



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

15th / 16th November 2025: Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year (C)

Psalm Response: *The Lord comes to judge the peoples with fairness.*

Reflection

It is the age between our Lord's first coming and His last. We live in the new world begun by His life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, by the sending of His Spirit upon the Church. But we await the day when He will come again in glory.

"Behold, the day is coming," Malachi warns in this weekend's First Reading. The prophets taught Israel to look for the Day of the Lord, when He would gather the nations for judgment (cf. Zephaniah 3:8; Isaiah 3:9; 2 Peter 3:7). And Jesus anticipates this day in the Gospel. He cautions us not to be deceived by those claiming, "the time is at hand." Such deception is the background also for St Paul's Epistle.

The signs Jesus gives His Apostles seem to already have come to pass in the New Testament. In Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation, we read of famines, earthquakes, and the Temple's desolation. We read of persecutions—believers imprisoned and put to death, testifying to their faith with wisdom in the Spirit. These "signs," then, show us the pattern for the Church's life—both in the New Testament and today. We too live in a world of nations and kingdoms at war. And we should take the Apostles as our "models," as the Second Reading counsels. Like them we must persevere in the face of unbelieving relatives, friends, forces, and authorities hostile to God.

As we do in this weekend's Psalm, we should sing His praises and joyfully proclaim His coming as Lord and King. The Day of the Lord is always a day that has already come and a day still yet to come. It is the "today" of our Liturgy. The Apostles prayed *marana tha*—"O Lord come!". In the Eucharist He answers, coming again as the Lord of Hosts and the Sun of Justice with its healing rays. It is a mighty sign—and a pledge of that Day to come.

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.

Canon Peter - Away this weekend: I am very grateful to Mgr. John Hadley who will be supplying for me this weekend, 15th / 16th November, as I am away in Rome.

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.

Congratulations - Karen Dodson: Congratulations and grateful thanks to Karen Dodson, who was commissioned last weekend at St. Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. This ministry is a wonderful gift provided for our sick and housebound, helping to sustain them as part of the parish community and in their own relationship with the Lord.

200 Club: The draw for November took place last Sunday and the first prize of £200 went to Joan Harwin; the second prize of £100 to Victoria Bullimore and the final prize of £50 went to Peter Smith. Congratulations to our winners.

World Day of the Poor: On Sunday 16th November the Church throughout the world prays for those who are poor. Pope Leo has called for a deeper commitment to the poor, urging Christians to show Christ's love through acts of solidarity and justice. The day invites us all to recognise the poor as beloved brothers and sisters, challenging us to experience the truth of the Gospel first-hand and to support those that are struggling. As we keep the World Day of the Poor this year, with its theme 'You, O Lord, are my hope' in our Diocese we will also celebrate the Diocesan Jubilee of the Poor. Parishes and communities across the Diocese are encouraged to pray for those who are poor, in whatever ways, especially those in their own parish or community.

World Youth Sunday: Takes place on the Solemnity of Christ the King (Sunday 23rd November) and members of our wonderful Parish Youth Club, that has been meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, will help lead the liturgy of the 9:00a.m. Mass on this Sunday, as we join the Church around the world in giving thanks for and celebrating the place of young people in the life and mission of the Church. We invite all parishioners to pray for our young people as they prepare for World Youth Sunday and to show your encouragement and support on the day.

Annual Catholic Diaries: We have a number of 2026 catholic diaries available in differing colours at the cost of £5. Please place your £5 in the basket provided at the back of Church.

Broad Street Closure: Advance notice that Broad Street will be closed on Sunday 30th November for the Stamford Christmas Market.

Veni Emmanuel: An Advent Meditation of seasonal music and readings by the St Peter's Singers, featuring works by composers from the 16th century to the present, will be held here at St Mary & St Augustine Church on Saturday 29th November at 7:30p.m. Entry is free. A retiring collection will be taken, and refreshments available.

Christmas Carol Singing - all welcome: The Choir will be singing on Stamford High Street on Saturday 20th December at 3:00p.m. to spread Christmas cheer in aid of church funds. They will entertain you with a seasonal selection of traditional music and all donations will be gratefully received. As a community Choir, we welcome any interested new members to join us. If you would like to learn to sing some Christmas music with us, please contact our Director of Music, Ruth Proctor (ruthproctor73@gmail.com), or come along and join us for Choir Practice in church, 7:00p.m. Fridays, anytime throughout the rest of November and December.

Foodbank: In particular need at present are: tins of spaghetti hoops; beans with sausages; tinned spaghetti hoops/strands; dry potato flakes (e.g. Smash); cold meats - ham, Spam, corned beef, etc.; loo rolls; sanitary towels and washing pods (for washing machine). Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

CTS - New Missals: In addition to Sunday Missals, People's Editions are now available as Daily and Weekday Missals from the Catholic Truth Society (CTS) based on the new ESV-CE Lectionary, including Order of Mass in Latin and English. Carrie Ann (Parish Secretary) is able to order any CTS Missals at a special discount, so please contact her via email on office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk or phone the Parish office on 01780 762 010 for more information and to place an order.

School admissions to Catholic Primary Academies (Reception Year) - Children born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022: The deadline for submitting an application for a school place is 15th January 2026. 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, i.e. a baptism certificate (photocopies are acceptable; contact the parish of baptism if you don't have a copy). 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.

CAFOD World Gifts: Celebrate someone special with CAFOD World Gifts - Christmas gifts that bring us together, building a better world for all of us, one gift at a time. To order and discover the full range of gifts, please visit: cafod.org.uk/worldgifts and also pick up a brochure with more information at the back of the Church.

Young Adults: All Young Adults are warmly invited to meet across the diocese in November for Requiem Masses celebrated in remembrance of those who have died. Please bring with you the names of anyone you wish to pray for this month which will be added to our Mass intentions. Arrivals from 6:00pm, Mass and social time finishing for 8:00p.m.

- Thursday 20th at Saint Joseph's Church, Burton Road, Derby; Mass at 7.00p.m
- Thursday 27th at Holy Cross Church, Leicester; Mass at 6.10p.m

Retreat on the Figures of Advent: As Advent approaches you are warmly invited to take some quiet time for reflection, prayer, and renewal with Father Chris Thomas, a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, reflecting on the Figures of Advent: the prophets, Mary, Joseph, and John the Baptist, whose faith, courage, and hope prepared the way for Christ's coming. The Retreat is being held at the Presentation Sisters Convent, Chesterfield Road, Matlock DE4 3FT on Saturday 29th November between 10:00a.m. and 4:00p.m. A suggested donation is £10, bring a packed lunch. For more details email associates@pbvmengland.co.uk.

Advent Online Retreat: The Jesuit Institute is offering an Advent Online Retreat between Sunday 7th and Thursday 11th December, giving participants an opportunity to spend more time with God and listen to how God is at work in their lives in the lead up to Christmas. Details and booking information are at: www.jesuitinstitute.org/events/online-individually-guided-retreat---advent.

Christmas Carol service: The African Catholic Community Choir, Nottingham, warmly invites you to its Christmas Carol service, 'A Christmas Story: The Coming of the Lord' on Friday 19th December at 7:00p.m., in Saint Teresa's Catholic Church, Nottingham (NG8 3EP). Come and experience the beauty of the season through scripture, music, and reflection as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ. All are welcome to share in this evening of faith, song, and community spirit.

Stand up for religious freedom: Consider signing Aid to the Church in Need's global petition supporting persecuted Christians. Your voice matters. By signing this petition, you can help us urge world leaders to act on behalf of those who suffer simply for practicing their faith. Follow the link: acnuk.org/article-18-petition-religious-freedom-human-right-not-privilege.

Vacancy: The Parish of All Saints, Nottingham (NG8 3EP) is seeking to appoint a part-time, permanent **Parish Administrator** working 10 hours per week (Mondays and Fridays), from a date to be agreed, and for £14.17 per hour (Band 4). The parish is looking for someone with proven experience in administration and finance, ideally within parish, school, or charity settings. The successful applicant will play a key role in supporting parish operations and financial processes. For an informal conversation about the role, please contact Canon Stanley Ofoegbu at stanley.ofoegbu@dioceseofnottingham.uk or for an application form email office@dioceseofnottingham.uk. The closing date is Monday 17th November.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 15 th November / 16 th November Thirty-Third 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>Chris & Dick Lander (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>George Flattery (RIP)</i>
Monday 17 th November (<i>St Hugh of Lincoln, Patron of our Diocese</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 18 th November (<i>Feria</i>)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Anastasia Sigerson (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 19 th November (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 20 th November (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 21 st November (<i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition & Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Thomas Mann (RIP)</i>
Weekend 22 nd November / 23 rd November Solemnity of Christ the King	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Kevin Gallagher (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Mackenzie & Norman Family (RIP)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year	Solemnity of Christ the King
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 1	Year C, Week 2
First Reading	Malachi 4:1-2	2 Samuel 5:1-3
Psalms	Psalms 98	Psalms 122
Second Reading	2 Thessalonians 3:7-12	Colossians 1:12-20
Gospel	Luke 21:5-19	Luke 23:35-43
Preface	Priest's Choice	Christ, King of the Universe
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: £295.27

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