

ST MARY'S

THE HIDDEN GEM

MANCHESTER



✘ WELCOME TO ST MARY'S CHURCH - The Hidden Gem of Manchester ✘

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY

SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Scripture Readings: Acts: 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8.17-18;
Matthew 16:13-19

Peter and Paul are the two great heroes of the Apostolic Age - Peter for leading the first Christian communities and binding them in unity, a role that springs from his profession of faith in Caesarea Philippi, and Paul for travelling throughout the Roman Empire as the Apostle to the Gentiles, ensuring that the Gospel could be heard by all. They both ended up in Rome, the heart of the Empire, where they crowned their lives of witness by shedding their blood for Christ. As the ancient hymn for this feast day ("Decora Lux aeternitatis") says: *"Rejoice, O Rome, this day; thy walls they once did sign With princely blood, who now their glory share with thee. What city's vesture glows with crimson deep as thine? What beauty else has earth that may compare with thee?"* In celebrating the death of these apostles and martyrs, we celebrate the triumph of life and death offered fully to God.

THE WORD THIS WEEK [The daily readings of the Mass](#)

The next eight weeks are spent with the prophets: These were important people in Israel and Juda, keeping them on the right path, speaking out against injustice - even when practised by the King. We begin with the "Minor Prophets": this week it is Amos. A simple shepherd, he was called by God to speak His words. He interprets history for the people, reminding them of the closeness of God. Amos is concerned with justice, and speaks out against hypocritical shows of religion.

The Gospel continues the narrative of Matthew (8-9) with a series of dramatic miracles, culminating in the call of Matthew himself.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL [Matthew 11:25-30](#)

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

THE WEEK AHEAD AT ST MARY'S

Mon 29 June	Tues 30 June	Wed 01 July	Thurs 02 July	Fri 03 July	Sat 04 July	Sun 05 July
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St Thomas, apostle	Weekday	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Amos 2:6-10.13-16; Matthew 8:18-22	Amos 3:1-8; Matthew 8:23-27	Amos 5:14-15 Matthew 8:28-34	Amos 7:10-17; Matthew 9:1-8	Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29	Amos 9:11-15; Matthew 9:14-17	Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9.11-13; Matthew 11:25-30
11.00am Church opens	10.00am Church opens	10.00am Church opens				
11.00am - 3.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.00am - 4.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.00am - 2.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament				
3.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	2.00pm Church closes				

THE CHURCH IS OPEN EACH FOR QUIET PRAYER

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated for the following intentions, received at St Mary's this week:

Holy Souls; Mary Wolfenden (A); Michael Ingham (SI); Shirley Allman (S); Sharon Becket (S); Mario Cavallino (LD); Patrick Kenny (LD)

LD= Lately dead, A=Anniversary, S=Sick, B=Birthday
SI= Special Intention, BR=Birthday Remembrance

MASS INTENTIONS AND MASS CARDS

During this time, Fr Anthony continues to celebrate Holy Mass each day for your intentions; If you have any particular Mass intentions, these can be posted to the Presbytery, in the usual way. If you need a Mass card to send to someone at this time, please don't hesitate to contact the presbytery on 0161 834 3547.

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTION AT THIS TIME

We pray for all those affected by the coronavirus at this time; may those who are infected be healed quickly and may those who are living in isolation know the support and love which surround them. We pray for our Bishop, John, and all our priests, especially those isolated and unable to minister during in these days. We pray also for all our people, especially those most vulnerable in our communities. We pray for doctors, nurses, scientists, and all who working so hard to be given strength and courage to respond to this crisis. We pray that the spread of the virus will soon be brought under control. Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

This week, we pray for the people of the parish of the parish of St Cuthbert, Withington, and for Fr Brendan Curley, their parish priest. We pray for the parish primary school, the chaplaincy at the Christie Hospital, and for the Manchester L'Arche community.

PARISH NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

At the beginning of the lockdown, when our churches were closed, we started to send out the parish newsletter by email to a number of parishioners and friends for whom we have an email address. If you know of anyone would like to receive the newsletter by email on a regular basis going forward, please let Fr Anthony know [by email](#) and their names can be added to the list.

✘ THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY AT ST MARY'S and for your SUPPORT of our parish ✘
Thank you for your generosity; Please remember to Gift Aid any donations to St Mary's to help us in our Mission

RE-OPENING OF THE HIDDEN GEM

After being closed for almost one hundred days, I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that the doors of the Hidden Gem will be opening once again this week at the following times:

Monday	29th June	11am - 3pm
Tuesday	30th June	11am - 3pm
Wednesday	1st July	11am - 3pm
Thursday	2nd July	11am - 3pm
Friday	3rd July	11am - 3pm
Saturday	4th July	10am - 4pm
Sunday	5th July	10am - 2pm

The daily opening times of St Mary's will, hopefully, gradually increase as the weeks go by, with the opening times each week published in the parish newsletter and also on the parish website.

This week, churches are not opening for the celebration of Holy Mass or the Sacraments, or any public devotions, but only for personal prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the opportunity to light a candle.

St Mary's is one of only twenty four churches in the diocese that will be open this coming week. The re-opening of our churches is a gradual process, in order to keep everyone safe at this time of ongoing pandemic.

Whilst the Government has announced this week that we can gather for public worship from next Saturday onwards, 4th July, there is still some detailed guidance that we need to consider before the public celebration of Mass can begin once again.

Here at St Mary's, we will take this coming week of opening for private prayer to get used to the guidelines that we now have to follow, with the hope that all will go well in the coming days and we will be able make a decision this week about the public celebration of Mass once again.

Last Tuesday Cardinal Nichols said: "I welcome the statement by the Prime Minister earlier today, that places of worship are now able to resume collective acts of worship from 4 July. This is welcome news for members of all religions in England... As Catholics we now look forward to being able to celebrate Mass together again from 4 July. We have waited with patience and longing for this moment, understanding the importance of protecting the health of people in our society. Now we are full of anticipation that we will be able again to take part together in the Eucharist, which lies at the centre of our faith".

[The full statement](#) from Cardinal Nichols and the other Metropolitan Archbishops of England is available on the Bishops' Conference website.

The Bishops of England and Wales have since issued 'Guidance for the Celebration of Mass'. The Guidance is carefully phrased. It recognises the need we have to take great care. Our own Bishop has stressed this too. Bishop John is concerned that the coronavirus should not be passed on through churches. He says: "It could be suggested that people might perhaps try to attend a public celebration of Mass on any day of the week, emphasising that there is at this time no obligation to attend Mass even on Sunday"

Following that advice, when we do re-commence the celebration of Mass here at St Mary's, we shall start with weekday Masses. The Guidance from the Bishops is so detailed that we will need to try it out first on weekdays. Building on that experience, Sunday Mass can follow.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON COMING INTO CHURCH

When you come to church for the first time many things will be familiar, but there are a few changes that we have had to make in order to make the church a safe place for all to visit.

A [short video](#) is provided on the diocesan YouTube channel and [diocesan website](#) which highlights some of the changes to expect on entering our churches at the present time.

When you next come to St Mary's, a parishioner will be at the entrance to welcome you to the church and to point you in the right direction.

To help prepare you for a visit to church, and in order to make the church a safe place for all visitors, please note the following

changes that we have had to put in place:

- Before entering the church, carefully read the statements on the poster in the foyer;
- Enter the church by the left hand side door only;
- Sanitise your hands on entry and later on exit;
- Follow the simple one-way system around the church;
- In order to keep at a certain distance from others, sit only on certain benches, which are clearly marked with a green tick. If you are from the same household, you can sit next to each other, otherwise please sit on your own;
- Only so many people are able to be in the church at any one time; the current capacity for private prayer for St Mary's is 29, which will hopefully increase as the weeks go by.
- If that capacity is reached this week, one may have to wait outside the door for a moment or so, until someone comes out of the church;
- There is no time-limit as to how long one can stay in church, but if many more people wish to come in to say a prayer or light a candle, then we may have to introduce some system, but we don't envisage this will be an issue for the first week or so;
- If you wish to light a candle, only approach the votive candle stands if there is nobody lighting a candle, and then return to your seat to enable others to come forward safely;
- In lighting a candle, please only touch the candle that you are lighting and not any other candles;
- After lighting a candle, please sanitise your hands at the sanitiser point provided, before returning to your seat or leaving the church;
- Pews and kneelers will be discreetly disinfected as each visitor vacates their seat;
- Leave the church by the opposite door to the one through which you entered, following the one-way system (a simple plan of which is on the next page of the newsletter)
- There will be an additional daily cleaning down of the main touch points in the church at the time of closing each day.

All the above measures are designed to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all our parishioners and visitors and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

One of the key elements in being able to open the church is the necessity to assemble a **Team of Welcomers**, or stewards, in order to ensure that the guidance we have received can safely be put into effect on a day to day basis when the church is open. At least two welcomers will need to be present when a church is open at this time for quiet prayer.

I am very grateful to those parishioners who have so far generously offered help, and we gathered today, Saturday, for a short information meeting. We are fortunate to have enough volunteers to open at the times advertised this week, but we will still need more volunteers, if we are going to be able to continue these opening times, and possibly increase them, while preparing for the public celebration of Mass again.

To volunteer there will be:

- A short **volunteer application form** to complete, as part of the diocesan Safer Recruitment process;
- A short **list of responsibilities** provided and a short introduction to them with one of the current volunteers;
- **Some basic safeguarding training** provided online, on the diocesan website, to help to keep oneself and others safe.

Each volunteer will also have to confirm that they are not excluded from performing the role, as defined by current government guidance. However, the Diocese has now clarified that over-70s can volunteer, though one must be aware that this role may put one at some personal risk, and must consider one's own health and well-being before putting oneself forward.

If you are able to help, even for a short period of time, please [email me](#) with your name and contact details and I will give you further information. Without the help of parishioners, we wouldn't be able to open again at this time. So, having volunteers in place will enable us to keep the church open again; The more volunteers we have, the more that we will be able to be open for everyone. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AT THIS TIME

These weeks of lockdown are difficult for all of us, and we are particularly mindful of those whose jobs and lives are put on hold because of the pandemic. We want to be here for you during these difficult times. Even so, the parish is entirely dependent upon your generous charity.

So that we will be able to continue to provide the Liturgy of the Lord and our works, from our parish to the local community, we encourage those of you who are able to do so, to continue supporting the parish financially and, if you ordinarily contribute by way of the collection at Sunday Mass, to please think about taking out a monthly Standing Order and, if you pay tax, Gift Aiding that donation.

For more information we encourage you to visit the [Donations](#) page on our parish website. Many thanks to those parishioners who have set up a standing order recently, sent a cheque in the post, made a donation on line, or are keeping offertory envelopes at home until we can next gather in St Mary's.

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

NEW SET OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

For those of you who Gift Aid donations to the parish and have a set of offertory envelopes, you may be aware that they run out at the end of June. I had intended to post out a new set of envelopes this past week to those parishioners who have taken them in the past, but I will do so this week, unless you have indicated otherwise.

If anyone would like to sign up for Gift Aid and have a set of offertory envelopes, please let me know. Alternatively, if you would like to set up a monthly standing order, please let me know.

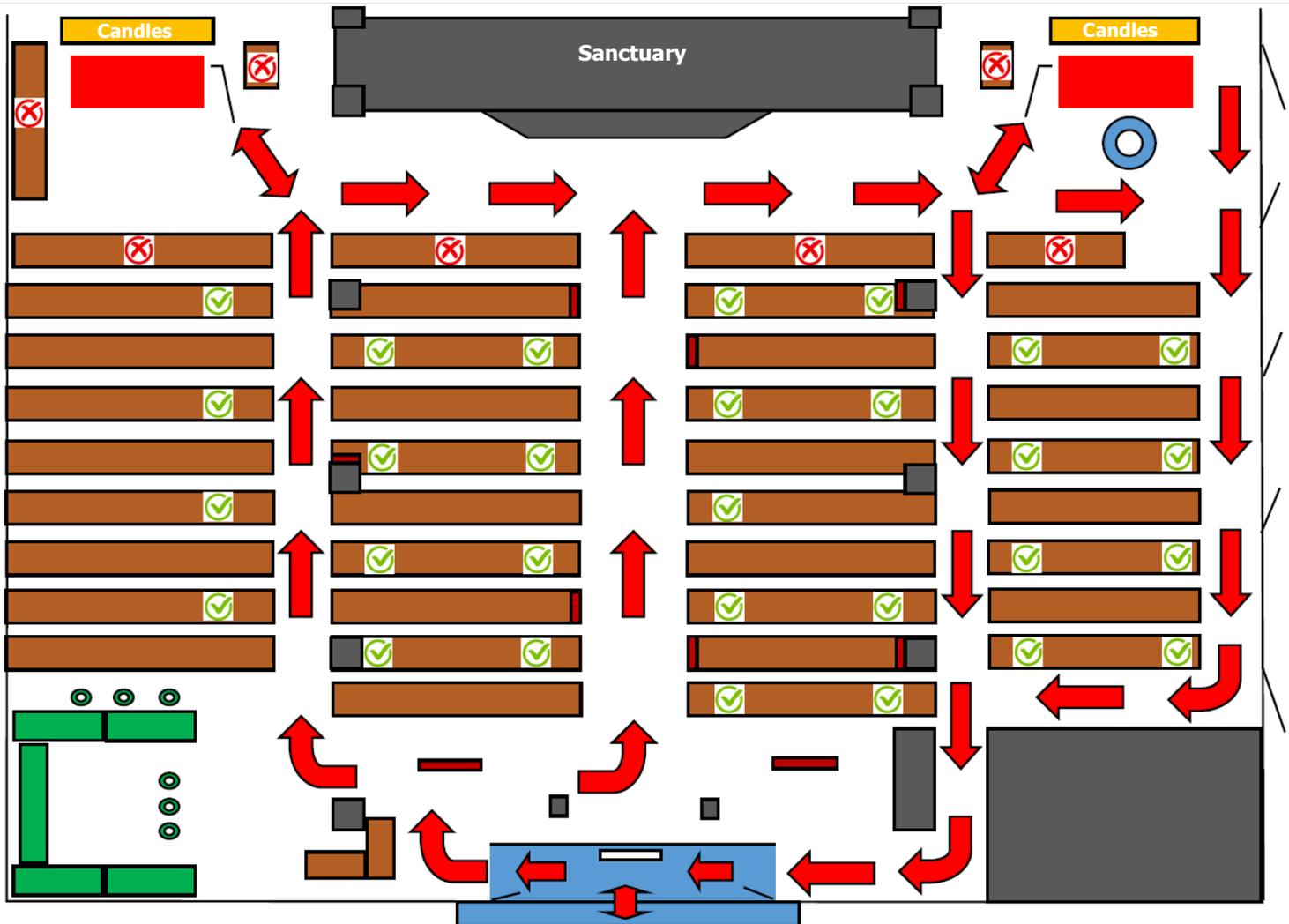
I look forward to welcoming you back to St Mary's in the coming weeks, when you feel it is safe for you personally to return.

Please consider being a volunteer welcomer, so that we can open the doors of our church each day throughout the summer.

WITH EVERY GOOD WISH AND BLESSING FOR THE COMING WEEK; KEEP SAFE! *Fr Anthony*

PLAN OF THE CHURCH

In order to help to give you an idea of the simple one-way system that we are introducing, and where it is possible to sit in the first few weeks, please see below a simple plan of the church:



Entrance to the Church on Mulberry Street

CONTACT DETAILS

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Parish Priest: **Monsignor Canon Anthony Kay** anthony.kay@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

St Mary's parish is a parish in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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⊗ **THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT ST MARY'S and for your SUPPORT of our parish** ⊗
Thank you for your generosity; Please remember to Gift Aid any donations to St Mary's to help us in our Mission