



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

13th / 14th September 2025: Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Psalm Response: *Never forget the deeds of the Lord!*

Reflection

This weekend's feast embodies a great mystery. Like the people of Israel in the first reading, we are called to a long journey to the Promised Land of heaven. Like them, we can lose patience and fall into sin, sin that can literally kill us (cf. Numbers 21:4-5). Like them, our only hope for salvation is to cling to God's merciful provision.

Pope Benedict XVI summed it up beautifully in a 2008 homily given in Lourdes: "The Gospel for this feast reminds us of the meaning of this great mystery: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that men might be saved (cf. Jn 3:16). The Son of God became vulnerable, assuming the condition of a slave, obedient even to death, death on a cross (cf. Phil 2:8). By his Cross we are saved. The instrument of torture which, on Good Friday, manifested God's judgment on the world, has become a source of life, pardon, mercy, a sign of reconciliation and peace. 'In order to be healed from sin, gaze upon Christ crucified!' said Saint Augustine."

By raising our eyes towards the Crucified one, we adore him who came to take upon himself the sin of the world and to give us eternal life. And especially this weekend, the Church invites us proudly to lift up this glorious Cross so that the world can see the full extent of the love of the Crucified one for all, for us men. She invites us to give thanks to God because from a tree which brought death, life has burst out anew.

On this wood Jesus reveals to us his sovereign majesty, he reveals to us that he is exalted in glory. Yes, "Come, let us adore him!" In our midst is he who loved us even to giving his life for us, he who invites every human being to draw near to him with trust.

Tea & Coffee: Please note that there will not be tea / coffee this Sunday after the Masses due to the closure of Broad Street in observance of the Battle of Britain commemoration.

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.

Holiday: Please note that I am taking a break until 26th September. I'm very grateful to Mgr. John Hadley who will be supplying for me over the weekends while I am away.

Closure of Broad Street: Please note that Broad Street will be closed to traffic from 7:00a.m. - 1:30p.m. this coming Sunday, 14th September, in observance of the Battle of Britain commemoration.

Second Collection: There will be a Second Collection next weekend (20th / 21st September) for 'Evangelii Gaudium' Sunday, formerly Home Mission Sunday, aiding the work of encounter and evangelisation promoted through the Directorate for Mission. The Directorate seeks to promote the proclamation, evangelisation, dialogue, and catechesis in relation to the Faith on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.

Enabling our Mission Campaign: Thank you so much for your generosity! Last weekend was a great success for the Enabling Our Mission campaign in our parish. I'm delighted to tell you that based on the cards filled out by parishioners at Mass, our parish stands to raise an additional £68,000! To allow us to draw a line under the campaign we need to make sure that all pledges have been recorded properly. If you completed a small card at Mass recently, you will receive a pledge form for completion in the post or via email in the coming days. I ask that you return the form at your earliest convenience to either the parish office, by putting it through the presbytery letterbox or directly through the post yourself. While you may not wish to start your pledge immediately, I do ask that you return your form, indicating a start date and method of payment that is convenient to you. Our hope is that parishioners will consider what they can as every pledge counts, and all gifts will bring us closer to our shared goal. I know there are some families out there who are still considering their pledge, and I would be delighted to receive your support. While we are guaranteed to receive 40% of our initial target of £235,000, our parish will receive 50% of everything raised over this and so we have much to benefit from. We hope to receive the majority of pledges within the next two weeks so that we can see exactly how much has been raised. I will give you a further update in a few weeks' time. Thank you for your support and please pray for the continued success of the Enabling Our Mission campaign in our parish and across our diocese.

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.

200 Club: The draw for September took place last Sunday and the first prize of £200 went to Amanda Remedios; the second prize of £100 to Roberta Richardson and the final prize of £50 went to Kevin Remedios. Congratulations to our winners.

Foodbank: In particular need at present are: packets of rice; jars of instant coffee; tins of cold meat, rice pudding, beans with sausages, peaches, meatballs, peas, carrots, spaghetti hoops; packets of noodles; dry potato; fruit juice. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Word of Life Group: The Word of Life Group meets monthly in the parish to share a verse of scripture, taken from the liturgical readings of the Church, together with a commentary supplied by the "Work of Mary" (the official name given by the Church to what is more familiarly called the Focolare Movement). The commentary offers a reflection on the meaning of the verse and suggestion and examples about how it can be applied to our daily lives. Quite often those present have complementary insights to offer and little testimonies from their own lives or examples that come to mind from the lives of other people or from people they have read about. We usually meet on the 2nd Friday of the month at Trish Moor's house. Please contact Trish Moor for further information on 01780 765105.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest: Please donate to CAFOD's Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Ware's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10 make an offering.

Foundation Governors: On behalf of Bishop Patrick, the Diocesan Education Service is appealing for more parishioners to consider the role of a foundation governor in one of our Catholic schools. For further information, please contact Samantha Buller (Governance Manager) samantha.buller@nottingham-des.org.uk.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje - 13th-20th May 2026: 7 nights and 8 days, to include excursions to Dubrovnik, Mostar and Surmanci. Organised by Myra Boon at All Saints Travel, with Fr Kevin Athaide as spiritual leader. Special price of £897pp if booked by 29th August 2025 (with a short leeway on this; £929pp thereafter). Deposit of £350 required, with final balance paid 2 months before travel (or pay instalments). Twin-sharing, single room supplement. Departing London Luton (Easyjet). Half-board buffet breakfast and evening dinner in 4-star hotel. For enquiries, phone Myra Boon on 07743 980771. To book online and see full itinerary please go to: <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1083>

Talking Philosophy & Theology Combined: A Carmelite Perspective with Zoom meetings for the next three months on 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings, from 8:00p.m. until 9:30p.m., September 3rd & 17th; October 1st & 15th; November 5th & 19th; 2nd or 4th (not 5th) Thursday afternoons, from 1:00p.m. until 3:00p.m., September 11th or 25th; October 9th or 23rd; November 13th or 27th. For more information contact Deacon James Hunter OCS, james.hunter200@btinternet.com.

Young Adults' Mass: In September Young Adults across the diocese are invited to start the new academic year at one of our Masses on:

- Thursday 18th September at Saint Joseph's church, Derby
- Thursday 25th September at Holy Cross church, Leicester

Arrivals from 6:00p.m. with Mass from 6:30p.m. and some social time afterwards. For more info contact charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Diocesan Jubilee of Altar Servers: All Altar Servers are invited to the Diocesan Jubilee of Altar Servers, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick in our Cathedral in Nottingham (Derby Road, NG1 5AE) on Saturday 27th September. Bring your alb / cassock and cotta, and arrive for 10:30a.m. onwards, for Mass at 11:30a.m. Bring a packed lunch too and enjoy a picnic in the Cathedral Hall and Gardens. All are welcome.

Jubilee of Catechists Day: To celebrate the amazing work of the wonderful Catechists who do so much in our diocese, we will be having a Jubilee of Catechists Day. The day will include the celebration of Mass and a conference to help them in their ministry. There will be two keynote talks from Dr Mark Nash, Director for the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, with workshops and time to mingle. The day will be held on Saturday 11th October at Saint Joseph's Church, Leicester, LE5 6SG; from 10:00a.m. until 4:00p.m. and will cost £10; please bring a packed lunch. More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/CatechistJubilee> or email formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco: Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham will host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco on Sunday 12th and Monday 13th October, in commemoration of the Centenary of the Five First Saturdays' devotion. The Visitation will include a procession and enthronement of the Fatima statue, followed by Mass; opportunities to venerate the saints' relics; praying the Rosary for world peace; and talks and videos about the Fatima messages. A book table with devotional materials will be available, and attendees can enrol in the Brown Scapular devotion. For further details visit: worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk or email: membership@waf-ew.org.uk.

Vacancies: The Diocese is seeking to recruit a **Business Administration Assistant - IT and GDPR** to support the work of the IT and GDPR Department supporting staff in the curia and parishes of the Diocese. The department comprises two staff who focus on delivering solutions using 365 Microsoft Ecosystem Apps and ensuring the highest standards of compliance and cybersecurity. Application forms are available at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers and should be sent by 9:00a.m., Monday 15th September, to Christa Wardle office@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

The Diocese is seeking to recruit an **Adult Formation Officer**, based at Saint Thomas More parish, Knighton, to coordinate and support opportunities in the parishes for the faith formation of adults, through the sacramental preparation programmes and other avenues. The role is for 10 hours per week, and more details are at www.careers/adult-formation-officer. Application forms are available at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers and should be sent by 9:00a.m. on Friday 10th October to Christa Wardle office@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 13 th September / 14 th September Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Special Intention</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>John Mackenzie (RIP)</i>
Monday 15 th September (<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 16 th September (<i>SS Cornelius & Cyprian</i>)	10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 17 th September (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 18 th September (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 19 th September (<i>Feria</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition 10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Weekend 20 th September / 21 st September Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>In Thanksgiving</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Joseph O'Sullivan (Int)</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross	Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 4	Year C, Week 1
First Reading	Numbers 21:4-9	Amos 8:4-7
Psalms	Psalms 78	Psalms 113
Second Reading	Philippians 2:6-11	1 Timothy 2:1-8
Gospel	John 3:13-17	Luke 16:1-13
Preface	The Victory of the Glorious Cross	Priest's Choice
Eucharistic Prayer	Priest's Choice	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: £534.84

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