



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

22nd / 23rd November 2025: Solemnity of Christ the King (C)

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

Reflection

Week by week, the Liturgy has been preparing us for the revelation to be made on this, the last weekend of the Church's year. Jesus, we have been shown, is truly the Chosen One, the Messiah of God, the King of the Jews. Ironically, in this weekend's Gospel we hear these names on the lips of those who don't believe in Him – Israel's rulers, the soldiers, a criminal dying alongside Him. They can only see the scandal of a bloodied figure nailed to a cross. They scorn Him in words and gestures foretold in Israel's Scriptures (cf. Psalm 22:7–9; 69:21–22; Wisdom 2:18–20). If He is truly King, God will rescue Him, they taunt. But He did not come to save Himself, but to save them – and us.

The good thief shows us how we are to accept the salvation He offers us. He confesses his sins and acknowledges he deserves to die for them. And he calls on the name of Jesus, seeking His mercy and forgiveness. By his faith he is saved. Jesus "remembers" him – as God has always remembered His people, visiting them with His saving deeds, numbering them among His chosen heirs.

By the blood of His cross, Jesus reveals His Kingship – not in saving His own life, but in offering it as a ransom for ours. He transfers us to "the kingdom of His beloved Son," as the Epistle tells us. His kingdom is the Church, the new Jerusalem and House of David that we proclaim in the Psalm.

By their covenant with David in this weekend's First Reading, Israel's tribes are made one "bone and flesh" with their king. By the New Covenant made in His blood, Christ becomes one flesh with the people of His kingdom – the head of His body, the Church (cf. Ephesians 5:23–32). We celebrate and renew this covenant in every Eucharist, giving thanks for our redemption, hoping for the day when we too will be with Him in Paradise.

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.

World Youth Sunday: Takes place on the Solemnity of Christ the King (Sunday 23rd November) and members of our wonderful Parish Youth Club, that has been meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, will help lead the liturgy of the 9:00a.m. Mass this Sunday, as we join the Church around the world in giving thanks for and celebrating the place of young people in the life and mission of the Church. We invite all parishioners to pray for our young people.

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 upcoming 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 on Sunday 30th November for the Stamford Christmas Market.

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. Please note that due to the concert the Saturday Vigil Mass that weekend will be at the earlier time of 4:30p.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), 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: 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 16th/17th December). Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

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: 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.

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 and also pick up a brochure with more information at the back of the Church.

St Colette's Pregnancy Support Centre: Has been supporting pregnant women in Nottingham since 2021. If you would like to help with our work, or just find out more about what we do, all are welcome to a Mother and Baby Open Day, a chance to have a coffee with the team which runs the centre and meet some of the mums who have been supported. All are Welcome, on Thursday 27th November, between 10:00a.m. and 2:00p.m., at Saint Paul's Church, Lenton Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 2BY. For more information contact Ami on 07547 795315 or email SCPSCUK@gmail.com.

ADVENTure 2025 — a Weekend Retreat: As the season of Advent draws near, the Diocesan Youth Service (NDCYS) invites young people in Years 10-13 to step away from the busyness of everyday life and join The Briars for **ADVENTure 2025** — a weekend retreat designed to help people pause, pray, and prepare for the coming of Christ. The Retreat takes place between Friday 28th and Sunday 30th November, and costs £50. More information and booking details can be found at: <https://www.ndcys.com/adventure-open-retreat/>.

Retreat on the Figures of Advent: As Advent approaches you are warmly invited to take some quiet time for reflection, prayer, and renewal with Father Chris Thomas, a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, reflecting on the Figures of Advent: the prophets, Mary, Joseph, and John the Baptist, whose faith, courage, and hope prepared the way for Christ's coming. The Retreat is being held at the Presentation Sisters Convent, Chesterfield Road, Matlock DE4 3FT on Saturday 29th November between 10:00a.m. and 4:00p.m. A suggested donation is £10, bring a packed lunch. For more details email associates@pbvmengland.co.uk.

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.

Advent Online Retreat: The Jesuit Institute is offering an Advent Online Retreat between Sunday 7th and Thursday 11th December, giving participants an opportunity to spend more time with God and listen to how God is at work in their lives in the lead up to Christmas. Details and booking information are at: www.jesuitinstitute.org/events/online-individually-guided-retreat---advent.

Young Adults Christmas Party: All young adults are warmly invited to join for a Young Adults Christmas Party at Saint Mary's, Derby, for Mass, mulled wine, mince pies, games, and prizes on Sunday 14th December from 2:00p.m. No sign up required. Contact charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk for more info.

Stand up for religious freedom: Consider signing Aid to the Church in Need's 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.

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

The Parish of Saint Ralph Sherwin, Derby is seeking to appoint a part-time Parish Administrator with finance to support the day-to-day running of the parish. The role will be for 25 hours per week (Tuesday - Friday, 8.30a.m.-2.45p.m) at Band 4 (£14.17 per hour). The parish is looking for a candidate with proven experience in administration and finance, ideally within parish, school, or charity settings. The successful applicant will play a key role in supporting parish operations and financial processes. For an informal chat about the role, contact Canon Andrew Cole andrew.cole@dioceseofnottingham.uk and to request an application form, email office@dioceseofnottingham.uk. The closing date is Monday 8th December.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 22 nd November / 23 rd November Solemnity of Christ the King	5:00p.m. - 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Kevin Gallagher (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Mackenzie & Norman Family (RIP)</i>
Monday 24 th November (St Andrew Dung-Lac)	No Mass in the Parish
Tuesday 25 th November (St Catherine of Alexandria)	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Wednesday 26 th November (Feria)	No Mass in the Parish
Thursday 27 th November (Feria)	No Mass in the Parish
Friday 28 th November (Feria)	9:00a.m. Exposition & Benediction 10:00a.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Weekend 29 th November / 30 th November First Sunday of Advent	4:30p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>

Readings for this Sunday and next Sunday

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
Celebration	Solemnity of Christ the King	First Sunday of Advent
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 2	Year A, Week 1
First Reading	2 Samuel 5:1-3	Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalms	Psalms 122	Psalms 122
Second Reading	Colossians 1:12-20	Romans 13:11-14
Gospel	Luke 23:35-43	Matthew 24:37-44
Preface	Christ, King of the Universe	Preface I of Advent
Eucharistic Prayer	III	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: £325.52

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:

David Goodinson (RIP) – whose funeral rites will take place at Stamford cemetery on Monday 24th November at 10:00a.m, followed by a Memorial Service at Browne's Hospital at 11:00a.m.

Rosemary Ann Vines (RIP)

'Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.'