



## 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](http://www.catholicstamford.com)

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

Deacon: Reverend Charles West-Sadler (retired)

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

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

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

Hall Bookings: Parish Office (Tel: 01780 762010 / Email: [office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto: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](http://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**

**20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025: Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year (C)**

**Psalm Response:** *Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.*

## Reflection

The manager in this weekend's Gospel confronts the reality that he can't go on living the way he has been. He is under judgment. He must give account for what he has done. The exploiters of the poor in the First Reading are also about to be pulled down, to be thrust from their stations. Servants of mammon, or money, they're so in love with wealth that they reduce the poor to objects; they despise the new moons and sabbaths – the observances and holy days of God.

Their only hope is to follow the manager's path. He is no model of repentance. But he makes a prudent calculation – to use his last hours in charge of his master's property to show mercy to others, to relieve their debts. He is a child of this world, driven by a purely selfish motive – to make friends and be welcomed into the homes of his master's debtors. Yet his prudence is commended as an example to us, the children of light. We too must realize, as the manager does, that what we have is not honestly ours, but in truth belongs to another, our Master.

All the mammon in the world could not have paid the debt we owe our Master. So, He paid it for us. He gave Himself as a ransom for all, as we hear in the Epistle. God wants everyone to be saved, even kings and princes, even the lovers of money. But we cannot serve two Masters. By His grace, we should choose to be, as we proclaim in the Psalm, "servants of the Lord."

We serve Him by using what He has entrusted us with to give alms, to lift the lowly from the dust and dunghills of this world. By this we will gain what is ours and be welcomed into eternal dwellings, the many mansions of the Father's house.

**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:** 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 until 26th September. I'm very grateful to Mgr. John Hadley who will be supplying for me over the weekends while I am away.

**Second Collection:** There will be a Second Collection this weekend (20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> September) for 'Evangelii Gaudium' Sunday, formerly Home Mission Sunday, aiding the work of encounter and evangelisation promoted through the Directorate for Mission. The Directorate seeks to promote the proclamation, evangelisation, dialogue, and catechesis in relation to the Faith on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.

**Enabling our Mission Campaign:** Thank you so much for your generosity! I'm delighted to tell you that based on the cards filled out recently by parishioners at Mass, our parish stands to raise an additional £68,000! To allow us to draw a line under the campaign we need to make sure that all pledges have been recorded properly. If you completed a small card at Mass recently, you will receive a pledge form for completion in the post or via email in the coming days. I ask that you return the form at your earliest convenience to either the parish office, by putting it through the presbytery letterbox or directly through the post yourself. While you may not wish to start your pledge immediately, I do ask that you return your form, indicating a start date and method of payment that is convenient to you. Our hope is that parishioners will consider what they can as every pledge counts, and all gifts will bring us closer to our shared goal. I know there are some families out there who are still considering their pledge, and I would be delighted to receive your support. While we are guaranteed to receive 40% of our initial target of £235,000, our parish will receive 50% of everything raised over this and so we have much to benefit from. We hope to receive the majority of pledges within the next week so that we can see exactly how much has been raised. I will give you a further update in a few weeks' time. Thank you for your support and please pray for the continued success of the Enabling Our Mission campaign in our parish and across our diocese.

**First Holy Communion Programme:** Application forms are available now for our First Holy Communion Programme 2025/26, leading to the celebration of First Holy Communion next year. If your child is in Year 3 at school or aged 7 or over and has not yet made their First Holy Communion, then please obtain an application form available at the back of Church. The closing date for registering for the Programme is Sunday 26th October. Those not attending weekly Mass, at least from the time of application, will not be eligible for the subsequent classes or to make their First Holy Communion, as this is a Diocesan expectation.

**Foodbank:** In particular need at present are: jars of coffee; tins of custard, rice pudding, peaches, pears, sausages with beans; noodles; packets of dry potato. Thank you so much for your continued support.

**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.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest (3<sup>rd</sup> October):** Please donate to CAFOD's Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church (available from next weekend), donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](https://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10 make an offering.

**Foundation Governors:** On behalf of Bishop Patrick, the Diocesan Education Service is appealing for more parishioners to consider the role of a foundation governor in one of our Catholic schools. For further information, please contact Samantha Buller (Governance Manager) [samantha.buller@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:samantha.buller@nottingham-des.org.uk).

**Bible Timeline Course:** From Start to Finish, covering both the Old Testament and the New Testament, you are welcome to join a free of charge, world-renowned Bible Timeline Course from Jeff Cavins that will be presented online by Mauro Iannicelli. The course starts on Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 7:00p.m. and finishes on Wednesday 19th November 2025 (eight sessions). For more information and to register, please visit [www.comeandsee.org](http://www.comeandsee.org) or scan the QR code on the poster in the porch.

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje - 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 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>

**Talking Philosophy & Theology Combined:** A Carmelite Perspective with Zoom meetings for the next three months on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evenings, from 8:00p.m. until 9:30p.m., September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>; October 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>; November 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> (not 5<sup>th</sup>) Thursday afternoons, from 1:00p.m. until 3:00p.m., September 11<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>; October 9<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>; November 13<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact Deacon James Hunter OCS at [james.hunter200@btinternet.com](mailto:james.hunter200@btinternet.com).

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

- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**Day of Healing:** You are invited to join Bishop Patrick for a day of Freedom and Inner Healing led by 'Unbound UK'. The day will be held at Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham on Saturday 25th October. There will be talks on freedom and healing, Mass with the Anointing of the Sick, Confession and Intercessory Prayer, and an Evening Healing Service with music from One Hope Project. You can come for the full day or for any of the sessions. It is open to all ages at no cost, but donations are welcome. For more information visit: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events) or email [formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**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](http://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk) or email: [membership@waf-ew.org.uk](mailto:membership@waf-ew.org.uk).

**Retreat:** Be Still and Know that I am God is a retreat being held between Friday 14th and Monday 17th November by Fr Roger Dawson S.J. aiming to help participants find a greater attentiveness and disposition to God's presence in their lives through a disciplining of the mind and awareness of the present moment. More details can be found at:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god>

**Vacancies:** Marriage Care is looking to appoint an **Appointments Service Administrator** (8 hours or more per week) and a **Counselling Training Administrator** (28 hours per week) in the Nottingham area. More information can be found at [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk).

In honour of the recent canonisation of Carlo Acutis and in recognition of his dedication to evangelising through digital media, the Diocesan Youth Service is pleased to offer a distinguished opportunity for a creative and motivated individual to join our team as a **Volunteer Marketing Intern**, as part of the inaugural Carlo Acutis Internship Program. Please contact [marketing@saintsmeadow.com](mailto:marketing@saintsmeadow.com) to obtain the job description and to apply.

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

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|--|---|
| Weekend 20 <sup>th</sup> September / 21 <sup>st</sup> September<br>Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year | 5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession<br>6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>In Thanksgiving</i><br>9:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i><br>11:00a.m. Mass <i>Joseph O'Sullivan (Int)</i> |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September ( <i>Feria</i> )   | <b>No Mass in the Parish</b>  |
| Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September ( <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina</i> )                               | 10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion   |
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September ( <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i> )                             | <b>No Mass in the Parish</b>  |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September ( <i>Feria</i> )   | <b>No Mass in the Parish</b>  |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September ( <i>SS Cosmas and Damian</i> )                                  | 9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction<br>10:00a.m. Mass <i>Children in Martha Black's Family (Int)</i>  |
| Weekend 27 <sup>th</sup> September / 28 <sup>th</sup> September<br>Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year | 5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession<br>6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i><br>9:00a.m. Mass <i>John Pegrum (RIP)</i><br>11:00a.m. Mass <i>Irena Dudek (RIP)</i>     |

### Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

|                 | <i>This week</i>                       | <i>Next week</i>                       |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Celebration     | <b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year</b> | <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year</b> |
| Cycle & Psalter | Year C, Week 1                         | Year C, Week 2                         |
| First Reading   | Amos 8:4-7                             | Amos 6:1,4-7                           |
| Psalms          | Psalm 113                              | Psalm 146                              |
| Second Reading  | 1 Timothy 2:1-8                        | 1 Timothy 6:11-16                      |
| Gospel          | Luke 16:1-13                           | Luke 16:19-31                          |
| Preface         | Priest's Choice                        | Priest's Choice                        |
|                 | Priest's Choice                        | 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: £655.86

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