



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

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

Deacon: Reverend Charles West-Sadler (retired)

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

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

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

Hall Bookings: Parish Office (Tel: 01780 762010 / Email: 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

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

The Parish Office is open Mondays 10:30am – 3:30pm / Fridays 10:30am – 3:30pm

9th / 10th August 2025: Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Psalm Response: *Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage*

Reflection

What is the greatest joy and treasure we could possibly possess? The Lord Jesus promises that those who seek God and his kingdom will not be disappointed (cf. Luke 12:32, Matthew 6:33). He offers us the greatest treasure possible, but we must first seek it and make it our true joy and possession above all else. We naturally want to have and keep whatever we think will bring us happiness, peace, and security. Jesus offers a priceless treasure and source of abundant joy and security that is worth selling all else for.

Jesus tells his followers to not be fearful or anxious about their present lives and future security. He urges them to sell their possessions and to give their money to the needy. This seems to go against our natural instinct to hoard and save for the future. Why would anyone want to sell their possessions and give away their money, unless they wanted to exchange these goods for something far more precious and of greater value than all the money and possessions they could ever hope to acquire in this present life.

As He did in last weekend's Gospel, Jesus warns that money and possessions will not last and can be taken away at any moment by a thief or by death itself. But there is one treasure which can never be lost or destroyed because it is kept secure by God himself. What is that treasure? It is the Lord himself and his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. This treasure is worth far more than anything we could possibly acquire on our own. If you make the Lord your treasure, then you will have in your possession the greatest source of joy and lasting peace and security. The wisdom of Scripture tells us, if the Almighty is your gold and your precious silver, then you will delight yourself in the Almighty, and will turn your face toward God (cf. Job 22:25-26). Do you know the joy and happiness of making God your one true treasure and security?

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.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holyday of Obligation): This coming Friday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holyday of Obligation, which means all Catholics are bound to attend Mass. Mass that day will be at 10:00a.m. and at 6:00p.m. in the Parish.

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: 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).

Please do read the insert to this weekend's newsletter carefully and consider whether you are able to assist this vital initiative as part of your almsgiving. Thank you.

Parish Youth Group - Tuesday 2nd September: We are starting a Parish Youth Group for all the young people in the parish. Anyone in secondary school is invited to join the Youth Group which will run in the Parish Hall from 6.30p.m-8.30p.m on the first Tuesday of every month. We look forward to seeing all those recently confirmed, but we welcome any young people in the parish whether you are confirmed or not. Pizzas will be served (note we will ensure gluten free, and vegetarian are available as needed). At this first meeting we will discuss what activities we would like to do as a Youth Group, what events we want to attend, talk about volunteering in the parish and discuss the work of CAFOD and of course play some games! Looking forward to seeing you there. Carrie Ann, Wendy and Liz.

200 Club: The draw for August took place last Sunday and the first prize of £200 went to Carrie Ann Gates; the second prize of £100 to David Forrest and the final prize of £50 went to Teresa Sands. Congratulations to our winners.

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.

Circuit Operations Manager: Stamford Methodist Circuit, Northampton District are looking for a Circuit Operations Manager, part time - 10 hours per week (flexible by arrangement). Salary - £26,990 FTA (Actual salary pro-rata £7,711). The closing date for the submission of completed applications is 12:00noon on Tuesday 26th August 2025 and interviews will be on Tuesday 16th September 2025. Please see the poster in the Church porch for more information and to apply.

What is God? Philosophical, Christian and Islamic Approaches, Friday 22nd until Monday 25th August: This annual course in partnership with CEPHAS will look at the nature and knowledge of God from a pre-religious, philosophical understanding, before comparing the Islamic concept of God with the Christian, leaning on Saint Thomas Aquinas' elaboration of the Trinity and the Incarnation. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/what-is-god/>

Concert for the Independence Day of Ukraine: There will be a concert for the Independence Day of Ukraine on Sunday 24th August at 4:00p.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/

Jubilee of Hope Pilgrimage: Will be held at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey on Sunday 31st August, starting with Mass at 2:00p.m., together with a family picnic, Marian Procession, and Adoration. For more details email 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 5th and Monday 8th 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

UK March for Life 2025: On Saturday 6th 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, 07948 151264).

The Martyr-Saints of the North-West, Friday 12th until Sunday 14th September: Is a weekend studying some of the Reformation-era martyrs of the North-West region. Part-retreat, part-biographical, the weekend will be led by Monsignor John Allen of Salford Diocese, who has recently published a history of the diocese with a foreword by Eamon Duffy. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-martyr-saints-of-the-north-west/>

Vacancies: 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. The deadline for applications is 9:00a.m. on Monday 18th August, emailed to 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. The deadline for applications, sent to office@dioceseofnottingham.uk is Monday 8th September at 9:00a.m.

The Diocese is looking to appoint an **Administration Assistant - IT and GDPR** based at the Diocesan Curia Office, someone who can support the work of the IT and GDPR Department supporting staff in the curia and parishes, focusing on delivering solutions using 365 Microsoft Ecosystem Aps, ensuring data privacy and cybersecurity. More details are available at: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers. Please send application forms to: Christa Wardle, HR Officer: office@dioceseofnottingham.uk by 9a.m on Tuesday 26th August.

The Roman Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady is seeking a dedicated and organised **Sacristan** to join their team. This vital role supports the daily liturgical life of the Shrine, ensuring the sacred spaces are well-prepared, reverent and welcoming for all pilgrims and visitors. For more details about this full-time position, visit: www.walsingham.org.uk/2025/07/22/job-advert-sacristan

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 9 th August / 10 th August Nineteenth Sunday of the Year	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Mary & Jon Nickerson (Int)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Bob & Joan Middleton (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday 11 th August (<i>St Clare</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 12 th August (<i>Feria</i>)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Special Intention</i>
Wednesday 13 th August (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 14 th August (<i>St Maximillian Kolbe</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 15 th August <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> (Holyday of Obligation)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Catherine & Francis Shevlin (RIP)</i> 6:00p.m. Mass <i>David Verdegaal (RIP)</i>
Weekend 16 th August / 17 th August Twentieth Sunday of the Year	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Tom Murphy (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Pat Barlow (RIP)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Nineteenth Sunday of the Year	Twentieth Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 3	Year C, Week 4
First Reading	Wisdom 18:6-9	Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Psalms	Psalms 33	Psalms 40
Second Reading	Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19	Hebrews 12:1-4
Gospel	Luke 12:32-48	Luke 12:49-53
Preface	I of the Sundays in Ordinary Time	VIII of the Sundays in Ordinary Time
Eucharistic Prayer	III	II

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: £540.50

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