



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: carriann.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

16th / 17th August 2025: Twentieth Sunday of the Year

Psalm Response: *Lord, make haste to help me!*

Reflection

Our God is a consuming fire the Scriptures tell us (cf. Hebrews 12:29; Deuteronomy 4:24). And in this weekend's Gospel, Jesus uses the image of fire to describe the demands of discipleship. The fire He has come to cast on the earth is the fire that He wants to blaze in each of our hearts. He made us from the dust of the earth and filled us with the fire of the Holy Spirit in Baptism.

We were baptized into His death: this is the baptism our Lord speaks of in the Gospel. The baptism with which He must be baptized is His passion and death, by which He accomplished our redemption and sent forth the fire of the Spirit on the earth. The fire has been set, but it is not yet blazing. We are called to enter deeper into the consuming love of God. We must examine our consciences and our actions, submitting ourselves to the revealing fire of God's Word.

In our struggle against sin, we have not yet resisted to the point of shedding our own blood, Paul tells us in his Epistle. We have not undergone the suffering that Jeremiah suffers in the First Reading. But this is what true discipleship requires. To be a disciple is to be inflamed with the love of the God. It is to have an unquenchable desire for holiness and zeal, even where this involves suffering, for our salvation and the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

Being Christ's disciple does not bring peace in the false way that the world proclaims peace. It means division and hardship. It may bring us to conflict with our own flesh and blood. But Christ is our peace. By His Cross He has lifted us up from the mire of sin and death – as we proclaim in the Psalm this weekend, we trust in our deliverer.

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.

Weekday Mass: Please note that there will not be Mass this coming Tuesday as I am away for a few days.

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 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.

Parish CAFOD Volunteer: Congratulations to Jacquie Kent who has now been officially recognised as our Parish CAFOD Volunteer. We are very grateful for all she does for CAFOD and recognise all her hard work. CAFOD is always looking for volunteers, so anyone interested please collect a leaflet from the back of Church or speak to Jacquie Kent or Chris Gallagher.

Foodbank: In particular need at present are: packets of rice; tins of rice pudding, fruit, carrots, peas, potatoes, spaghetti hoops; dry potato; long-life milk; deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. 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.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje - 13th-20th May 2026: 7 nights and 8 days, to include excursions to Dubrovnik, Mostar and Surmanci. Organised by Myra Boon at All Saints Travel, with Fr Kevin Athaide as spiritual leader. Special price of £897pp if booked by 29th August 2025 (with a short leeway on this; £929pp thereafter). Deposit of £350 required, with final balance paid 2 months before travel (or pay instalments). Twin-sharing, single room supplement. Departing London Luton (Easyjet). Half-board buffet breakfast and evening dinner in 4-star hotel. For enquiries, phone Myra Boon on 07743 980771. To book online and see full itinerary please go to: <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1083>

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 Apps, 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 9:00a.m. on Tuesday 26th August.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

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>
Monday 18 th August (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 19 th August (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Wednesday 20 th August (<i>St Bernard</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 21 st August (<i>St Pius X</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 22 nd August (<i>Queenship of Mary</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Suzanne Moréchand (RIP)</i>
Weekend 23 rd August / 24 th August Twenty-First Sunday of the Year	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Vincent Scott (RIP)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Kevin Gallagher (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Special Intention</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Twentieth Sunday of the Year	Twenty-First Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 4	Year C, Week 1
First Reading	Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10	Isaiah 66:18-21
Psalms	Psalms 40	Psalms 117
Second Reading	Hebrews 12:1-4	Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Gospel	Luke 12:49-53	Luke 13:22-30
Preface	VIII of the Sundays in Ordinary Time	III 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: £522.55

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

Prayers for those who have died

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have recently died, especially:

Brian Kelly (RIP) – whose funeral service will take place on Tuesday 26th August at 2:00p.m

Michael Burke (RIP) - whose funeral service will take place on Monday 1st September at 2:00p.m

Michael O'Connor (RIP)

Please keep their families very much in your prayers also at this time.

‘Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.’