



## *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: [carriann.gatespsr@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:carriann.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**

**21<sup>st</sup> December / 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

## **Reflection**

On this last weekend before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer: He is, as the First Reading says, the "ruler . . . whose coming forth is from of old . . . from ancient days." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king.

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever. Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom. He is "the shepherd of Israel" proclaimed in the Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us."

And this weekend's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only begotten Son of God, come in the flesh. He is also our high priest, from the mould of the mysterious Melchizedek, priest of God Most High, who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history.

All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in this weekend's Epistle (cf. Psalm 2:7). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfilment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in the First Reading – she who is in labour." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy – she is the mother of our Lord.

**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.

**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>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6:00p.m Vigil Mass
(Christmas Eve)	11:30p.m Office of Readings followed by Midnight Mass
<b>Wednesday 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.

**Weekday Mass:** Please note that there will be Mass this week on Thursday at 10:00a.m. for the Feast of St Stephen and a Service of Word and Communion on Friday at 10:00a.m. as I am staying with Dad from Thursday evening for a couple of days.

**Foodbank:** Following the extremely generous donations received recently, over 130 Christmas bags have been put together for families of all sizes. Thank you so much for your continued support throughout 2024.

**Annual Catholic Diaries:** We now just have a few 2025 catholic diaries available at the cost of £5. Please place your £5 in the basket provided at the back of Church.

**New Lectionary:** We have now begun using the New Lectionary, providing a more formal translation of the readings at Mass, closer to the original languages and reflecting up-to-date biblical scholarship. As this is the only Lectionary now approved for Mass in England, Wales and Scotland, it means the congregational Parish Mass Books that have the old translation in them are no longer able to be used. If you are someone who prefers to have the readings in front of you as they are proclaimed and to reflect on them in the week, rather than only hearing them at Mass, then I suggest you purchase a new Sunday Missal from CTS (Catholic Truth Society). This will provide for the new readings and order of Mass for the whole 3-year cycle and will last you a lifetime. The cost for this is merely £18. Please speak to me if you would like to order a Sunday Missal and have not done so already. If you simply need the Order of Mass with the attendant responses and are content with just hearing the readings as they are proclaimed, then there are laminated Order of Mass cards at the back of Church, so please help yourself to one as you come into Church.

**Jubilee Year:** The Jubilee of Hope will begin on 29th December 2024, with Pope Francis opening the 'Holy Door' in St Peter's Basilica, offering all Catholics the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence and a year of special graces. Bishop Patrick will celebrate a special liturgy at the Cathedral on the 29th December to mark this opening of the Jubilee Year for our own Diocese. Please do take with you this weekend, in preparation for the year ahead, two Jubilee Prayer Cards (one for yourself and one to give to someone else) and a Jubilee Booklet with further information on this Jubilee Year to come, entitled 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

**Get Jubilee Ready:** Join CAFOD online on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 10.30a.m. until 12.00noon for 'Get Jubilee Ready', a general introduction to the Jubilee Year with some special guests. Hear what Jubilee years are all about, how we're celebrating as a global and national Church, and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. Please visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year> for more information.

**Christmas Fun Run:** CAFOD is organising a Christmas Fun Run on Friday 27th December in Bollington (SK10 5JR). For more visit [www.cafod.org.uk/bollington](http://www.cafod.org.uk/bollington)

**Concert at Saint Barnabas Cathedral:** Saint Barnabas Cathedral Choir is singing Bach's Saint John Passion on Saturday 29th March at 7:45p.m. A QR code is available on the poster in the porch, together with a 20% discount for bookings before Christmas.

**School admissions to Catholic Primary Academies (Reception Year):** For children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021. The deadline for submitting applications for a school place is 15th January 2025. 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, e.g. baptism certificate (photocopies are acceptable: if you do not have the evidence contact the parish where your child was baptised for a copy certificate in good time). 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.

**St Elizabeth of the Trinity Secular Discalced Carmelites:** Are you looking for God? We have found that God seeks us even more than we seek Him, "Live alone with Him wherever you are, whatever you may be doing. He never leaves you, so stay always with Him." We meet monthly on a Saturday in Nottingham. Want to know more? Please see the poster in the porch or contact Frances Fogg OCDS at 07843 599131 or visit [nottinghamcarmelites.uk](http://nottinghamcarmelites.uk) [secularcarmel.org.uk](http://secularcarmel.org.uk)

**Men's Spiritual Exercises, Monday 31st March – Saturday 5th April:** A 5-day version of the Ignatian Exercises is being offered specifically for men (whether lay or ordained). This retreat will be preached at the Christian Heritage Centre, Lancashire, by the Benedictine Monks of Saint Joseph's Abbey, France. Founded in 1988, this community has retained its charism of a specific apostolate to men. One-to-one direction will be offered alongside the talks. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

**Aid to the Church in Need (UK):** Has launched an Open Letter Campaign calling on Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, to make persecuted religious communities priority recipients of UK Overseas Development Aid (ODA). They need your help to reach their goal of 10,000 signatures, which will trigger a response from the Government. Please sign their open letter today: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/red-wednesday-advocacy-letter>. Together, we can help Christians and other religious minorities trapped in modern slavery, extreme poverty and worse.

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekend 21 <sup>st</sup> / 22 <sup>nd</sup> December Fourth Sunday of Advent	5:00p.m. – 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>Christine Doherty (RIP)</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Thomas Mann (RIP)</i> 11:00a.m. Mass <i>Billy &amp; Winfrey Turner (RIP)</i>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December ( <i>Advent Feria</i> )	<b>No Mass in the Parish</b>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Christmas Eve</i> )	6:00p.m. <b>Vigil Mass of Christmas</b> <i>Pro Populo</i> 11:30p.m. <b>Office of Readings and Midnight Mass</b> <i>Adam Dudek (Int)</i>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>Christmas Day</i> )	9:00a.m. <b>Dawn Mass of Christmas</b> <i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion &amp; others that visit the Sick &amp; Housebound</i> 11:00a.m. <b>Day Mass of Christmas</b> <i>Bullimore Family in Memory of Jake</i>
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>St Stephen</i> )	10:00a.m. Mass <i>Altar Servers</i>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>St John</i> )	9:00a.m. Exposition 10:00a.m. Service of Word and Communion
Weekend 28 <sup>th</sup> / 29 <sup>th</sup> December The Feast of the Holy Family	5:00p.m. – 5:40p.m. Sacrament of Confession 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass <i>In Thanksgiving</i> 9:00a.m. Mass <i>Kevin Gallagher (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>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>
Cycle & Psalter	Year C, Week 4	Year C, Week 1
First Reading	Micah 5:2-5	1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Psalms	Psalms 80	Psalms 84
Second Reading	Hebrews 10:5-10	1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel	Luke 1:39-45	Luke 2:41-52
Preface	Preface II of Advent	Preface II of the Nativity of the Lord
Eucharistic Prayer	II	I

### 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: £701

Weekly Offertory Collection Basket: £508.73

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:

**Kevin Gallagher (RIP) – whose funeral will take place on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon.**

Please keep his family very much in your prayers also at this time.

‘Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.’