



Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Stamford

Saint Mary and Saint Augustine

The Presbytery, 13 Broad Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1PG Telephone: (01780) 762010

Website: www.staugustinescatholicchurchstamford.co.uk

Parish Priest: **Father Simon Gillespie** Mobile: 07760 372105 Email: simon@nottinghamcatholic.com

Deacons: **Reverend Charles West-Sadler** (with Oakham parish); **Reverend Robert S Dawson** (retired)

Parish Director of Music: **Ruth Proctor** Mobile: 07826 017487 Email: ruthproctor73@gmail.com

Parish Hall Manager: **Anna Barwell** Mobile: 07789 283140 Email: anna.barwell@tiscali.co.uk

Parish Primary School: **Saint Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Stamford** (01780) 762094

Catholic Secondary School: **Saint John Fisher Catholic High School, Peterborough** (01733) 343646

Part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham Diocesan Website: www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Company Number: 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449

10th and 11th February 2018 : Sixth Sunday of the Year

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. In preparation for this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, consider here a reflection from Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, writing in the fourth century about the Cross bringing us deep joy:

Even in time of persecution let the Cross be your joy

The Catholic Church glories in every deed of Christ. Her supreme glory, however, is the cross. Well aware of this, Paul says: God forbid that I glory in anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ!

At Siloam, there was a sense of wonder, and rightly so: a man born blind recovered his sight. But of what importance is this, when there are so many blind people in the world? Lazarus rose from the dead, but even this affected only Lazarus: what of those countless numbers who have died because of their sins? Those miraculous loaves fed five thousand people; yet this is a small number compared to those all over the world who were starved by ignorance. After eighteen years a woman was freed from the bondage of Satan; but are we not all shackled by the chains of our own sins?

For us all, however, the cross is the crown of victory. It has brought light to



those blinded by ignorance. It has released those enslaved by sin. Indeed, it has redeemed the whole of mankind! Do not, then, be ashamed of the cross of Christ; rather, glory in it. Although it is a stumbling block to the Jews and folly to the Gentiles, the message of the cross is our salvation. Of course it is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it was not a mere man who died for us, but the Son of God,

God made man.

In the Mosaic law a sacrificial lamb banished the destroyer. But now it is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Will he not free us from our sins even more? The blood of an animal, a sheep, brought salvation. Will not the blood of the only-begotten Son bring us greater salvation?

He was not killed by violence, he was not forced to give up his life: his was a willing sacrifice. Listen to his own words: I have the power to lay down my life and take it up again. Yes, he willingly submitted to his own passion. He took joy in his achievement; in his crown of victory he was glad and in the salvation of man he rejoiced. He did not blush at the cross, for by it he was to save the world. No, it was not a lowly man who suffered, but God incarnate. He entered the contest for the reward he would win by his patient endurance. Certainly in times of tranquillity the cross should give you joy. But maintain the same faith in times of persecution. Otherwise you will be a friend of Jesus in times of peace and his enemy during war. Now you receive the forgiveness of your sins and the generous gift of grace from your king. When war comes, fight courageously for him.

Jesus never sinned; yet he was crucified for you. Will you refuse to be crucified for him, who for your sake was nailed to the cross? You are not the one who gives the favour; you have received one first. For your sake he was crucified on Golgotha. Now you are returning his favour: you are fulfilling your debt to him.

Changes to Mass Times over the coming weeks

Father Simon departs on Sunday for more studies towards his licentiate Canon Law at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. Please pray for him during his time away! In his absence, and with sincere thanks for their generosity, our parish will be looked after by Monsignor Brian Dazeley, who will celebrate the Sunday Masses and also Mass on Ash Wednesday. No doubt you will welcome him very warmly.



Father Simon will be answering emails, and thanks to various parishioners who've volunteered, the church will be open each day for quiet prayer or to light a candle.

If you need to contact a priest urgently during Father Simon's absence, please telephone any of our neighbouring priests in the deanery:

- ✘ Father Stephen Dye (Oakham) on 01572 722308
- ✘ Father Chris O'Connor (Grantham) on 01476 563935
- ✘ Father Victor Dakwan (Bourne) on 01778 423593

Father Simon hopes to be back in the parish for Mass on Sunday 4th March.

Parish Fundraising – Update and Urgent

This weekend at the Sunday Masses Mary Fenn, on behalf of Bishop Patrick, and the Parish Finance Committee, will speak at all Masses about **the need to consider what we give financially to the parish**. Please listen, and take away one of the leaflets that Mary will be handing out at the end of Mass.

Thanks also to those who have completed **Parish 200 Club** forms: we have about 80 received now, so 120 to go before the first draw. Because of Father Simon's absence in Leuven, the first draw will be held a week later, on 4th March (thereafter on Easter Day, and then the last Sunday of each month). Please return forms to the presbytery, marked for Christina Armitage.

May thanks to you all for your help in financially supporting our parish

Forthcoming Events in our parish, community and diocese

A further **Parish Singing Practice** will be held after the 11am Mass (so from 12 noon) on **Sunday 11th February** in anticipation of music to be sung during Lent. All are very welcome, whether members of the choir or not, those who think they can sing and those who haven't yet discovered their talents!

A Lent Talk will be held in Saint Barnabas Cathedral hall, Nottingham, on **Monday 12th February** at 6.30pm. Given by Professor Thomas O'Loughlin, the talk will be entitled **The Eucharistic Words of Jesus**. Entry is free.

The Stamford Saint Mother Teresa Co-Workers are organising the annual **Hunger Lunch** on **Ash Wednesday, 14th February**, from 12.30pm until 2.00pm, in the parish hall. Money raised is sent to Missionary Brothers in Manchester, who sent a letter of thanks at Christmas, describing their work. We look forward to seeing you.

The first **Churches Together Lent Lunch** will be held on **Friday 16th February** (and thereafter each Friday in Lent) from 12.30pm in the URC Hall (opposite us) on Broad Street. See the poster in this newsletter, and do come along.

The **SVP** (Saint Vincent de Paul Society) meets next on **Thursday 22nd February** at 6.00pm in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Chloe Reynolds in Concert on **Friday 23rd February** in Spalding Baptist Church. See the poster in the church porch for more information. Tickets are £5 and £3.

Peterborough Theological Society will host **Rev'd Canon Bill Croft** speaking about 'Singing the story : The Psalms in Israel's faith' on **Wednesday 28th February**. Details from Canon Jonathan Baker on 01733 355300.

There will be a **Lent Retreat for Women** at The Briars in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside from **Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th March**, the cost of which is £70 (inclusive). For further information and to book in contact: bookings@ndcys.com

The **Rutland Theological Society** are hosting Dorothy L Sayers on **Thursday 8th March** at 7.30pm in Oakham Methodist Church, LE15 6QS. The cost is £3, details from Rev'd Peter Lemmon (secretary) on 01780 720730.

A free showing of the film '**I Daniel Blake**' will be held on **Saturday 10th March** at 2.00pm for 2.30pm, at Stamford Methodist Church. It highlights those involved with caring for the vulnerable and needy, and may offer an insight and some inspiration into different ways of engaging with those in need.

Biscuit Baking

You might remember that last year our confirmation candidates, together with other parishioners, helped to prepare for a **Prison Mission** by baking biscuits which were distributed to all the men and staff in HMP Stocken. The Mission was a success, and is being run again this Lent, from 12th until 16th March. Our parish has been asked to help once again, and so we need some volunteers who are happy to bake biscuits during the week of Monday 26th February, and to bring them to church on Sunday 4th March. Because of security requirements there is a recipe that has to be followed (strictly!), and a declaration to be signed by each baker, confirming that nothing extra has been added into the biscuits.

If you're willing and able to help, please speak to Father Simon after Mass this weekend. If it's not organised by a parishioner this weekend then, regrettably, we won't be able to assist.

Job Opportunities in our Diocesan Schools

The governors of Saint Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, Leicester are seeking to appoint a new headteacher. For further details call Mrs C O'Halloran on 0116 2706365 or visit www.thomasmoreprimary.org.uk The closing date for applications is Monday 12th March.

Prayer Volunteers are urgently needed

Are you looking for a challenge during Lent, involving prayer and self-sacrifice? Are you saddened to see the harm done to babies and women through abortion? **“40 Days for Life”** is a Christian campaign group whose purpose is to save the lives of unborn children through prayer, fasting and community outreach. With the support of Pope Francis for this worldwide initiative, and the encouragement Bishop Patrick locally, we are running a campaign in Nottingham during Lent 2018. The aim of our prayers is simple: we are praying for an end to abortion. But we also offer support – moral and practical - to women who may be under pressure to have an abortion which they do not want, and which they may come to regret.

Our Vigil is Prayerful, Peaceful, and non-Judgmental

We are seeking volunteers to pray with us during Lent, between 6.00am and 6.00pm, on a rota basis, at the Treatment Centre on the QMC campus, where many abortions in Nottinghamshire take place. Most people who come stay for either one or two hours at a time. Please sign up now to pray with us on our webpage www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/Nottingham or contact us at 40daysforlifefenotts@gmail.com

Saint Josephine Bakhita and the Medaille Trust

On Thursday we remembered Saint Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of those who are trafficked or forced into slavery. Her feast, on 8th February each year, has become a day of special prayer for this intention.

Saint Josephine Bakhita was a nun, and also known as Madre Moretta. She was born in the Sudan in 1869 to a wealthy family, but Josephine was kidnapped at the age of nine and sold into slavery. Sold and re-sold, she was bought by the Callisto Legnani, the Italian consul in Khartoum. and taken to Italy to become the nanny of a friend's daughter. They were both looked after by the Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice. Josephine was baptised in 1890 and took vows in 1896. She worked as a cook, seamstress and porter. Her gentle presence, warm, amiable voice, and willingness to help with any menial task were a comfort to the poor and suffering people who came to the door of the Institute. After a biography of her was published in 1930, she became a noted and sought after speaker, raising funds to support missions. She died in 1947 and was canonised in 2000.

Information about the work of the Medaille Trust in tackling trafficking and slavery, together with prayers cards, are available at the back of church this Sunday.

Preparations for Lent 2018

Check out the Be Merciful Website. This has been updated and has events and resources for Faith Formation in the Diocese of Nottingham: <https://www.bemerciful.co.uk/>

Preparations for Lent with the Discalced Carmelites

Brother Lawrence - Strange enough, he is better known among English-speaking Evangelicals than in his own homeland (France)! However, Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection (1614-1691) lived most of his life in the convent of the Discalced Carmelite Friars in Paris. It was there that he discovered and then taught what he called "the practice of the presence of God." This humble brother - the community cook and then the sandal-maker - had a great influence during his lifetime and his message has been passed down to us. He helps us to live our most ordinary everyday life experiences under the gaze of God. Prayer is no longer reduced to specific times. It is our whole existence that becomes a living relationship with the Lord. During this Lent, we will let ourselves be shaped by this Mystery!

How do I make the Lenten retreat?

Complete the form submit on the website (www.retreat-online.karmel.at) to register for the retreat. You will receive a confirmation message by email.

On Ash Wednesday, 14th February, you will receive an email giving the introduction to the retreat and then weekly, every Friday of Lent, you will receive another email message with a new point of inspiration for the following week, along with short texts for daily prayer. Invite your friends, family, work colleagues, anyone you know, to join in with this – and it's completely free, too! Simply refer them to the web page www.retreat-online.karmel.at or ask them to email retreat-online@karmel.at



Prayer Books for the Lenten Journey

As in previous years, daily Prayer Books for Lent are available this Sunday; they're priced £1 each, but please take one and pay when you can. There will also be a supply of calendars for the younger parishioners, giving a simply thought for each day during our Lenten journey.

Start to think now of ways in which you can make Lent 2018 a time of truly returning back to the Lord, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the traditional Lenten practices. What better time to come close to the God who gave his life for us?

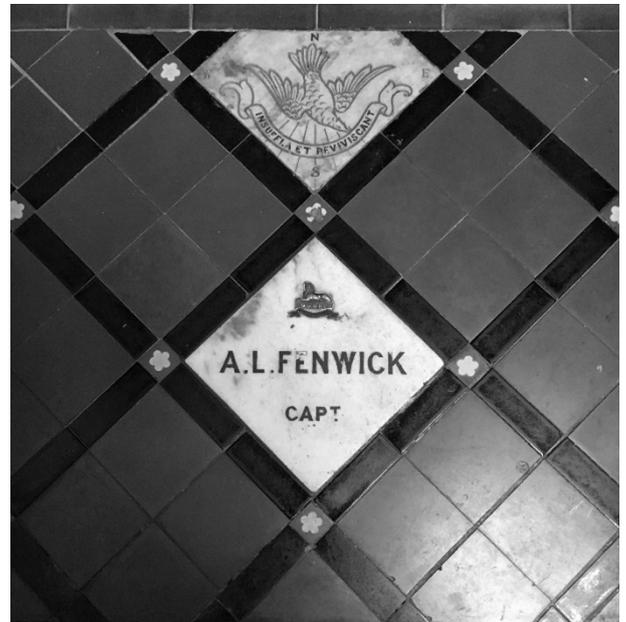
The Leprosy Mission – Leaflets

Two years ago during Lent we raised money to rebuild homes in Nepal that had been damaged by the earthquake, and were to be used by people suffering from leprosy. Thanks to our links with the Leprosy Mission they have kindly printed **Lenten Prayer Leaflets** for us this Lent, copies of which are available at the back of church. Do take one, and use the prayers each Sunday and week during Lent.

Mass Intentions

During Father Simon's absence in Leuven he will celebrate Mass each day. On Sundays Mass will be offered for the intentions of all the people of the parish, the 'pro populo' Mass; on other days he will offer Mass for the Holy Souls and the November Dead List Masses.

One exception will be this coming Friday, when Father Simon will offer Mass for the happy repose of the soul of Captain Anthony L Fenwick of the 6th Battalion Lincoln Regiment. Friday will make the centenary of his death, during the First World War, and if his name sounds familiar you will have seen it on the only remaining floor tile plaque in the Lady Chapel. Thanks to research by one of the families in our parish his date of death is now known, and Mass will be celebrated for him on that date.



May he, and all the faithful departed of the First World War, rest in peace.

The Ring Rosary

The Ring Rosary is now ready for collection, it will begin on Thursday 1st March, its theme for this year is: **For peace and justice for the people of the Middle East**. You may obtain a copy from Father Simon or Marilyn Smith (01780 753094).

Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

Our **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes**, led by Bishop Patrick, will take place from 16th until 20th July. Father Simon will be making the Pilgrimage and it would be great to have a group from our parish there too. Forms are available at the back of church.

Share the Journey

Pope Francis has launched Share the Journey, a new global campaign to stand up for the rights of refugees and migrants. The timescale of the campaign is from now until the Pope goes to address the United Nations in September 2018. A week of action will also take place during Refugee Week in June.

In support of the campaign, Cafod is aiming to walk 24,901 miles – the distance around the whole world! Bishop Patrick is inviting schools and parishes to engage in this campaign. It's an act of solidarity to Share the Journey with our global neighbours fleeing their homes. Every step you take, together with others from across the Church in England and Wales, will send a message to world leaders that they must step up too. They need to act with courage and compassion when they agree ambitious new UN agreements on refugees and migration in 2018.

Resources are available on the Cafod website at: <https://cafod.org.uk> – if you have any ideas for what we could do as a parish, please speak to Father Simon.

Silent Adoration of God

During his homily at morning Mass in Casa Santa Marta on Monday, Pope Francis stressed the importance of silent adoration of God. Several new priests attended the Mass, and Pope Francis encouraged them to "teach the people to adore in silence". He said: "We know how to teach them how to pray, how to sing, and praise God, but to adore?"

The Holy Father reflected on the first reading of the day (1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13), in which the elders of Israel bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, a difficult and uphill journey. But there are memories that sustain the effort. "We can only arrive there with the memory of having been chosen, of bearing within our heart the promise which pushes us to keep going with the covenant in our hand and in our heart," Francis said. "Words disappear, we do not know what to say," but at such a time the people can adore in silence.

Sunday 11th February – World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Although the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes falls on a Sunday this year, we are invited to remember all those who suffer through sickness and ill health. In our parish, as well as many people individually, the members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the ExtraOrdinary Ministers of Holy Communion make great efforts to visit the sick and housebound. May those who are sick know the present of Jesus very close to them.

From our Parish Primary School

Lions and Meerkats classes enjoyed a fantastic workshop on Wednesday. The Year 2 / 3 children enjoyed sending a Pharaoh off to the afterlife by making a boat, the River Nile and a pyramid with their bodies. Children loved weighing the Pharaoh's heart and discovered it was lighter than a feather. However, they



were disappointed that they had escaped a visit from the devourer, who would have come out to eat the Pharaoh. The children in Meerkats Class enjoyed learning about the Olympics and re-enacting different events that are believed to have taken place, although the girls did not

show much appreciation as they learnt that females were not even allowed to watch the games. They also thoroughly enjoyed acting out different scenes from a variety of Greek myths.

Children tell School Trust in Jesus!

Putting trust in Jesus was the theme of the Year 5 / 6 liturgy, which they held for the rest of the school on Tuesday morning. Children acted out the story of Jesus calming the storm on the lake, reading aloud in front of their audience, and making sure visuals and sound effects accompanied their mini-production. At the end, the whole school sang the hymn Do Not Be Afraid and each child was given a small prayer card to keep.



Mission Statement this week:

I know that I belong in a community that includes my school

Reflections from 'Marriage Matters'

Keeping our love alive

Sometimes we have a sense of being at odds and separated from each other. The question, often unasked, is 'do you love me?' The answer is the same as Jesus gave to the outcast leper 'of course I do!' From being apart, we can be one again. How often do we say to each other 'I love you'?

Readings at Masses this Week

Monday	James 1:1-11; Psalm 118(119):67-68.71-72.75-76; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday	James 1:12-18; Psalm 93(94):12-15.18-19; Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 50(51):3-6.12-14.17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6.16-18
Thursday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1:1-4.6; Luke 9:22-25
Friday	Isaiah 58:1-9; Psalm 50(51):306.18-19; Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday	Isaiah 58:9-14; Psalm 85(86):1-6; Luke 5:27-32

Liturgy this Week and next Week

<i>Celebration</i>	Sixth Sunday	First Sunday of Lent
<i>Cycle & Psalter</i>	Year B, Week 2	Year B
<i>Mass</i>	Page 137	Page 148
<i>Penitential Rite</i>	B, page 8	At celebrant's choice
<i>First Reading</i>	Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46	Genesis 9:8-15
<i>Psalm</i>	Psalm 31:1-2. 5. 11	Psalm 24:4-9
<i>Second Reading</i>	1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1	1 Peter 3:18-22
<i>Gospel</i>	Mark 1:40-45	Mark 1:12-15
<i>Preface</i>	Sundays 5, page 55	At celebrant's choice
<i>Eucharistic Prayer</i>	Two, page 24	At celebrant's choice
<i>Memorial Acclamation</i>	B (When we eat)	B (When we eat)

Planned Giving Envelopes

Please take your envelopes if you've not collected your new box already: there are still quite a number at the back of church. If you don't have a box and want one, or want information about gift aiding your offering, please email Father Simon.

Prayers For . . .

All who have died recently: especially:

Father David Bingham (brother in law of Liz Bingham);

Christine Doherty who died on 3rd February at the Sue Ryder Hospice at Thorpe Hall after a long battle with sarcoma; her Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Father Stephen on **Thursday 1st March** at 1.30pm;

Marjorie Ward (sister of Canon George Woodall);

Sister Mary Feane (Prison Chaplain).

May they rest in peace!

All our sick and housebound parishioners and friends:

especially Father David Bowler, Father Kevin Clark, Father Terry Fellows, John and Julia Newman, Maria Pinto, Catherine Farndell, John Griffiths, John Salthouse, Marie Lunny, Mary Patrick, Dympna Middleton, Vincent Kelly, David Peach, Sister Attracta, Verlia Duque, Father Thomas Breslin, Provost Michael Bell, John Chapple, Father Peter Peterken, Father Chris Hogan, Father Michael Stappard, Margaret West-Sadler, John Herd, Father Dominic O'Connor, Father Joe O'Hanlon, Jo and Bernard Raffo, Victoria Crouch, Father James O'Hanlon, Father Eamonn O'Hara, Peter Herrick, Father John Cairns, Deacon Bernard Croft, Mark Grab, Rosa Maria Santos, Kenneth Court, Veronica Hosking, Beth Coleman, Joan Middleton, Pat Dancer, Augusta Deane, Irene Mulligan, Connie Edgar, Gladys Brown, Nora Hunt, Valerie Pellier, Fiona Ruddle, David Cooke, Maeve Swann, Helen Allen, Jean Maker, Anna Orme, Lucy Court, Debbie Reed, Ken Woods, Lilian Pople, Anne Woods, Deacon Bob Dawson, Father Peter Harvey.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for February

"Say 'No' to Corruption"

**so that those who have material, political or spiritual power
may resist any lure of corruption.**

Many Thanks for your Generosity

Envelopes	£325.70	Loose plate	£216.11
Standing Order	£274.00	Collection Total	£815.81

Don't forget to collect your new box of envelopes this week!

Masses and Services this Week

Saturday 10th February

Sixth Sunday of the Year

Day for the Unemployed

6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Thoresen Family
7.00pm	Confessions	

Sunday 11th February

Sixth Sunday of the Year

World Day for the Sick and Day for the Unemployed

9.00am	Mass	Pro Populo (People of the parish) <i>Children's Liturgy; Tea and coffee after</i>
11.00am	Mass	Parishioner's Special Intentions <i>Tea and coffee after</i>
5.00pm	Sung Vespers	

Monday 12th February

Feria

No public Mass

Tuesday 13th February

Feria

No public Mass

Wednesday 14th February

ASH WEDNESDAY

A day of Fasting and Abstinence

10.00am	Mass	Intentions of Ryan Collins
7.00pm	Vespers, with the	Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 15th February

Lenten Feria

No public Mass

Friday 16th February

Lenten Feria

10.00am Service of the Word and Holy Communion

Saturday 17th February

Lenten Feria

No morning Confessions

First Sunday of Lent

6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Marui Fernandez and the Holy Souls
7.00pm	Confessions	

Sunday 18th February

First Sunday of Lent

9.00am	Mass	Priest's Intentions <i>Tea and coffee after</i>
11.00am	Mass	Bob Middleton, Middleton and Nash families <i>Tea and coffee after</i>
5.00pm	Sung Vespers	

National Eucharistic Congress : 7th – 9th September 2018