

# ST MARY'S MULBERRY STREET THE HIDDEN GEM



SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024  
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St Mary's Church | 17 Mulberry Street | MANCHESTER | M2 6LN  
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## THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE I

**Penance is a sacrament whereby the sins, whether mortal or venial, which we have committed after Baptism are forgiven.** Original Sin is washed away at baptism, but Baptism cannot be given a second time. Therefore, for sins committed after Baptism another sacrament is needed. That sacrament is Penance – often known as confession or the sacrament of reconciliation.

**The sacrament of Penance increases the grace of God in the soul, besides forgiving sin; we should, therefore, often go to confession.** The sacrament of Penance has a twofold effect on the soul: it takes away sins, provided, of course, the sinner is properly disposed for receiving pardon; and it gives a special grace and help not to commit sins again. When a person, who is already in a state of grace, goes to confession, he receives more grace along with the special help to resist temptation to sin. Therefore, to go often to confession will mean that we shall get more and more strength to resist sin and lead a good life. The Church binds us to go only once a year; but that is hardly sufficient to help a person to lead a good life. A dinner now and then will hardly keep the body healthy; you must feed it regularly if it is not to grow weak and fall ill.

**Our Lord instituted the sacrament of Penance when He breathed on His apostles and gave them power to forgive sins, saying, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them" (John 20:23).** Our Lord instituted this sacrament when He appeared to the apostles for the first time after His

resurrection. "Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to the, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." (John 20:21-23). In these words, we have a definite power given to the apostles to forgive sin, and a definite undertaking by Christ that He would forgive the sins they forgave; He would ratify in heaven the sentence pronounced by them on earth over the sinner.



But the power was twofold. The apostles could withhold forgiveness and this too He would ratify in heaven. Which of these they do would depend, of course, on the attitude of the sinner. By these words Christ put the forgiveness of sin in the hands of the apostles; and, since He was speaking only to the apostles, He limited the recipients of the power. Not all men should have it, but only those who were in His intention included

among the apostles, that is, their successors, the bishops, and priests of the Catholic Church.

**The priest forgives sins by the power of God when he pronounces the words of absolution. The words of absolution are: "I absolve thee from thy sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."** Of course, as a man, the priest has no more power to forgive sin than any other individual. The power is given him by God, as we have seen; and it must have been given him by God because sin is an offence against God. At his ordination the priest receives, as one of his priestly powers, this power to forgive sin, and the bishop who ordains him shows this by laying his hands on the head of the priest and saying our Lord's words, "Receive the Holy Spirit: whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained". But since, in the exercise of this power, the priest acts as a judge of souls, he requires in addition to the power given at ordination a faculty from a bishop to use that power. This is known as jurisdiction, and it is so necessary that without it a priest cannot validly absolve sinners, except in the case of those in danger of death. The absolution, then, is not a declaration by the priest that God forgives the sinner. It is an act of the priest, acting as judge and actually forgiving. Our Lord's words when He instituted the sacrament show that by His ordination the priest performs the act of absolving: " If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them. "


St. Mary's, Mulberry Street, was founded in 1794 in the centre of what was then the poorest quarter of Manchester.

It is now thought to be one of the oldest post Reformation Catholic churches founded *as a church* in England. The Relief Act allowing Catholic churches to be built again *as churches* was passed in 1791. The building of St. Mary's was begun in 1792. The church's vital connection with the most ancient Christian traditions of Manchester, and its uninterrupted service to the city since its foundation, make it one of the most beloved institutions in Manchester.

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT MARY'S

MONDAY 12 February Feria	TUESDAY 13 February Feria	WEDNESDAY 14 February ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Fasting and Abstinence	THURSDAY 15 February Lent Feria	FRIDAY 16 February Lent Feria	SATURDAY 17 February Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order	SUNDAY 18 February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
9.30am Church opens	9.30am Church opens	9.30am Church opens	9.30am Church opens	9.30am Church opens	9.30am Church opens	8.30am Church opens
11.00am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11.00am - 11.50am Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction 12.30pm HOLY MASS	11.00am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11.00am - 11.50am Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction 12.30pm HOLY MASS	11.00am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11.00am - 11.50am Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction 12.30pm HOLY MASS <i>After Mass Church Cleaning</i>  5.00pm - 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & 5.00pm - 5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm HOLY MASS 6.45pm - 7.15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 7.15pm Church closes 7.15pm - 8.30pm Young Catholic Adults Group	11.00am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11.00am - 11.50am Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction 12.30pm HOLY MASS  4.00pm Church closes  7.00pm - 8.00pm Adult Catechism Class	11.00am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11.00am - 11.50am Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction 12.30pm HOLY MASS <i>After Mass Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 2.30pm - 2.50pm Confessions 3.00pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Benediction  4.00pm Church closes  5.15pm VIGIL MASS of SUNDAY  Church closes after Mass	10.30am - 11.55pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am - 11.15am Confessions 11.30am Holy Rosary & Benediction 12 noon HOLY MASS  4.00pm - 5.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions 5.15pm VIGIL MASS of SUNDAY  Church closes after Mass	09.00am - 09.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions 10.00am HOLY MASS 11.00am Catechism Class for children 12 noon HOLY MASS  Church closes after Mass
4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	6.00pm HOLY MASS	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions	4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions
		7.15pm Church closes				
		7.15pm - 8.30pm Young Catholic Adults Group	7.00pm - 8.00pm Adult Catechism Class			

## PARISH DIARY

Wednesday 14th February		Mass at 12.30pm and 6.00pm  With the blessing and distribution of Ashes at both Masses
Wednesday 14th February	<b>YOUNG ADULTS GROUP</b>	Weekly Mass, Adoration, and meeting at 6.00pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 15th February	<b>ADULT CATECHISM CLASS</b>	Weekly Catechism Class for adults at 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Sunday 18th February	<b>CHILDREN'S CATECHISM CLASS</b>	Weekly Catechism Class for children at 11.00am - 11.45am
Friday 1st March	<b>First Friday Devotions</b>	11.00am Adoration, 11.30pm Rosary, <b>12.30pm Mass</b> & Devotions
Saturday 2nd March	<b>First Saturday Devotions</b>	10.30am Adoration, 11.30pm Rosary, <b>12noon Mass</b> & Devotions

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated for the following intentions which have been received this week:

**Lately deceased:** Maureen Roberts; Mike Maguire; David Howes; Clare Uttley

**Anniversaries:** Jean Callery (07/02); Fr James Austin (12/02); Canon Henry Jones (13/02); Fr Michael Hartley (16/02); John Taylor; Olive Gaunt; Hannah & Jim Bentley;

**In remembrance:** The Holy Souls; Stan Steven Borselak; Neville Neville

**Special Intentions:** Kate Wynn; Francis Joseph Kelly Jr; Angelina Rabamos; Maria Clara Dargantes; Arthur Ellis; Denis Agnew; Fr Anthony Gallagher; Angelica, Dominic, & Matthew; Hilday Scarlett; Paul John Scott; Melanie Jane Scott; Philip Anthony Young; Janine Alison Williams; Sacdra Shand; Jeremy Sidebottom; Bernadette; Anna J. & family; Josie Meary; Michael Toland; Alan Hardie; Eileen O'Toole; Olu Jegede; James; Fr Anthony Ekpunobi; Joedy Joyce & family; Danny & Marie Connors & family; John Collins; Kathleen Collins; Peter Wood; Stuart Jones & family; Erica Sweetman; Judith Pearson; Tony Bentley; The Jacobson family; Dr Vivian Uwagwu



## ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE SEASON OF LENT

The Holy Season of Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. There will be two Masses here at St Mary's on Wednesday at **12.30pm** and **6.00pm**, with ashes being distributed at both Masses. Please join us for the beginning of this Holy Season.

## LENT WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

The Lent Walk with me booklets are available on the Piety Stall. These little booklets are available to help you in prayer each day throughout the Season of Lent. The recommended donation is £1.

## CATECHISM CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

**Catechism Classes for Children** of primary school age take place each Sunday at 11.00am. If any parent wishes their child to attend the classes, please speak to Fr Anthony. Some of the children who have been attending the classes so far are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion after Easter. Catechism classes for teenagers preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will be starting soon. Any parent of a child of Confirmation age, who hasn't already done so, should speak to Fr Anthony.

## YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS GROUP

On Wednesday evenings we have a very well established Young Catholic Adults Group. The simple format is:

- 6.00pm **Holy Mass**
- 6.30pm **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
- 7.15pm **Tea and Talk**

I offer an open invitation to all Young Catholic Adults to join us on Wednesday evenings for prayer, reflection, and social time together. Even if you can't join us for everything or every week, come along to whichever part or whenever you are able. **All Young Adults of the parish are most welcome to attend. Please join us.**

## PARISH INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS

If you use Social Media, you may be interested to know that we have parish Instagram accounts. If you have Instagram, please join us. Scan the image or search for our account names: **rchiddengem** and **youngcatholicadultsmanchester**

## GREAT MANCHETER RUN for CARITAS SALFORD

 Caritas Diocese of Salford is looking for people to take on this year's Great Manchester Run to raise funds to support its work across the diocese. Our diocesan charity works to provide vital support to people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, and discrimination. Find out more at: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/EveryStep](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/EveryStep)

## CARITAS FOOD BANK AND POOR BOX

As the weather starts to turn colder again, our diocesan charity, Caritas, is asking us to be as generous as we can to help them support people most in need. A couple of practical ways we can help is to put a little in the Food Bank Collection Point at the back of the church, and to remember the Poor Box at the back of the church. All help goes to Caritas to help those in most need. Thank you for your ongoing generosity to those in most need amongst us.

## GREGORIAN CHANT WORKSHOP FOR SINGERS

**Saturday 24th February 11.30am-4.00pm**

St Augustine's, Grosvenor Square, Manchester, M15 6BW

This workshop is open to anyone who has an interest in Gregorian chant. You will be given an introduction to chant repertoire, taught how to read the chant notation and learn to sing pieces, concentrating on music for the Mass throughout the liturgical seasons. The event could be of particular interest to parish choirs who want to include chant in their repertoire or who want to begin a chant group. No prior experience is required.

'The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value ... it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy.'

(Catechism of the Catholic Church).

Gregorian chant may be used to beautify the liturgy, even when Mass is celebrated in the vernacular. Not only is it appropriate, but Church documents positively recommend that all Catholics know at least some Gregorian melodies. For details of registration or for more information please contact: Dr Rosemarie Darby: [stphilipnerisingers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stphilipnerisingers@yahoo.co.uk)



## GREGORIAN CHANT GROUP

Here at St Mary's, we have started a **Gregorian Chant Group** to help to support the singing of the chant at the 12noon Solemn Mass on Sundays. One of our parishioners, Dr Rosemarie Darby, will help with the establishing of this group and in teaching us the chant, supported by our organist, Nathan. Short practices will take place on Sunday mornings at 11.30am, in preparation for the 12noon Mass. If you are interested in joining us, simply come along on Sundays, and introduce yourself to Rosemarie or Nathan.

## DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed before the Blessed Sacrament on Friday afternoons at 3pm, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is welcome to join us at this time on a Friday afternoon.

## SANCTUARY CANDLES



### The Pietà Altar:

- [1] Paul Grogan (SI)
- [2] Murray McAtamney RIP (A)
- [3] Lide (Mother) (SI)
- [4] Casey

### Sacred Heart of Jesus:

- [1] Ian O'Brien (SI)
- [2] Michael Hopikins RIP (A)

### Tabernacle [Our Lady]:

- [1] Anna J.
- [2] The Varkeys
- [3] Shantha J.

### Tabernacle [Left side]:

- [1] Kate Wynn (SI)

### Tabernacle [Right side]:

- [1] John & Ruth Kay (SI)

### Tabernacle [St Joseph]:

- [1] The Dean family
- [2] The McDonald family

### Saint Anthony of Padua:

- [1] Mila

### Saint Therese of Lisieux

- [1] Scott family
- [2] Anna

### Our Lady of Manchester:

- [1] Kieran MaGuire
- [2] Evie
- [3] Magdalena (SI)
- [4] The Arndt Family (S)
- [5] Mary Hindle & family
- [6] The Marksham family
- [7] Liam O;Connor RIP (21st B)
- [8] John Lennox (BR & SI)
- [9] Nelly McAtamney (B)
- [10] Daniel, Nelly, & Dorz McAtamney

If you would like to have a 7-day candle lit for a loved one or for a special intention, please put the name of the intention on an envelope. A suggested minimum donation of £5 will help to cover the cost of the candle.

Please give the envelope to the Parish Priest, or place it through the presbytery letter box. The candles will be lit on Saturday morning, and will burn throughout the following week, with the names appearing in the parish newsletter each week.

## PHASE ONE 2023 Essential Works [COMPLETED] £250,000

The Phase One Restoration works, which began on Monday 17th April 2023, are now complete at cost of £250,000. Thanks to your generosity to Saint Mary's over the last few years, and in particular this past year, and with the help of some successful bids for grants, we have been able to undertake and pay for these essential works to preserve the fabric of the church and presbytery. We offer particular thanks to those who have made specific donations towards these works. The Phase One *Essential Works* mainly consisted in stopping the ingress of water, particularly when there were heavy downpours of rain, and making the church water tight.



## PHASE TWO Fire Alarm System & rebuild of the Church Organ [EARLY 2024] £80,000

This year we will continue our fundraising efforts, by appealing for to the generosity of parishioners and visitors, and applying for grants where can, so that we can move forward with the restoration project of Saint Mary's Church and Presbytery.

In this second phase of the development plan we will be installing:

### 1. A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND EMERGENCY LIGHTING

The absence of an appropriate fire alarm & emergency lighting in the church and presbytery was first identified as a significant risk in a **Fire Risk Assessment** prepared in November 2020. Recently, we have engaged a specialist consultant who has drawn up a scheme for a **Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting System** for the church and the presbytery. The scheme will be implemented in different phases, as we continue to undertake works on the restoration of the church and the presbytery. The first part, fire detection and emergency lighting in the church and fire detection in the stairwell of the presbytery, will be implemented immediately. The whole scheme has been approved by the Diocesan Trustees and, in the last few weeks, we have appointed a contractor to install the first part of the scheme, the cost of which will be **£35,000**. Once all the permissions to install a Fire Alarm System on a listed building have been obtained, we will begin the works, hopefully sometime in February or March. You may have noticed that there is a formal consolation notice posted outside the door of the main door of the church.

### 2. A REBUILD OF THE CHURCH ORGAN

As some of you will be aware, our church organ met an untimely demise at Pentecost last year. Since then we have been in consultation with various organ builders and we have chosen to have the organ rebuilt by Viscount Classical Organs. The cost to have the organ rebuilt, using our own case, pedalboard, and stops, but replacing everything else with modern digital technology, will be **£45,000**.

Thus we are starting with both elements of Phase Two now and we will move forward with Phase Three later in the year when it has been costed and as and when funding becomes available and the necessary permissions are sought and given.

## PHASE THREE [2024 - 2025]

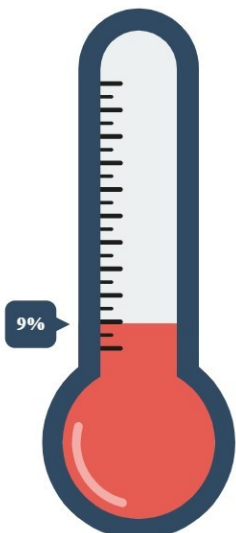
In Phase Three of the development plan we will be looking at:

1. Modifications to the gutters and downspouts to improve management of rainwater
2. Modifications to improve access for ongoing maintenance of the roof
3. Repairs to the church tower, including the installation of a lightning conductor
4. Repairs to the Upper Room timber work and glazing
5. Replacement of the presbytery roof and insulation (including the potential of PV solar panels on some of the roof tops)

**FUNDRAISING TARGET  
FOR PHASE TWO  
£80,000**

**FUNDRAISING FOR PHASE TWO**

**TO MAKE A DONATION  
TOWARDS THE  
RESTORATION FUND**



**PLEASE HELP US  
TO CONTINUE TO RAISE FUNDS  
FOR THE RESTORATION OF SAINT MARY'S**

There are various ways  
that you can help in the parish fundraising efforts.  
At the beginning of each month  
we will update our Fundraising Thermometer from:

1. Donations given directly into the **Parish Bank Account**
2. Donations given through the **QR Code**
3. Donations given through the **Diocesan and Parish Website**
4. Donations given through the **Card Machine in church**
5. Donations put in the **Window box** at the back of church
6. Funds raised from the **Parish Piety Stall**
7. **Other donations** by cash or cheque given specifically for the Restoration Fund

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY  
TO SAINT MARY'S RESTORATION FUND**

**PARISH BANK ACCOUNT**  
(to make a donation by BACS  
or to set up a Standing Order)

The Salford Diocesan Trust  
Sort Code: 20 55 34  
Account number: 00915025

Cheques Payable to:  
**St Mary's, Manchester**

**SCAN THE QR CODE**



**USE THE CARD MACHINE  
AT THE ENTRANCE  
TO THE CHURCH**