



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

30th / 31st August 2025: Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

Psalm Response: *In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor*

Reflection

We come to the wedding banquet of heaven by way of humility and charity. This is the fatherly instruction we hear in this weekend's First Reading, and the message of the Gospel. Jesus is not talking simply about good table manners. He is revealing the way of the kingdom, in which the one who would be greatest would be the servant of all (cf. Luke 22:24-27).

This is the way, too, that the Father has shown us down through the ages – filling the hungry, sending the rich away empty, lifting up the lowly, pulling down the proud (cf. Luke 1:52-53).

We again call to mind the Exodus in the Psalm – how in His goodness the Lord led the Israelites from imprisonment to prosperity, rained down bread from heaven, made them His inheritance, becoming a "Father of orphans." We now have also gained a share of His inheritance. We are to live humbly, knowing we are not worthy to receive from His table. We are to give alms, remembering we were ransomed from sin by the price of His blood.

The Lord promises that if we are humble, we will be exalted and find favour with God; that if we are kind to those who can never repay us, we will atone for sins and find blessing in the resurrection of the righteous.

We anticipate the fulfilment of those promises in every Eucharist, the Epistle tells us. In the Mass, we enter the festal gathering of the angels and the firstborn children of God. It is the liturgy of the heavenly Jerusalem in which Jesus is the high priest, the King who calls us to come up higher (cf. Proverbs 25:6-7).

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.

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.

SVP Raffle Tickets: This is the final weekend 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. Those who are still to return SVP stubs and money for the Raffle, please do so by 14th September at the latest.

SVP Meeting: The next SVP Meeting will take place this coming Thursday 4th September at 6p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room.

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.

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>

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).

Young Adult Mass: In September Young Adults across the diocese are invited to start the new academic year at one of our Masses on:

- Thursday 4th September at Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham
- Thursday 11th September at Saint Hugh of Lincoln's church, Lincoln
- Thursday 18th September at Saint Joseph's church, Derby
- Thursday 25th September at Holy Cross church, Leicester

Arrivals from 6:00p.m. with Mass from 6:30p.m. and some social time afterwards. For more info contact charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Making a neighbourhood impact: The next 'Mission Lab' from Caritas and Adult Formation showcases a kaleidoscope of services which parishes can offer the local community and takes place on Tuesday 9th September at 7:00p.m. Project St Thomas in Spalding offers soup and sandwiches, befriending, beginners' IT, money management for young people, singing and much more besides. Let them inspire you about what your parish can offer the wider neighbourhood. Register for the series at bit.ly/mission-lab

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.

Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco: Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham will host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco on Sunday 12th and Monday 13th October, in commemoration of the Centenary of the Five First Saturdays' devotion. The Visitation will include a procession and enthronement of the Fatima statue, followed by Mass; opportunities to venerate the saints' relics; praying the Rosary for world peace; and talks and videos about the Fatima messages. A book table with devotional materials will be available, and attendees can enrol in the Brown Scapular devotion. For further details visit: worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk or email: membership@waf-ew.org.uk

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 manage 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 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>
Monday 1 st September (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 2 nd September (<i>Feria</i>)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>For Family & Friends</i>
Wednesday 3 rd September (<i>St Gregory the Great</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 4 th September (<i>St Cuthbert</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 5 th September (<i>Feria</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>The Spiers Family</i>
Weekend 6 th September / 7 th September Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Sheila Flattery (RIP)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Christopher Connell (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year	Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 2	Year C, Week 3
First Reading	Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29	Wisdom 9:13-18
Psalms	Psalms 68	Psalms 90
Second Reading	Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24	Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Gospel	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Luke 14:25-33
Preface	Priest's Choice	II of the Sundays in Ordinary Time
Eucharistic Prayer	Priest's Choice	II

Cycle of Prayer during the Autumn Season of Ordinary Time

During the Autumn Season of Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for the following intentions in our own private prayer: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

Thank you for your generosity

Standing Orders: £685

Weekly Offertory Collection Basket: £483.05

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:

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.’