



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

23rd / 24th August 2025: Twenty-First Sunday of the Year

Psalm Response: *Go into all the world and proclaim the good news*

Reflection

Jesus doesn't answer the question put to Him in this weekend's Gospel. It profits us nothing to speculate on how many will be saved. What we need to know is what He tells us—how to enter into salvation and how urgent it is to strive now, before the Master closes the door.

Jesus is "the narrow gate," the only way of salvation, the path by which all must travel to enter the kingdom of the Father (cf. John 14:6). In Jesus, God has come—as He promises in this weekend's First Reading—to gather nations of every language, to reveal to them His glory. Eating and drinking with them, teaching in their streets, Jesus in the Gospel is slowly making His way to Jerusalem. There, Isaiah's vision will be fulfilled: On the holy mountain He will be lifted up, and He will draw to Himself brethren from among all the nations to worship in the heavenly Jerusalem, to glorify Him for His kindness, as we proclaim in the Psalm.

In God's plan, the kingdom was proclaimed first to the Israelites and last to the Gentiles, who in the Church have come from the earth's four corners to make up the new people of God. Many, however, will lose their place at the heavenly table, Jesus warns. Refusing to accept His narrow way they will weaken, rendering themselves unknown to the Father. We don't want to be numbered among those of drooping hands and weak knees (cf. Isaiah 35:3), so we must strive for that narrow gate, a way of hardship and suffering—the way of the beloved Son.

As this weekend's Epistle reminds us, by our trials we know we are truly God's sons and daughters. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path—that we may enter the gate and take our place at the banquet of the righteous.

Tea & Coffee: Please note that there will not be tea / coffee after the Sunday Masses this weekend due to the Bank Holiday. It will resume the following weekend.

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

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.

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 options 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.

Foodbank: In particular need at present are: long-life milk; packets of noodles; tins of spaghetti hoops, peas, carrots, potatoes, fruit, rice pudding; tins of beans with sausages; custard; jars of coffee and packets of rice. Thank you so much for your continued support.

CAFOD (Response in Gaza): Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East.

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>

Concert for the Independence Day of Ukraine: There will be a concert for the Independence Day of Ukraine this 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.

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/>

Heritage Open Days Festival: The Mary Potter Heritage Centre is delighted to take part in this year's Heritage Open Days Festival. Visit the Centre at 32 Regent Street, Nottingham NG1 5BT, on Saturday 13th September, from 12:00noon to 5:00p.m. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn, discover and explore the life and mission of Venerable Mary Potter and The Little Company of Mary Sisters through interactive screens, quotations, and artefacts.

Celebration for the National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope: Pilgrims on the National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope will soon set out from across the country towards our diocese, converging at Nottingham Cathedral. Several of our parishes are offering hospitality along the way. Let's give the pilgrims a warm welcome at their journeys' end on Saturday 13th September:

3.00p.m onwards: Pilgrims arrive. The Cathedral will be welcoming the public for one of its planned Heritage Open Days, with CAFOD's Jubilee Icon on display.

5.00p.m Thanksgiving Liturgy for the Pilgrimage, to which all are welcome.

6.30p.m Mass as usual.

7.30p.m Ceilidh to welcome the Pilgrimage of Hope. All are warmly invited to a celebration Ceilidh in Cathedral Hall to welcome the Jubilee pilgrims. Mancunian Irish folk trio 'Ride On' provide the music. Tickets, including a ploughman's supper, are £10 and available from the Cathedral Office (cash or bank transfer only): email cathedral@dioceseofnottingham.uk and notify any dietary requirements.

The pilgrimage culminates on Sunday 14th September with Solemn Mass in the Cathedral at 11.15a.m for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

For further details of all the Jubilee pilgrimage activities visit <https://bit.ly/pilgrimage-welcome>.

Vacancies: 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 a **Deanery Administration Manager** based in Northern Lincolnshire Deanery, someone who can lead and manager daily administrative operations for collective parishes. 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 Friday 5th September.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

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>
Monday 25 th August (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 26 th August (<i>Feria</i>)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Ted Goonan-Dunne (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 27 th August (<i>St Monica</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 28 th August (<i>St Augustine</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 29 th August (<i>Passion of St John the Baptist</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Julia Courtney (RIP)</i>
Weekend 30 th August / 31 st August Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Mark Goonan (RIP)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Twenty-First Sunday of the Year	Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 1	Year C, Week 2
First Reading	Isaiah 66:18-21	Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Psalm	Psalm 117	Psalm 68
Second Reading	Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13	Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
Gospel	Luke 13:22-30	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Preface	III of the Sundays in Ordinary Time	Priest's Choice
Eucharistic Prayer	II	Priest's Choice

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: £495.52

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) – whose Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 1st September at 11:00a.m
at St Peter & All Souls Church, Geneva Street, Peterborough PE1 2RS.**

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.’