



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

4th / 5th October 2025: Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year (C)

Psalm Response: *O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts'*

Statement on Marriage

**By order of the Bishop,
the following statement is to be published in February and October each year.**

Marriage is a lifelong vocation of a man and a woman to a community of life and love open to children, and, between the baptized, it is a Sacrament. Aware of the many pressures today which can endanger family life, the Church is constantly concerned to make sure that those of you planning to marry are prepared as well as possible. We would like to remind those who wish to marry of the following:

1. It is important that a couple go to see their priest in good time before their wedding. Normally, at least six months' notice should be given.
2. Marriage preparation is carried out by the Priest, often assisted by a group from the parish. Courses arranged on a Deanery basis are recommended.
3. Catholics are reminded of their obligation to preserve their faith and to do all they can within the unity of their partnership to have all their children baptized and brought up in the faith and practice of the Catholic Church.
4. Non-Catholic partners will be informed of this promise, but they are not asked to make this or any similar promise.
5. Dispensation for a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic to take place in a non-Catholic Church can only be granted for a serious reason. Couples who wish to marry in a non-Catholic Church should discuss the matter with their priest in good time before their wedding day to see whether a dispensation could be granted.

All couples marrying these days need the support of the local Church. In this way they will be strengthened in their preparation for marriage, in celebrating their marriage, and in living out their covenant with one another.

We wish to thank all those married people who show such constancy and fidelity to their vocation of marriage. May their example inspire those planning to marry in the Church.

Right Reverend Patrick McKinney

Bishop of Nottingham

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.

Weekday Mass: My apologies for not being able to celebrate Mass over recent Tuesdays but with holiday and forthcoming appointments in Oakham, including school Masses for the start of the year, it has meant I've not been available. I'm grateful to Kevin for providing for a Service of Word and Communion on Tuesdays and my hope is that from 21st October we shall be back to a regular Mass on Tuesday mornings.

October Devotion to the Rosary: October is the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady and the Holy Rosary. I commend this devotion to you as an invitation to experience the grace of Mary's spiritual motherhood as she leads us to her Son, Jesus. The rosary has been an invaluable source of countless spiritual graces for the saints.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest: CAFOD's Harvest Family Fast Day appeal took place on Friday 3rd October. The money we saved in food, or alternatively our donation, can be placed in the envelope provided, which will be taken up as a second collection this weekend. The money will then go to support our brothers and sisters in need across the world through CAFOD. You can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10 as an offering.

Prayers and Offerings for the Holy Souls in November: Available from the back of Church are envelopes for the Holy Souls. If you would like your deceased loved ones remembered at Mass, please take an envelope and then place their names in the envelope provided, together with an appropriate offering, and place in the collection or post through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

SVP Meeting: The next SVP Meeting will take place this coming Thursday 9th October at 6p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room.

Enabling our Mission Campaign (Thank you for your support!): I am delighted to announce that we have now secured £258,201 in pledges for the Enabling Our Mission Campaign, surpassing our goal of £235,000 as the initiative comes to an end in our parishes of Stamford and Oakham. My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. I know there are some families out there who are still considering their pledge, and I would be delighted to have your support. While we are guaranteed to receive 40% of the initial £235,000 raised, the parish will receive 50% of everything raised over this and so we have much to benefit from. Thank you for your support and please pray for the continued success of the Enabling Our Mission Campaign in 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: carrots, peas, beans with sausages and spaghetti hoops. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Come on a day out singing Gregorian chant: There is a trip being planned to a chant workshop at St William of York Church in Reading, on Saturday 25th October. The day consists of chant workshops and will finish with a sung mass in honour of Our Lady. It is suitable for everyone from beginners to highly experienced singers and the chant tuition is being given by the Schola Gregoriana from London. All music will be provided. The workshop is £5 for children and students/£10 for adults. We have several DBS-checked adults going, so unaccompanied children and young people are welcome (minimum age 7). A minibus will be leaving from the car park of St. Joseph's (Oakham) at 7a.m., and we should be back by 9p.m. Transport costs are yet to be confirmed but will be kept to a minimum. For further information or to register, contact Cecile or Jenny on 01572 770 580 or email: stmichaelschantchoir@gmail.com

Part-Time Chaplaincy Vacany at HMP Stocken: There is a vacancy for a part-time Catholic Chaplain at HMP Stocken, our local prison. For more information, please follow the link below or visit www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr

Part-Time Chaplain

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

- 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.

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.

Fundraising for Outreach: The next 'Mission Lab' is all about fundraising for parish projects and takes place on Tuesday 14th October at 7.00p.m. If you have a project in mind for your parish, or if you'd simply like to pick up tips for the future, Kristen, the diocesan fundraising manager, will help you realise your dream. Register at bit.ly/mission-lab.

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.

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.

Welcoming the Sacred Stranger: The annual diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly will be held at Immaculate Conception and Saint Norbert's Church, Spalding, PE11 2XX on Saturday 1st November from 11:45a.m. - 3:45p.m. Discover the people hidden in our midst: 11:45a.m. Mass with Bishop Patrick McKinney; 1:00p.m. Lunch hosted by Project St. Thomas; 1:45p.m. Hear stories of those touched by modern slavery and forced migration, and others unseen in both town and countryside - and help to shape action here in the diocese. Speakers from the Bishops' Conference, Santa Marta Group, Lincolnshire's agricultural chaplaincy and a new Caritas initiative to support vulnerable incomers to the county. All are welcome! Find out more at bit.ly/sacred-stranger.

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>.

Train as a Marriage Care Relationship Counsellor: Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support. If anyone is interested in training as a Relationship Counsellor via their Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) course, you can register your interest by visiting www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

Mass Schedule and Intentions

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>
Monday 6 th October (St Bruno)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 7 th October (Our Lady of the Rosary)	10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 8 th October (Feria)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 9 th October (St John Henry Newman)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 10 th October (St Paulinus of York)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Tony Powell (Int)</i>
Weekend 11 th October / 12 th October Twenty-Eighth 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>David Palmer (Int)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Tony Cusack (Int)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year	Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 3	Year C, Week 4
First Reading	Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4	2 Kings 5:14-17
Psalm	Psalm 95	Psalm 98
Second Reading	2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14	2 Timothy 2:8-13
Gospel	Luke 17:5-10	Luke 17:11-19
Preface	V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time III	VI of the Sundays in Ordinary Time 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: £570.97

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.’