



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: carrieann.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

27th / 28th September 2025: Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year (C)

Psalm Response: *My soul, give praise to the Lord*

Reflection

The rich and powerful are visited with woe and exile in this weekend's Liturgy – not for their wealth but for their refusal to share it; not for their power but for their indifference to the suffering at their door.

The complacent leaders in the First Reading feast on fine foods and wines, revelling while the house of Joseph, the kingdom of Israel, collapses around them. The rich man in the Gospel also lives like a king – dressed in royal purple and fine linen.

The rich man symbolizes Israel's failure to keep the Old Covenant, to heed the commandments of Moses and the prophets. This is the sin of the rulers in the First Reading. Born to the nation God favoured first, they could claim Abraham as their father. But for their failure to give – their inheritance is taken away. The rulers are exiled from their homeland. The rich man is punished with an exile far greater – eternity with a "great chasm" fixed between himself and God.

In this world, the rich and powerful make a name for themselves and dine sumptuously, while the poor remain anonymous, refused an invitation to their feasts. But notice that the Lord knows Lazarus by name, and Joseph in his sufferings – while the leaders and the rich man have no name.

This weekend's Liturgy is a call to repentance – to heed the warning of One who was raised from the dead. To lay hold of the eternal life He promises, we must pursue righteousness, keep the commandment of love, as Paul exhorts in his Epistle. "It is the Lord who loves the just," we proclaim in today's Psalm. And in this Eucharist, we have a foretaste of the love that will be ours in the next life – when He will raise the lowly to the heavenly banquet with Abraham and the prophets (cf. Luke 13:28), where we too will rest our heads on the bosom of our Lord (cf. John 13:23).

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.

National CAFOD Jubilee Icon: Will be in our Church this coming Tuesday morning at the 10:00a.m. Liturgy. The Icon has travelled throughout the UK, and we are lucky to have it in Stamford on Tuesday morning.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest (3rd 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 this weekend), donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10 make an offering.

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 by the end of the month 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.

Parish Youth Group: We welcome anyone in the Parish in secondary school or college to join us in the Hall on Tuesday 7th October from 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m. for our St Augustine's Youth Group. The evening includes pizzas, games and prayer. We look forward to seeing you all! Carrie Ann, Liz and Wendy

Foodbank: In particular need at present are: tins of custard, fruit, rice pudding, peas, carrots, beans with sausages and spaghetti hoops. 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.

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.

Young Adult meetings through October: Maggie Mairura will be joining Young Adults across the diocese in October at:

- Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham, on Thursday 2nd October
- Saint Hugh, Lincoln, on Thursday 9th October
- Saint Joseph, Derby, on Thursday 16th October
- Holy Cross, Leicester, on Thursday 23rd October

Join together for prayer, community, and input, as well as some great coffee! For more info contact charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Priestly Discernment Meeting: The next priestly discernment meeting will be in Nottingham on Saturday 18th October. We will be visiting the Cathedral and the Mary Potter Heritage Centre. To book a place and for more information please email Father Neil at vocations@dioceseofnottingham.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 or scan the QR code on the poster in the porch.

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>

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 or email 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 or email: 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.

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 to obtain the job description and to apply.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 27 th September / 28 th September Twenty-Sixth 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>John Pegrum (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Irena Dudek (RIP)</i>
Monday 29 th September (<i>SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 30 th September (<i>St Jerome</i>)	10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 1 st October (<i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 2 nd October (<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 3 rd October (<i>Feria</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Michael F. Maguire (RIP)</i>
Weekend 4 th October / 5 th October Twenty-Seventh 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>In Thanksgiving</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Maria Dolores & Grezzia Scicluna (RIP)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year	Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 2	Year C, Week 3
First Reading	Amos 6:1,4-7	Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4
Psalms	Psalm 146	Psalm 95
Second Reading	1 Timothy 6:11-16	2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Gospel	Luke 16:19-31	Luke 17:5-10
Preface	Priest's Choice	V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time
	Priest's Choice	III

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: £486.66

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:

David Goodinson (RIP)

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