



*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**

**6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025: Second Sunday of Advent (A)**

**Psalm Response:** *In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.*

## **Reflection**

“The kingdom of heaven is at hand,” John proclaims. And the Liturgy this weekend paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in the Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in the First Reading and Psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David – a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father. He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel – but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a sign to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage. In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham, renewed in God's oath to David, will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in his Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in “the covenants of promise” (cf. Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham. Now, God will raise up living stones – children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit. This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings – making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

**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.

**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.

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

**Retiring Collection for Flowers:** Next weekend there will be the usual retiring collection for flowers to decorate our beautiful church throughout the year.

**Bambinelli Sunday:** Next weekend you are invited to bring your cribs or figure of Baby Jesus to whichever Mass you attend for blessing at the end of Mass. This tradition was begun in Rome by Pope St John Paul II.

**Christmas Cards:** There is a selection of Christmas cards available to buy in the hall. 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.

**Extraordinary Form Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:** This coming Monday 8th December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, there will a sung Extraordinary Form Mass at Exton Chapel at 7:00p.m. All are welcome.

**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.

**Foodbank:** In particular need at present are: Christmas fare - Christmas cakes, mince pies, Christmas puddings, tins (or packages) of biscuits, boxes of chocolates, tins of salmon, ham and crisps. Also, toothbrushes, toothpaste, beans with sausages, treats (crisps, sweets etc.). 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:** 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](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.

**Printable Advent Prayer Journal:** Journey through Advent with the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, with a printable Advent prayer journal produced by the Team. To download your free copy visit [www.ndcys.com/advent2025/](http://www.ndcys.com/advent2025/).

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

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>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Immaculate Conception</i> )	<b>No Mass in the Parish</b>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Advent Feria</i> )	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Jackie &amp; Pat Goonan (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Martyrs of Lincolnshire</i> )	<b>No Mass in the Parish</b>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Advent Feria</i> )	<b>No Mass in the Parish</b>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> )	9:00a.m. Exposition & Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>William Keane (RIP)</i>
Weekend 13 <sup>th</sup> December / 14 <sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Confessions 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Christine Doherty (RIP)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Martin &amp; Phyllis Connell (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	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
Cycle & Psalter	Year A, Week 2	Year A, Week 3
First Reading	Isaiah 11:1-10	Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
Psalms	Psalm 72	Psalm 146
Second Reading	Romans 15:4-9	James 5:7-10
Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12	Matthew 11:2-11
Preface	I of Advent	I of Advent
Eucharistic Prayer	II	III

### 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: £371.21

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)** – whose funeral service will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30p.m

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