



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)

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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

1st / 2nd November 2025: Solemnity of All Saints

Psalm Response: *Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord*

Reflection

What is the good life which God intends for us and how is it related with the ultimate end or purpose of life? Jesus addresses this question in his sermon on the mount. The heart of Jesus' message is that we can live a truly blessed life now that finds its fulfilment in heaven. The call to holiness, to be saints who joyfully pursue God's will for their lives, can be found in these eight beatitudes. Jesus' beatitudes sum up our calling or vocation – to live a life of the beatitudes. The word beatitude literally means 'blessedness'.

The beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness that God has placed in every heart. They teach us the final end to which God calls us, namely the coming of God's kingdom (Matthew 4:17), the vision of God (Matthew 5:8; 1 John 2:1), entering into the joy of the Lord (Matthew 25:21-23) and into his rest (Hebrews 4:7-11). Jesus' beatitudes also confront us with decisive choices concerning the life we pursue here on earth and the use we make of the goods he puts at our disposal. St Theresa of Avila's prayer book contained a bookmark on which she wrote: 'Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you; all things pass: God never changes. Patience achieves all it strives for. Whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices'. Is God enough for you? God offers us the greatest good possible – abundant life in Jesus Christ (John 10:10) and the promise of unending joy and happiness with God. Do you seek the highest good, the total good, which is above all else?

The beatitudes which Jesus offers us are a sign of contradiction to the world's understanding of happiness and joy. How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God as the greatest treasure possible. Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and spiritual oppression. God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world. Thomas Aquinas said: 'No one can live without joy. That is why a person deprived of spiritual joy goes after carnal pleasures'. Do you know the blessedness, the happiness, of hungering and thirsting for God alone?

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 half-term and will return on Sunday 9th November.

New Second Collection - Hospices: There is to be a second collection this weekend (1st / 2nd November) on behalf of hospices in our Diocese. This is in support of palliative medical care, which is so necessary to ensure the dignity of human life until its natural end.

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.

Blessing of graves: Will take place this Sunday 2nd November at 3:00p.m. at Stamford Cemetery. This is a traditional devotion to help us pray for the souls of our faithful departed. In addition, a plenary indulgence may be gained up until 8th November, applicable to the Holy Souls only, by visiting a cemetery and praying there for the dead (even if only mentally) under the usual conditions: that is Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope (one 'Our Father', one 'Hail Mary' and one 'Glory be to the Father').

All Souls: Please note that the Commemoration of All Souls is transferred this year to Monday 3rd November - a day in which we are invited to remember and pray for our faithful departed. There will be Mass at 6:00p.m. that day in Stamford, and I will be offering Mass in Oakham as usual at 10:00a.m.

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 4th November 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 6th November at 6:00p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room.

Wajir Collection: There will be a second collection for Wajir, our Parish mission station, on 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.

Remembrance Sunday: Next 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'.

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.

Foodbank: In particular need at present are: tins of spaghetti hoops; tins of cold meat (e.g. Spam, Ham, corned beef, etc.); tins of vegetarian food (e.g. macaroni cheese); Pot Noodles; dry potato flakes (e.g. Smash); treats (biscuits, crisps, sweets, etc.). Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day: Thank you so much for your generous contributions to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal. Your donations in our parish collection and online are helping families like Waré's in Ethiopia. Thank you for all your support for CAFOD.

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 8:00pm.

- Thursday 6th at Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham; Mass at 6.30p.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

Hope for Health: Inspiration from Good Practice: Blackfriars Hall in Oxford is hosting a one-day course on Saturday 8th November from 9:30a.m. until 4:30p.m., entitled Hope for Health: Inspiration from Good Practice. There are still some places available for anyone who would like to attend; more details are available by emailing: richard.finn@english.op.org

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>.

Men's Retreat: Experience Saint Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises in a 5-day, shortened form guided by the monastic community of Saint Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny (France), founded with the charism of offering this version of the Exercises to men. The retreat is open to men in all states of life, who wish to seek God's will through a deepened detachment from the world, and is being held at the Christian Heritage Centre, Lancashire, starting on either Wednesday 4th or Wednesday 11th February. More details can be found at:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius>.

Stand up for religious freedom: Consider signing Aid to the Church in Needs' 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

Train as a Marriage Care Relationship Counsellor: Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support. If anyone is interested in training as a Relationship Counsellor via their Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) course, you can register your interest by visiting www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 1st November / 2nd November Solemnity of All Saints	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Irena Dudek (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Caroline Pope (RIP)</i>
Monday 3 rd November (<i>All Souls</i>)	6:00p.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Tuesday 4 th November (<i>St Charles Borromeo</i>)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Brian Shingleton (RIP)</i>
Wednesday 5 th November (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 6 th November (<i>Feria</i>)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 7 th November (<i>Feria</i>)	9:00a.m. Exposition and Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Louisa & Charles Harris (RIP)</i>
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>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Solemnity of All Saints	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 3	Year C, Week 4
First Reading	Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14	Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Psalms	Psalm 24	Psalm 46
Second Reading	1 John 3:1-3	1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12	John 2:13-22
Preface	Preface of All Saints	Preface of the Dedication of a Church
Eucharistic Prayer	III	III

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: £532.45

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