



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

25th / 26th October 2025: Thirtieth Sunday of the Year (C)

Psalm Response: *The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him*

Reflection

Jesus draws a blunt picture in this weekend's Gospel. The Pharisee's prayer is almost a parody of the thanksgiving psalms (cf. Psalms 30, 118). Instead of praising God for His mighty works, the Pharisee congratulates himself for his own deeds, which he presents to God in some detail. The tax collector stands at a distance, too ashamed even to raise his eyes to God. He prays with a humble and contrite heart (cf. Psalm 51:19). He knows that before God no one is righteous, no one has cause to boast.

We see in the Liturgy then one of Scripture's abiding themes: that with God there 'is no partiality' as the First Reading tells us. God cannot be bribed; we cannot curry favour with Him or impress Him—even with our good deeds or our faithful observance of religious duties such as tithing and fasting.

If we try to exalt ourselves before the Lord, as the Pharisee does, we will be brought low. This should be a warning to us—not to take pride in our piety, not to slip into the self-righteousness of thinking that we're better than others, that we're 'not like other men'. If we clothe ourselves with humility, if we recognize that all of us are sinners in need of His mercy, we will be exalted.

The prayer of the lowly, the humble, pierces the clouds. Paul testifies to this in his Epistle as He thanks the Lord for giving him strength during his imprisonment. Paul tells us what the Psalmist proclaims today—that the Lord redeems the lives of His humble servants.

We too must serve Him willingly. And He will hear us in our distress, deliver us from evil, and bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom.

Tea & Coffee: Please note that there will not be tea / coffee this weekend after the Sunday Masses as the Hall is being used by Ski-wear. It will resume the following weekend.

Children's Liturgy: Has taken a break now for half-term and will return on Sunday 9th November.

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.

Blessing of graves: Will take place on Sunday 2nd November at 3:00p.m. at Stamford Cemetery. This is a traditional devotion to help us pray for the souls of our faithful departed. In addition, a plenary indulgence may be gained up until 8th November, applicable to the Holy Souls only, by visiting a cemetery and praying there for the dead (even if only mentally) under the usual conditions: that is Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope (one 'Our Father', one 'Hail Mary' and one 'Glory be to the Father').

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 this 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: 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 (LA) 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.

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.

Dominican Young Adults Study Day - Dragons, Beasts, & Visions (Understanding Biblical Apocalyptic): A day for students and young adults (20s & 30s) exploring the Apocalyptic literature in the Bible, at The Frassati Centre, Leicester LE1 6HW, from 10.00a.m.-4.30p.m. on Saturday 15th November. There is no cost to attend but please register. More information and registration details can be found at: www.english.op.org/godzdogz/dya-study-day-dragons-beasts-and-visions/.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

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>
Monday 27 th October (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 28 th October (<i>SS Simon & Jude</i>)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Judith Kammerer (Int)</i>
Wednesday 29 th October (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 30 th October (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 31 st October (<i>Feria</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Mass Fund</i>
Weekend 1 st November / 2 nd November Solemnity of All Saints	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Irena Dudek (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Caroline Pope (RIP)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year	Solemnity of All Saints
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 2	Year C, Week 3
First Reading	Sirach 35:15-17, 20-22	Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
Psalms	Psalms 34	Psalms 24
Second Reading	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	1 John 3:1-3
Gospel	Luke 18:9-14	Matthew 5:1-12
Preface	Priest's Choice	Preface of All Saints
Eucharistic Prayer	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: £470.14

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