



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

8th / 9th November 2025: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Psalm Response: *The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place, the abode of the Most High.*

Reflection

Why commemorate a church dedication that happened in fourth-century Rome? Firstly, because St. John Lateran is no ordinary church – it's the cathedral church of the Pope and still known as "the mother of all the world's churches." But more than that, because God has from all-time intended the church building to be a symbol of His Church and our bodies. This is what the readings for this weekend's feast invite us to consider. God's prototype for the church is the Jerusalem Temple, described in the First Reading and Psalm. It's God's "holy dwelling," site of His presence in our midst, source of "living waters" – of all life and blessing. But God intended the Temple to give way to the Body of Christ.

That's what our Lord's words and actions in the Gospel are intended to dramatize. Christ's Body is now the dwelling of God's "glory" among us (cf. John 1:14). It's the new source of living waters (cf. John 4:10,14; 7:37-39; 19:34), the living bread cf. (John 6:51), the new sanctuary where people will worship in Spirit and truth (cf. John 4:21,23). By Baptism, we are joined to His Body in the Church.

St Paul makes clear that the Spirit of God comes to dwell in us and makes us "God's building...God's temple". Jesus drove out the sellers of oxen, sheep and doves, signalling an end to the animal sacrifices that formed the worship of the old Temple. In the spiritual worship of the new Temple, we offer our bodies – our whole beings – as a living sacrifice. Like living stones (cf. 1 Peter 2:5) built on the cornerstone of Christ (cf. Mark 12:10; Acts 4:11), together we are called to build up the new Temple of God, the Church.

As the Jerusalem Temple was, so the Church will always be under construction – until at last it is perfected in the new Jerusalem, our mother Church, come down from heaven.

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: Has recommenced and 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: Please note that there will be a Service of Word and Communion this coming Tuesday and Friday in the Parish as I am away in Rome. I'm also grateful to Mgr. John Hadley who will be supplying for me next weekend, 15th / 16th November.

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.

Remembrance Sunday: This Sunday, 9th November, is Remembrance Sunday when we remember and pray for those who generously gave their lives in service of this country, particularly in the last two World Wars but also in more recent conflicts. Just to remind you that, because of the service at the town war memorial, Broad Street will be cordoned off and therefore it will not be possible to park there. Also, the 11:00a.m. Mass will move to 11:30a.m. to accommodate those who wish to attend the service at the memorial: 'Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen'.

Wajir Collection: There will be a second collection for Wajir, our Parish mission station, this weekend, 8th / 9th November. As always, a massive thank you to all those who contribute to this Mission in a remote and very poor part of Kenya. Sister Beatrice who runs the Mission keeps us all in her prayers and sends regular updates in this time of terrible drought and conflict in the area.

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 3p.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 sausage; 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.

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 13th at Saint Hugh of Lincoln Church, Lincoln; Mass at 6.30p.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

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/.

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>.

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 8 th November / 9 th November Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Remembrance Sunday	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>James Penny (Int)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 11:30a.m. Mass <i>The Faithful Departed</i>
Monday 10 th November (<i>St Leo the Great</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 11 th November (<i>St Martin of Tours</i>)	10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 12 th November (<i>St Josaphat</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 13 th November (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 14 th November (<i>Feria</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition 10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
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>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 4	Year C, Week 1
First Reading	Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12	Malachi 4:1-2
Psalms	Psalms 46	Psalms 98
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17	2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel	John 2:13-22	Luke 21:5-19
Preface	Preface of the Dedication of a Church	Priest's Choice
Eucharistic Prayer	III	Priest's Choice

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: £561.89

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