

# ST MARY'S

# THE HIDDEN GEM

# MANCHESTER



A place of prayer at the heart of our city

Serving the people of Manchester since 1794

**THE WORD THIS SUNDAY**

Jesus' Sensitivity

[This Week's Sunday Readings](#) of the Mass

- Isaiah 55:1-3 - Invitation to grace
- Romans 8:35, 37-39 - Indomitable love of Christ
- Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus feeds five thousand

Poor Jesus can hardly get a break for some time to himself. When he hears that Herod beheaded his good friend and relative John the Baptist, Jesus tries to get away for a while by heading off in a boat to a deserted place. He steps back onto land only to discover that the crowds have followed him. Jesus could easily be impatient and short with them in his sadness and grief, but instead, his instinctive response was to be moved with compassion for them.

After he cures the sick, his next compassionate response is to keep them safe and feed them, rather than sending them off in the dark from a deserted place. Jesus knew that many, probably most, of the people who flocked to him were poor people, and this crowd would have been no different. Although the disciples suggest he send them away to "buy food for themselves," Jesus knows many of them wouldn't have spare change for food. His sensitivity to their situation sparks more compassion, and he feeds them until they are all satisfied.

Early followers of Jesus would have connected that miraculous feeding with the passage from Isaiah in the first reading today. "All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost (Isa 55:2). In this case, the crowd eagerly accepts Jesus and his teaching, unlike sometimes when Pharisees or other religious leaders argue and try to pick fights with Jesus. The crowd here mirrors those in the Isaiah passage. They come to Jesus, they listen to him, and they heed him. In return, they are well-fed, and they receive life (Isa 55:3).

**THE WEEK AHEAD AT ST MARY'S**

Mon 03 August	Tues 04 August	Wed 05 August	Thurs 06 August	Fri 07 August	Sat 08 August	Sunday 09 August
<b>Weekday</b>	<b>St John Vianney</b> Priest	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>The Transfiguration of the Lord</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>St Dominic</b> Bishop	<b>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
Jeremiah 28:1-17 Matthew 14:22-36	Jeremiah 30:1-2.12-15.18-22 Matthew 15:1-2.10-14	Jeremiah 31:1-7 Matthew 15:21-28	Daniel 7:9-10.13-14 2 Peter 1:16-19 Matthew 16:24-28	Nathum 2:1.3;3:1-3.6 -7 Matthew 16:24-28	Habbakuk 1:12-2:4 Matthew 17:14-20	1 Kings 19:11-13; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33
<b>11.00am</b> <b>Church opens</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>Church opens</b>	<b>09.00am</b> <b>Church opens</b>				
11.00am - 12.25pm <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	10.00am - 11.45am <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	10.00am <b>Holy Mass</b>				
<b>12.10pm</b> <b>Holy Rosary</b>	<b>11.30am</b> <b>Holy Rosary</b>	<b>12 noon</b> <b>Holy Mass</b>				
<b>12.30pm</b> <b>Holy Mass</b>	<b>11.45am</b> <b>Benediction</b>	<b>1.00pm</b> <b>Church closes</b>				
<b>1.00pm - 2.00pm</b> <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	<b>12 noon</b> <b>Holy Mass</b>					
<b>4.00pm</b> <b>Church closes</b>	<b>4.00pm</b> <b>Church closes</b>	<b>5.15pm</b> <b>Holy Mass</b>	<b>4.00pm</b> <b>Church closes</b>	<b>4.00pm</b> <b>Church closes</b>	<b>5.15pm</b> <b>Vigil Mass of Sunday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>Church closes</b>

**THE WORD THIS WEEK**[This week's daily readings](#)

For the first days of this week we continue with Jeremiah: he faces up to the false prophets. We read from the "Book of Consolation" which promises a new future for Israel, including the promise of the New Covenant. We then hear from Nahum and Habakkuk, a contemporary of Jeremiah, who demands and answer from God about Babylon.

The Gospels (Matthew 14-17) relate various events: Jesus feeds the 5,000; he walks on the water; he journeys to Caesarea Philippi, where Peter professes his faith. This is when Jesus begins to head for Jerusalem.

**THE SAINTS THIS WEEK****Saint John Mary Vianney**

Born in Lyons in 1786; after years of struggle he was ordained and was sent to Ars, where by preaching and example of holiness he drew people back to the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Penance. He died in 1859.

**Saint Dominic**

Born in 1170 in Spain, Dominic became a priest and after strenuous preaching against the Albigensians he founded the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) to continue his work. He died in 1221.

**HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**

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

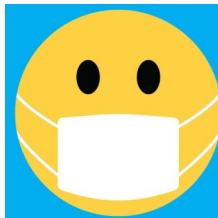
Holy Souls; Kathleen and William Tuite (A); Margaret Anne (B); Rachel Barker; May Tobin (LD); Bridget McDonagh (LD); All the Doona family; Michael McDonagh RIP; Kate Wynn (SI); Catherine Ryan and family; Daniel and friends

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

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN EACH DAY FOR QUIET PRAYER**

\* 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

### PLEASE WEAR A FACE COVERING



Following the announcement by the Prime Minister the other day, from next Saturday, 8th August, the wearing of **a face covering will be mandatory in church.**

People with respiratory issues, children under 11 years of age, and some other people, are exempt, as in the case in other settings that require face coverings to be worn at this time.

Face-coverings can be removed by readers, as they proclaim the readings of the Mass. The Priest doesn't need to wear a face covering during Holy Mass when on the sanctuary, but does when distributing Holy Communion.

In order to keep everyone as safe as possible in church, this is also an opportunity to remind you to **please:**

- **Sanitise your hands** on entering and leaving the church;
- **Keep a safe distance** from others at all times;
- **Not talk** to others inside the church, only outside at a safe distance.



### MASSES THIS WEEK

All the Masses have now resumed at St Mary's, at the previous times, and as per the front of this newsletter.

In addition, to give everyone another opportunity to attend Holy Mass during the week, for the moment and throughout the month of August, there will be an extra weekday Mass on **Wednesday evenings at 5.15pm**. While some churches are still not able to open, please let people know that there is this opportunity here at St Mary's.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Following the long period of lockdown, when we were deprived of the opportunity visit the Blessed Sacrament and spend time in adoration, we have decided to try to have more opportunities available for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at this time.

Because we have the benefit of volunteer **welcomers** always being in the church when it is open, for the moment, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the following times:

- **Monday to Friday**, in the mornings (**11am - 12.25pm**)
- **Monday to Friday**, in the afternoons (**1.00pm - 2.00pm**),
- **Saturday mornings** (**10.00am - 11.45am**, concluding with Benediction)

Please take extra care during these times not to talk to others, and to **respect the silence of the church**.

### FR PETER SHEAHAN RIP

Please remember in your prayers one of our diocesan priests, Fr Peter Sheahan, who died peacefully in Nazareth House Care Home last Saturday. May he rest in peace.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I would like to express my thanks for the generosity to those of our parishioners who have continued to contribute financially to St Mary's during this time. We all know what a difficult time it is for many people, and we are grateful to those who have been able to continue to support us during this time. **Thank you** for your continued generosity to our parish.

### APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

One of the key elements in being able to open the church at this time of pandemic, 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.

I am very grateful to those parishioners who have so far generously offered their help and those who have assisted this past week. We are fortunate to have enough volunteers to open at the times advertised this week, but we still need a few more volunteers going 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 keep the church open 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.

### NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:22-33

During the coming week, and in preparation for the celebration of Holy Mass next Sunday, why not read and reflect on next Sunday's Gospel?

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

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

### SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS THIS WEEK - burning from Saturday morning onwards

THE PIETÀ ALTAR	TABERNACLE - OUR LADY	TABERNACLE - ST JOSEPH	OUR LADY'S STATUE
For all those who have died during this time of pandemic	Intentions of Chrishan Mendis	For all the parishioners and friends of St Mary's	Matt and Jen (New parents)

### CONTACT DETAILS

**St Mary's Presbytery, 17 Mulberry Street, MANCHESTER, M2 6LN**

Telephone: 0161 834 3547 Parish website: [hidden gem.me.uk](http://hidden gem.me.uk)

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](http://dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

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## 225th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, MULBERRY STREET

This year, the **15th August, 2020**, will mark the 225th anniversary of the opening of first St Mary's church, Mulberry Street, the present building being the second church on this site.

As we approach this significant anniversary in the history of this parish, we thought it might be good to dig into the parish archives a little and see what we could find. Over the next few weeks, we will re-tell a little of the story of this great parish, using historical documents, articles and photographs from the parish archive.

### A TRIUMPH OF THE FAITH

On 2nd June, 1778, the first **Catholic Relief Act** received the Royal Assent. It had been rushed through the Commons and the Lord in three weeks mainly as a matter of expediency because Catholic, Irish and Scottish recruits to a sadly-depleted British Army had to take an oath of allegiance contrary to their religion.

The Act was limited in its scope. Briefly it meant that Catholic who took the oath could inherit and buy land; that priests were freed from the attentions of informers, and were no longer liable to life imprisonment. But limited though it was, to Catholics in Manchester, it was the first breakthrough towards religious tolerance after 200 years of bitter persecution.

Since the Reformation all Popery was forbidden in England and banished underground. But Lancashire south of the Ribble had a considerable population, and in many farmhouses families gathered to hear Mass and give sanctuary to fugitive priests, while in the growing industrial towns of Blackburn and Bolton there were secret Mass-houses where the old Faith was followed.

In Manchester during these last years of religious oppressions there were two meeting places for faithful Catholics. One was the Smithy Door Chapel, which must have been where Victoria Station now stands. This was probably no more than a room in the house of a Catholic family. The other was a disused dye-house which stood close to the Irwell, where old Blackfriars Bridge crossed into Salford.

"It was approached from the Parsonage by some crazy steps of rock and stone", says Charles Bolton in his Salford Diocese and its Catholic Past. The visitor to the chapel would go down Market-sted Lane, or Deansgate, to the Parsonage, cross the road towards the river, then through a dark and narrow passage to a dilapidated building, then by a flight of stairs to a room on the water's edge. A temporary altar was set up on a trestle table.

Sentries were posted on the stairs to give warning to priest and congregation in case priest-hunters, called pursuivants, were on the prowl in the street below. For informers could still collect a £1000 bounty for every priest actually caught celebrating Mass.

This secret Mass-house was served for many years by a brave and stubborn priest, Father Edward Helme, a tough Lancastrian from Lea, near Preston, who risked transportation for life every time he performed Mass.

As times became more tolerant Father Helme removed his flock to a room in a building at the corner of High Street and Church Street. Naturally enough the entrance to it soon became known as Roman entry.

And Father Holme continued visiting the 20 or 30 Catholic homes in his scattered "parish". When he died in 1774 he left £200 for the benefit of Manchester Catholic for whom he had regularly said Mass in the tiny chapel at Roman Entry.

With the money, Father John Orrell, who succeeded him, built a house, or chapel, which became known as **St Chad's, Rook Street**. The building was entirely destroyed by fire in 1846 and no trace of it remains. But it seems to have stood somewhere near where the old Lewis' (now Primark) stands now.

Like most Catholic chapels of the period, it was built discreetly to look like an ordinary dwelling-house. It had a number of rooms on the ground floor, where the priest lived, which were later extended into a chapel.

It had neither bell nor steeple, both of which were still forbidden by law until the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, and was kept deliberately nondescript on the outside for fear of arousing bigotry.

However, inside there was a handsome altar, over which were three paintings - the Nativity, the Trinity, and the Holy Family - of considerable merit.

At that time worshippers could still see the hills of Derbyshire and Cheshire from its upper windows; and there is a story that on one occasion the Trafford hounds chased a hare into the chapel garden.

In 1773 St Chad's parish covered a wide area: Bolton, Rochdale, Trafford, Stockport, Glossop, and Macclesfield, with a scattered population of some 600.

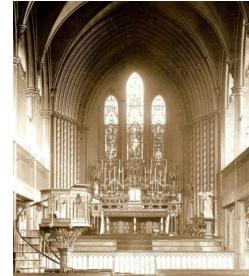


Father Rowland Broomhead  
1751-1820

It was this sprawling parish that **Father Rowland Broomhead** inherited when he came here as its priest in 1778.

On his first day, he was called out on a sick-call to Bolton and had to travel there and back on foot. From then on for the next 42 years his labours for his Faith never ceased.

In those testing years Father Broomhead became virtually the patriarch of Manchester Catholics. During his lifetime he founded three famous Manchester parishes: **St Chad's, St Mary's, and St Augustine's**.



St Augustine's, Granby Row

When he first came to Manchester, his flock was about 1,000; when he died in 1820 that number had reached 40,000. He was responsible for building the first St Mary's church in Mulberry Street in 1794. And he lived to see the beauty of Palmer's lovely Gothic church of **St Augustine's, Granby Row**.

It was while these three churches were being built and their parishes expanding that the first great population-explosion double the population of Manchester.

Two thirds of them were immigrants from Ireland – navvies who had come over to build the railways that sprang up from 1830 onwards. They brought with them whole families of Irish Catholics who preferred the toughness of life in the fast-growing area around Chorlton-on-Medlock to starvation in Ireland of the Hungry Forties.

These new Mancunians brought not only their enduring faith but also a great capacity for hard labour. They also brought with them the scourge of cholera, which many times devastated those fetid slums in the area known as Little Ireland.

The strain on the Catholic Church in Manchester and on its overtaxed priests almost reached breaking point.

In one day in 1847 - known for long after as the Famine Fever Year - Father Cantwell, of St Patrick's administered the last sacraments to 17 victims who had died of cholera in one house in Angel Meadow.

A melancholy record of that time is the long list of young priests who died of disease or overwork.



Church of the Holy Name  
Oxford Road

The clergy of St Augustine's, Granby Row, must have felt relief when in 1871 their brethren of the newly-finished **Church of the Holy Name** in Oxford Road, were able to take over some of the responsibilities of a congested parish.

In 1829, **The Emancipation Act** had been passed, giving the vote to all Catholics, including the right of election to Parliament. They could now hold all civil and military offices and belong to any corporation. The government did not claim to have any say in the appointment of bishops nor have the right to scrutinise papal correspondence.

## 225th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, MULBERRY STREET

The **Restoration of the Hierarchy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales** followed in 1850; whereby the district of Lancashire was divided into the dioceses of Liverpool, covering two-thirds of the county of Lancashire, and Salford, covering one third.

In the years of the **Salford Diocese** two nations have mingled fraternally in the same Faith - the old Catholic Lancashire stock, and the newer generations from Ireland who settled here.

Apart from the troubles during the 1860s and '70s - when the anti-papery "Murphy Riots" at Ashton-under-Lyne and Oldham had young Catholic men standing guard over their churches-the growth of the diocese in Manchester and beyond has been steady and tranquil.



When William Turner, first Bishop of Salford, was consecrated in **Salford Cathedral** by Cardinal Wiseman on 23 July, 1851, he had only 30 missions in his whole diocese.

An official census, taken in that same year, shows that in Manchester only 7,642 worshippers went to Mass in six chapels. Today, almost 250 years since the opening of that little church in Rook Street, Manchester Catholics can attend the celebration of Holy Mass in many churches in Manchester and throughout the diocese of Salford.

