



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

11th / 12th October 2025: Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year (C)

Psalm Response: *The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations*

Reflection

A foreign leper is cleansed and in thanksgiving returns to offer homage to the God of Israel. We hear this same story in both the First Reading and Gospel this weekend. There were many lepers in Israel in Elisha's time, but only Naaman the Syrian trusted in God's Word and was cleansed. The Gospel likewise implies that most of the ten lepers healed by Jesus were Israelites – but only a foreigner, the Samaritan, returned.

In a dramatic way, we're being shown this weekend how faith has been made the way to salvation, the road by which all nations will join themselves to the Lord, becoming His servants, gathered with the Israelites into one chosen people of God, the Church. The Psalm also looks forward to the day when all peoples will see what Naaman sees – that there is no God in all the earth except the God of Israel.

We see this day arriving in the Gospel. The Samaritan leper is the only person in the New Testament who personally thanks Jesus. The Greek word used to describe his "giving thanks" is the word we translate as "Eucharist." And these lepers reveal to us the inner dimensions of the Eucharist and sacramental life.

We too have been healed by our faith in Jesus. As Naaman's flesh is made again like that of a little child, our souls have been cleansed of sin in the waters of Baptism. We experience this cleansing again and again in the Sacrament of Penance – as we repent our sins, beg and receive mercy from our Master, Jesus. We return to glorify God in each Mass, to offer ourselves in sacrifice – falling on our knees before our Lord, giving thanks for our salvation.

In the Eucharist, we remember "Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David," Israel's covenant king. And we pray, as Paul does in his Epistle, to persevere in this faith – that we too may live and reign with Him in eternal glory.

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.

Access to Broad Street: Please note that access to Broad Street from the Red Lion Square end is restricted from 12th October until 23rd October.

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.

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.

World Mission Sunday: A retiring collection to support missionaries across the world in bringing the light of Christ's Good News to all will take place next weekend (18th / 19th October). There are envelopes at the back of Church should you wish to complete one in advance in order to gift-aid your donation. The monies raised will be sent on to the Pontifical Mission Societies. For more information about the Worldwide Mission of the Church, please see the website www.missio.org.uk.

200 Club: The draw for October took place last Sunday and the first prize of £200 went to Canon Peter Vellacott (Alleluia!); the second prize of £100 to Rita Fegan and the final prize of £50 went to Marie Cooper. Congratulations to our winners.

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.

Wajir Mission Funding: Grateful thanks for the anonymous donation of £100. The next update and appeal for Wajir will take place on the weekend of 8th / 9th November.

Foodbank: In particular need at present are: carrots, peas, beans with sausages and spaghetti hoops. Thank you so much for your continued support.

School admissions to Catholic Secondary Academies (Year 7): For Children born between 01/09/2014 and 31/08 2015 the deadline for submitting your application for a school place is 31st October 2025. Application forms are available on your 'home' Local Authority website. For every Catholic school you apply for, if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a faith criterion you should also complete a supplementary information form, and return this form to the school by the deadline, (forms are available from the LA and the school). You must also include the supporting evidence as required with this form, e.g. baptism certificate (photocopies acceptable). Failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked in a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place.

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 Vacancy 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 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.

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.

The Social Responsibility Committee of the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW): Is hosting a Zoom webinar on Wednesday 15th October from 7.00p.m. until 8:30p.m. focusing on issues affecting women within the criminal justice system and what can be done to support them, especially after release. Chaired by Bishop Richard Moth, it will feature leading experts, Emily Evison (Prison Reform Trust) and Julia Corcoran (Prison Advice and Care Trust). There will be time for participants to discuss how, as people of faith, we can support women in finding hope and dignity. All are invited: nbcw.co.uk/event/keeping-women-out-of-prison/.

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>.

Research into Neurodiversity and our Faith: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you are an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a Caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, we want to hear from you. Your experiences will help us to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to fill in our short surveys look here: www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/

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 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>
Monday 13 th October (<i>St Edward the Confessor</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 14 th October (<i>Feria</i>)	10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 15 th October (<i>St Teresa of Avila</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 16 th October (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 17 th October (<i>St Ignatius of Antioch</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition 10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Weekend 18 th October / 19 th October Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Margaret Scott (RIP)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>John Pegrum (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>James Lettice (RIP)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year	Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 4	Year C, Week 1
First Reading	2 Kings 5:14-17	Exodus 17:8-13
Psalms	Psalms 98	Psalms 121
Second Reading	2 Timothy 2:8-13	2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
Gospel	Luke 17:11-19	Luke 18:1-8
Preface	VI of the Sundays in Ordinary Time	IV of the Sundays in Ordinary Time
Eucharistic Prayer	II	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: £695.46

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