Pray and Fast for an end to abortion, by taking part in 40 Days for life in our community, taking place at Aylestone Road Gardens, Aylestone Road, Leicester, LE2 8PW, between 8:00a.m. and 8:00p.m. daily. For more details contact Maureen: [leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com](mailto:leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com)

**Vacancies:** The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace are seeking to appoint a **Director of Finance**, based in Nottingham. More details can be found at: [www.csjp.org/news/2024/2/15/job-posting-financedirectoruk](http://www.csjp.org/news/2024/2/15/job-posting-financedirectoruk) and the deadline for applications is Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

The Diocese is looking to appoint a **Clergy Health and Wellbeing Assistant** to provide a professional service supporting the health and wellbeing of clergy in the Diocese. If you have experience in nursing, social work, etc, where care and empathy are combined with skills and creativity, then consider applying for this role. The job is 22.5 hours per week over 3 days, and details are available at: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers). The deadline for applications is 9a.m on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August, emailed to [office@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:office@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

The Diocese is looking to appoint a **Parish Administrator** for the Parishes of Corpus Christi, Clifton, and Our Lady and Saint Patrick in the Meadows, Nottingham, which are looking for a motivated, and approachable individual with excellent administration and IT skills to join the parishes team, playing a key part in the parishes' administration, including support to clergy, and liaising with volunteers. The role is 22.5 hours; more details are available at [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers/parish-administrator-3](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers/parish-administrator-3) and completed application forms should be emailed by 9a.m on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August to: [office@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:office@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

The Diocese is looking to appoint a **University Catholic Lay Chaplain** to provide pastoral, social and non-sacramental spiritual care for the Catholic students and staff at the University of Lincoln and BG University, and for a wider chaplaincy to all students and staff as part of the service to both institutions. The post holder will work a flexible 21-hour week, usually Sundays, Tuesdays, and other days for events. For further information please see [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers). The deadline for applications, sent to [office@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:office@dioceseofnottingham.uk) is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 9a.m.

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Weekend 26 <sup>th</sup> July / 27 <sup>th</sup> July<br>Seventeenth Sunday of the Year  | 5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession<br>6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>George Flattery (RIP)</i><br>9:00a.m. Mass <i>Florence &amp; Alfred Buxton &amp; Children (RIP)</i><br>11:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> July ( <i>Feria</i> )                                            | <b>No Mass in the Parish</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> July ( <i>St Martha, Mary &amp; Lazarus</i> )                   | 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Jeannie Wolseley (RIP)</i>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July ( <i>St Peter Chrysologus</i> )                          | <b>No Mass in the Parish</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> July ( <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i> )                          | <b>No Mass in the Parish</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> August ( <i>St Alphonsus de' Liguori</i> )                        | 9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction<br>10:00a.m. Mass <i>Georgie Vinter (RIP)</i>                                                                                                                             |
| Weekend 2 <sup>nd</sup> August / 3 <sup>rd</sup> August<br>Eighteenth Sunday of the Year | 5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession<br>6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>David Scott (RIP)</i><br>9:00a.m. Mass <i>Special Intention</i><br>11:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i>                                     |

## Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

|                    | <i>This week</i>                      | <i>Next week</i>                     |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Celebration        | <b>Seventeenth Sunday of the Year</b> | <b>Eighteenth Sunday of the Year</b> |
| Cycle & Psalter    | Year C, Week 1                        | Year C, Week 2                       |
| First Reading      | Genesis 18:20-32                      | Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23            |
| Psalms             | Psalm 138                             | Psalm 90                             |
| Second Reading     | Colossians 2:12-14                    | Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11               |
| Gospel             | Luke 11:1-13                          | Luke 12:13-21                        |
| Preface            | Priest's Choice                       | V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time    |
| Eucharistic Prayer | Priest's Choice                       | III                                  |

## Cycle of Prayer during the Season of Ordinary Time

During the Season of Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for the following intentions in our own private prayer: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who Suffer Persecution, Oppression, and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

## Thank you for your generosity

Standing Orders: £685

Weekly Offertory Collection Basket: £432.09

I am very grateful to all who continue to contribute to the Church by whatever means. Thank you.