



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

6th / 7th September 2025: Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year

Psalm Response: *O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation*

Reflection

Like a king making ready for battle or a contractor about to build a tower, we have to count the cost as we set out to follow Jesus. Our Lord this weekend is telling us up front the sacrifice it will take. His words aren't addressed to His chosen few, the Twelve, but rather to the "great crowds" – to anyone, to whoever wishes to be His disciple.

That only makes His call all the more stark and uncompromising. We are to "hate" our old lives, to renounce all the earthly things we rely upon, to choose Him above every person and possession. Again, He tells us that the things we have—even our family ties and obligations—can become an excuse, an obstacle that keeps us from giving ourselves completely to Him.

Jesus brings us the saving wisdom we are promised in the First Reading. He is that saving Wisdom. Weighed down by many earthly concerns, the burdens of our body and its needs, we could never see beyond the things of this world; we could never detect God's heavenly design and intention. So, in His mercy He sent us His Spirit, His Wisdom from on high, to make straight our path to Him.

Jesus Himself paid the price to free us from the sentence imposed on Adam, which we recall in this weekend's Psalm (cf. Genesis 2:7; 2:19). No more will the work of our hands be an affliction; no more are we destined to turn back to dust. Like Onesimus in the Epistle, we have been redeemed. We have been given a new family and a new inheritance, made children of the Father, brothers and sisters in the Lord.

We are free now to come after Him, to serve Him – no longer slaves to the ties of our past lives. In Christ, all our yesterdays have passed. We live in what the Psalm beautifully describes as the dawn, ready to be filled with His kindness. For He has given us wisdom of heart and taught us to number our days aright.

News

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: Restarts this Sunday and is celebrated at the 9:00a.m Mass. We welcome all children to share in this opportunity to participate in their own Liturgy of the Word at Mass at an appropriate level for them.

Holiday: Please note that I am taking a break from next week until 26th September. I'm very grateful to Mgr. John Hadley who will be supplying for me over the weekends while I am away.

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: Those who are still to return SVP stubs and money for the Raffle, please make sure you do so by this weekend at the latest as they need to be returned to Head Office by 10th September. Thank you.

Foodbank: In particular need at present are: packets of rice; jars of instant coffee; tins of cold meat, rice pudding, beans with sausages, peaches, meat balls, peas, carrots, spaghetti hoops; packets of noodles; dry potato; fruit juice. Thank you so much for your continued support.

CAFOD talk: This coming Wednesday, 10th September, there will be a talk on CAFOD at 2:00p.m., Stamford Methodist Church (Barn Hill). All are welcome.

Word of Life Group: The Word of Life Group meets monthly in the parish to share a verse of scripture, taken from the liturgical readings of the Church, together with a commentary supplied by the "Work of Mary" (the official name given by the Church to what is more familiarly called the Focolare Movement). The commentary offers a reflection on the meaning of the verse and suggestion and examples about how it can be applied to our daily lives. Quite often those present have complementary insights to offer and little testimonies from their own lives or examples that come to mind from the lives of other people or from people they have read about. We usually meet on the 2nd Friday of the month at Trish Moor's house. Please contact Trish Moor for further information on 01780 765105

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>

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 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

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>.

Diocesan Jubilee of Altar Servers: All Altar Servers are invited to the Diocesan Jubilee of Altar Servers, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick in our Cathedral in Nottingham (Derby Road, NG1 5AE) on Saturday 27th September. Bring your alb / cassock and cotta, and arrive for 10:30a.m. onwards, for Mass at 11:30a.m. Bring a packed lunch too and enjoy a picnic in the Cathedral Hall and gardens. All are welcome.

Jubilee of Catechists Day: To celebrate the amazing work of the wonderful Catechists who do so much in our diocese, we will be having a Jubilee of Catechists Day. The day will include the celebration of Mass and a conference to help them in their ministry. There will be two keynote talks from Dr Mark Nash, Director for the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, with workshops and time to mingle. The day will be held on Saturday 11th October at Saint Joseph's Church, Leicester, LE5 6SG; from 10.00a.m until 4.00p.m and will cost £10; please bring a packed lunch. More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/CatechistJubilee> or email formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

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 seeking to recruit a **Business Administration Assistant - IT and GDPR** to support the work of the IT and GDPR Department supporting staff in the curia and parishes of the Diocese. The department comprises two staff who focus on delivering solutions using 365 Microsoft Ecosystem Apps and ensuring the highest standards of compliance and cybersecurity. Application forms are available at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers and should be sent by 9:00a.m., Monday 15th September, to Christa Wardle office@dioceseofnottingham.uk

The Diocese is seeking to recruit an **Adult Formation Officer**, based at Saint Thomas More parish, Knighton, to coordinate and support opportunities in the parishes for the faith formation of adults, through the sacramental preparation programmes and other avenues. The role is for 10 hours per week, and more details are at www.careers/adult-formation-officer. Application forms are available at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers and should be sent by 9:00a.m. on Friday 10th October to Christa Wardle office@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Mass Schedule and Intentions

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>
Monday 8 th September (Nativity of Our Lady)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 9 th September (<i>Feria</i>)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Wednesday 10 th September (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 11 th September (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 12 th September (<i>Most Holy Name of Mary</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition 10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Weekend 13 th September / 14 th September Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Special Intention</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 11:00a.m. <i>John Mackenzie (RIP)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year	Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 3	Year C, Week 4
First Reading	Wisdom 9:13-18	Numbers 21:4-9
Psalms	Psalms 90	Psalms 78
Second Reading	Philemon 9-10, 12-17	Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel	Luke 14:25-33	John 3:13-17
Preface	II of the Sundays in Ordinary Time	The Victory of the Glorious Cross
Eucharistic Prayer	II	Priest's Choice

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: £545.53

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