



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

18th / 19th October 2025: Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year (C)

Psalm Response: *Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth*

Reflection

What can a shameless and unjust judge pitted against a pestering woman teach us about justice and vindication (to restore what is right and just) in the kingdom of God? Jesus tells a story that was all too true in His time - a defenceless widow is taken advantage of and refused her rights. Through sheer persistence she wears down an unscrupulous judge until he gives her justice. Persistence pays off, and that's especially true for those who trust in God. Jesus illustrates how God as our Judge and Vindicator is much quicker to come to our defence and to bring us his justice, blessing, and help when we need it. But we can easily lose heart and forget to ask our heavenly Father for his grace and help.

Jesus told the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge to give his disciples fresh hope and confidence in God's unfailing care and favour towards us (grace). In this present life we can expect trials and adversity, but we are never without hope in God. The Day of the Last Judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices perpetrated by a fallen world of sinful people and that God's love is stronger than death (cf. Song of Songs 8:6). Those who put their faith in God and entrust their lives to him can look forward with hope and confident assurance. They will receive their reward - if not fully in this present life, then surely and completely in the age to come in God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy (cf. Romans 14:17).

Jesus ends his parable with a probing question for us. Will you and I have faith - the kind of faith that doesn't give up or lose hope in God - but perseveres to the end of our lives - and to the end of this present age when the Lord Jesus will return in glory as Ruler and Judge of all? Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. We could not believe, trust, and persevere with hope if God did not first draw us to himself and reveal to us his merciful love and care. If we want to grow and persevere in faith until the end of our days, then we must nourish our faith with the word of God and ask the Lord to increase it (cf. Luke 17:5). When trials and setbacks disappoint you, where do you place your hope and confidence? Do you pray with expectant faith and confident hope in God's merciful care and provision for you?

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.

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 this 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.

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: tins of cold meat (e.g. Spam, Ham, corned beef, etc.); tins of vegetarian food (e.g. macaroni cheese); Pot Noodles; dry potato flakes (e.g. Smash); treats (biscuits, crisps, sweets, etc.) Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

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.

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

- Holy Cross, Leicester, on Thursday 23rd October

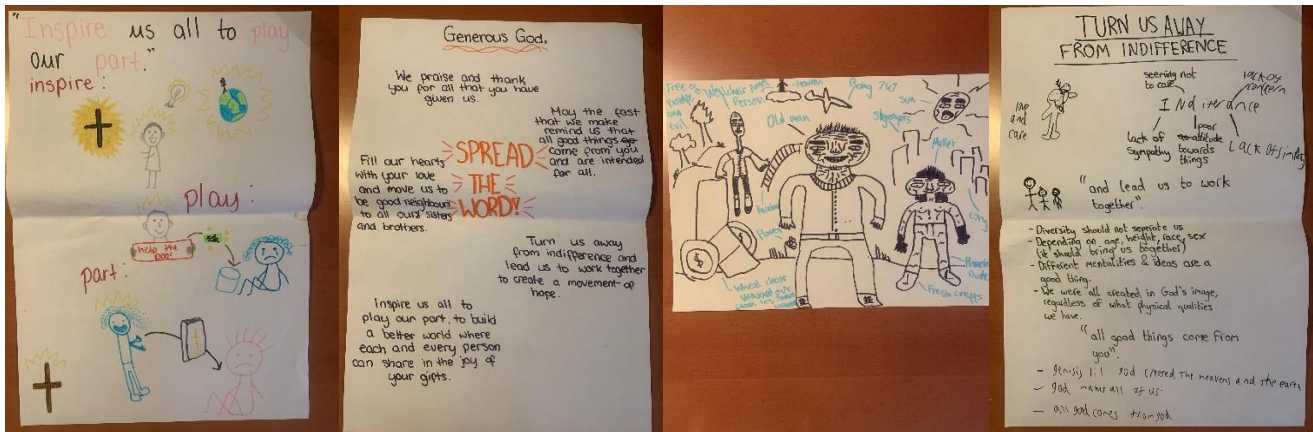
Join together for prayer, community, and input, as well as some great coffee! For more info contact charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Parish Youth Club: We had a wonderful evening at Youth Club last week and very pleased to say we have doubled our numbers! Reminder that Youth Club is held on the first Tuesday of every month in the hall. All young people in the Parish are welcome!

Last week we divided into groups and looked at this wonderful prayer from CAFOD, which you can access via the below link:

A movement of hope - pray with us | CAFOD

One group focused on the line 'turn us away from indifference', another group felt the whole prayer was reminding us to spread the word and another group honed in on the line 'help us to play our part.' It was really inspiring to hear how the young people want to make a difference and be part of helping those in need. We look forward to seeing everyone in November. Carrie Ann, Liz and Wendy



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>.

Men's Retreat: Experience Saint Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises in a 5-day, shortened form guided by the monastic community of Saint Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny (France), founded with the charism of offering this version of the Exercises to men. The retreat is open to men in all states of life, who wish to seek God's will through a deepened detachment from the world, and is being held at the Christian Heritage Centre, Lancashire, starting on either Wednesday 4th or Wednesday 11th February. More details can be found at: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius>

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 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>
Monday 20 th October (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 21 st October (<i>Feria</i>)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Patrick & Nan Goonan (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 22 nd October (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 23 rd October (<i>St John Paul II</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 24 th October (<i>Feria</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Stephen Dalzell (RIP)</i>
Weekend 25 th October / 26 th October Thirtieth Sunday of the Year	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Theresa Devereux (RIP)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Fr Emile Van Dale & Fr Bill Saunders (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Joan Doughty (RIP)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 1	Year C, Week 2
First Reading	Exodus 17:8-13	Sirach 35:15-17, 20-22
Psalms	Psalms 121	Psalms 34
Second Reading	2 Timothy 3:14-4:2	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Gospel	Luke 18:1-8	Luke 18:9-14
Preface	IV of the Sundays in Ordinary Time	II of the Sundays in Ordinary Time
Eucharistic Prayer	II	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: £440.26

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