



*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](http://www.catholicstamford.com)

Parish Priest: Canon Peter Vellacott (Email: [priest.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:priest.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk))

Deacon: Reverend Charles West-Sadler (retired)

Parish Secretary: Carrie Ann Gates (Email: [office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk))

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Carrie Ann Gates (Email: [carrieann.gatespsr@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:carrieann.gatespsr@dioceseofnottingham.uk))

Parish Director of Music: Ruth Proctor (Mobile: 07826 017487 / Email: [ruthproctor73@gmail.com](mailto:ruthproctor73@gmail.com))

Hall Bookings: Parish Office (Tel: 01780 762010 / Email: [office.catholicstamford@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto: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](http://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**

**29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025: First Sunday of Advent (A)**

**Psalm Response:** *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

### **Reflection**

Jesus exaggerates in this weekend's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. Christ occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (cf. Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26). His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we do not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him – spiritually and morally – when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us – like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In his Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night. Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst. He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in the First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord – that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more.

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day. It is time we start living like it: throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, rejecting the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace. The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist. As we proclaim in the Psalm, "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

## News

**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.

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** Please note that the Saturday Vigil Mass this weekend is at 4:30p.m. to allow for the concert later in Church.

**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.

**'Walk with me' Advent Booklets:** These booklets are a great resource for the season of Advent with reflections for each day, helping us to enter more deeply into this time of preparation for the great feast of Christmas. They cost just £1.50 Please place your £1.50 in the separate 'Walk with me' basket at the back of Church.

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

**Poor & Needy Parishes:** Next weekend (6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> December) there will be a second collection to support poor & needy parishes across our diocese.

**Parish Youth Group:** Any members of the Parish in secondary school or college are welcome to come along to our Parish Youth Club held on the first Tuesday of every month in the Hall. The next one will be on Tuesday 2nd December from 6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible! Pizzas provided as usual. Carrie Ann, Liz and Wendy.

**SVP Meeting:** The next SVP Meeting will take place this coming Thursday 4th December at 6:00p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room.

**Christmas Cards:** There is a selection of Christmas cards available to buy in the hall from this weekend. Please place money in the box provided.

**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](mailto: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.

**Parish Reconciliation Service:** Part of our preparation during Advent is making a good Confession in readiness to celebrate the Feast of Our Lord's Birth and be able to welcome him anew into our lives. There will be a Reconciliation Service here at St Mary & St Augustine's with local priests available to hear confessions on **Monday 15th December at 7:00p.m.**

**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](mailto: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.

**Wajir Appeal:** Thank you to all those who donated at our recent Wajir appeal. Thanks to your generosity we raised a total of £727 including an anonymous donation and a donation from a housebound parishioner. We are also so pleased to see additional parishioners have set up standing orders - these make such a difference as we can plan what income we are going to receive. Sister Beatrice sends her thanks and prayers. The school in Wajir need additional funding to build a science laboratory so look out for fundraising events next year so we can help the children to understand science by watching live demonstrations and experiments. Pat and Wendy

**Foodbank:** In particular need at present are: dried potato (Smash etc.); cold meats; tins of spaghetti hoops and beans with sausages. We are starting to collect for the Christmas bags and would welcome tins of biscuits, sweets, tins of salmon, ham, mince pies, Christmas cakes, Christmas puddings (we will be putting them together on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> December). Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

**Christmas Mass Times:** For your information, if you are at home this Christmas or hosting family in Stamford, Mass times at St. Mary & St. Augustine Church over Christmas will be:

<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6:00p.m Vigil Mass
(Christmas Eve)	11:30p.m Office of Readings followed by Midnight Mass
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9:00a.m Dawn Mass of Christmas
(Christmas Day)	11:00a.m Day Mass of Christmas

**Christmas Offering:** The Christmas Offering traditionally goes to the Priest of the Parish and forms the major part of his income for the year, along with the Easter offering. Priests do not receive any income from any other source outside of the Parish. So, whatever you give in your Christmas Offering will express your personal and financial support. Should you wish to provide a Christmas Offering, please mark your envelope as 'Christmas Offering' or use one of the envelopes provided at the back of Church and place it in the usual bag as the Offertory Collection is taken up. Alternatively, you can make your offering via bank transfer (please e-mail the Parish Office for account details) in the usual way marking your donation 'Christmas Offering'. Thank you.

**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](mailto: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:** To mark 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](mailto:edward.kendall@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**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](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts) and also pick up a brochure with more information at the back of the Church.

**Nottingham Catholic Medical Association Mass:** Is being celebrated on Monday 1st December at 8:00p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham NG1 5AW. All are warmly invited to Mass, and to join for drinks at Browns, afterwards. If you have any questions about the Nottingham CMA, for all healthcare workers, students and retired, please get in touch with Caroline on 0775 7285 888.

**Vacancies:** Join the Diocesan Finance Team as a Parish Bookkeeper, a rewarding opportunity to support parishes across the Diocese of Nottingham in maintaining accurate financial and Gift Aid records. Based at St Hugh's House in Nottingham, this 2-year fixed-term role (with potential transition into Deanery Service Hubs) offers a salary of £27-£30k pa, depending on experience. The successful candidate will provide professional bookkeeping services, help clear backlogs, and ensure compliance with diocesan standards. Strong technical skills and the ability to work collaboratively with clergy and volunteers are essential. Apply by 9:00a.m. on Monday 1st December via [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers/parishbookkeeper](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers/parishbookkeeper).

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 29 <sup>th</sup> November / 30 <sup>th</sup> November First Sunday of Advent	<b>4:30p.m. Vigil Mass</b> <i>Pro Populo</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December ( <i>Advent Feria</i> )	<b>No Mass in the Parish</b>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December ( <i>Advent Feria</i> )	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Nicola Andreoli (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December ( <i>St Francis Xavier</i> )	<b>No Mass in the Parish</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Advent Feria</i> )	<b>No Mass in the Parish</b>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Advent Feria</i> )	9:00a.m. Exposition & Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Grezzu &amp; Maria Dolores Scicluna (RIP)</i>
Weekend 6 <sup>th</sup> December / 7 <sup>th</sup> December Second Sunday of Advent	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Confessions 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Canon Stephen Dye (Int)</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	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
Cycle & Psalter	Year A, Week 1	Year A, Week 2
First Reading	Isaiah 2:1-5	Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms	Psalm 122	Psalm 72
Second Reading	Romans 13:11-14	Romans 15:4-9
Gospel	Matthew 24:37-44	Matthew 3:1-12
Preface	I of Advent	I of Advent
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: £574.10

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

### Prayers for those who have died

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have recently died, especially:

**Rosemary Ann Vines (RIP)**

‘Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.  
May she rest in peace. Amen.’