



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 currently closed until Monday, 5th January 2026

27th / 28th December 2025: Feast of the Holy Family (A)

Psalm Response: *Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.*

Reflection

Underlying the wisdom offered in this weekend's Liturgy is the mystery of the family in God's divine plan. The Lord has set father in honour over his children and mother in authority over her sons, we hear in the First Reading. As we proclaim in the Psalm, the blessings of the family flow from Zion, the heavenly mother of the royal people of God. And in the drama of this weekend's Gospel, we see the nucleus of the new people of God—the Holy Family—facing persecution from those who would seek to destroy the child and His Kingdom.

Moses, called to save God's first-born son, the people of Israel, was also threatened at birth by a mad and jealous tyrant (cf. Exodus 1:15–16). And as Moses was saved by his mother and sister (cf. Exodus 2:1–10; 4:19), in God's plan Jesus too is rescued by His family. As once God took the family of Jacob down to Egypt to make them the great nation Israel, God leads the Holy Family to Egypt to prepare the coming of the new Israel of God—the Church.

At the beginning of the world, God established the family in the "marriage" of Adam and Eve, the two becoming one body (cf. Genesis 2:22–24). Now in the new creation, Christ is made "one body" with His bride, the Church, as the Epistle indicates (cf. Ephesians 5:21–32). By this union we are made God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. And our families are to radiate the perfect love that binds us to Christ in the Church.

As we approach the altar on this feast, let us renew our commitment to our God-given duties as spouses, children and parents. Mindful of the promises of this weekend's First Reading, let us offer our quiet performance of these duties for the atonement of our sins.

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 taken a break now for Christmastide and will return in the New Year.

Weekday Mass: Please note that there will be Mass this coming Thursday 1st January at 10:00a.m., to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, and to pray for the New Year ahead.

Christmas Offering: Thank you. My heartfelt thanks for the cards, expressions of prayer, gifts and offerings over Christmas that I once again received from so many of you: I remain grateful for your kindness and generosity towards me in so many ways. I would also like to say of course a huge thank you to all who have helped in any way over the Christmas period with respect to our liturgies: cleaning, providing such beautiful liturgical music, setting up and serving at the altar, verging, cleaning, decorating our Church with wonderful flower arrangements, and in many other ways that assist the community here. Finally, as we look forward to 2026, I pray that the New Year will be a peaceful and blessed one for you and your families.

Jubilee Year: The Jubilee Year of Hope that began on Sunday 29th December 2024 when Pope Francis opened the 'Holy Door' in St Peter's Basilica will end this coming Sunday 28th December in our Diocese. Bishop Patrick will celebrate a special liturgy at the Cathedral this Sunday to mark the closing of the Jubilee Year for our own Diocese.

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.

Polishing / Cleaning Rota: If you currently volunteer to help polish / clean the Church, please will you get in touch with Carrie Ann (Parish Secretary) on 01780 762 010 or office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk so that we can ensure all areas of our beautiful Church are being covered. New volunteers to join the rota are most welcome. Thank you very much in advance.

Foodbank: Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to the foodbank recently, helping to provide Christmas parcels for those in need. To replenish the cupboards after Christmas the following items are needed: packets of rice (not microwaveable); long-life milk; tins of meat (hot and cold); fish (tuna, sardines, salmon); spaghetti hoops; beans with sausages; packets of noodles. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

Coffee Morning- Save the date: Get the New Year off to a friendly start and catch up at the next coffee morning on Thursday 15th January from 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. in the Parish Hall. Enjoy hot drinks, refreshments and chat. All ages welcome. Stay for the duration or just drop in. We look forward to seeing you then.

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.

Deanery Catholic Young Adults Group: Following this year's World Youth Sunday, our deanery is launching a new Catholic Young Adults Group for those aged 18-35. The group will bring together young adults from across the deanery for monthly gatherings that include prayer, faith formation, and social occasions. The first meeting will take place in the new year, and all are warmly welcome - whether you're new to the area, returning to the Church, or looking to deepen your faith alongside other young Catholics. More details will be shared in the coming weeks; in the meantime, please register your interest by emailing edward.kendall@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Petition to urge the Nigerian government to protect Nigerian Christians: Please consider signing the petition through the link given below to call on the UK Government to strongly urge the Nigerian authorities to protect Christian communities facing violence. It's been reported that over 7,000 Christians were killed in Nigeria this year. The link for the Petition can be found at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/743829>.

Aid to the Church in Need: According to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) 5.4 billion people (2/3 of the world's population) live in countries where individuals and entire communities suffer violations of religious freedom. More than 220 million Christians are at direct risk of persecution. In response, ACN has initiated a petition calling on governments around the world to implement in full Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the gold standard of religious liberty - the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to change religion and the right to manifest religion in teaching, practice, worship and observance. Parishioners are invited to stand with persecuted Christians and all those who suffer for their beliefs by signing the ACN Article 18 petition, which is available by visiting: <https://acnuk.org/article-18-petition-religious-freedom-human-right-not-privilege>. Please continue to pray for all those who suffer for their faith.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 27 th December / 28 th December Feast of the Holy Family	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Confessions 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Ronald Almeida (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Sean Kelly (RIP)</i>
Monday 29 th December (St Thomas of Canterbury)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 30 th December (Christmas Feria)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Deceased Members of the Silo Family (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 31 st December (St Sylvester I)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 1 st January (Mary the Mother of God)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Jessie & Bill Couzens (RIP)</i>
Friday 2 nd January (SS Basil & Gregory)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>David Palmer (RIP)</i>
Weekend 3 rd January / 4 th January Second Sunday after the Nativity	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Confessions 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Ros Falconer (Int)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Helen Allen (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Pro Populo</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Feast of the Holy Family	Second Sunday after the Nativity
Cycle & Psalter	Year A, Week 1	Year A, Week 2
First Reading	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14	Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12
Psalm	Psalm 128	Psalm 147
Second Reading	Colossians 3:12-21	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18
Gospel	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23	John 1:1-18
Preface	Preface of the Nativity of the Lord	Preface III of the Nativity of the Lord
Eucharistic Prayer	Priest's Choice	II

Cycle of Prayer during Advent and Christmastide

During Advent and Christmastide, we are asked to pray for the following intentions in our own private prayer: Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

Thank you for your generosity

Standing Orders: £685

Weekly Offertory Collection Basket: £655.32

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