



ST MARY'S MULBERRY STREET THE HIDDEN GEM

A SANCTUARY OF SILENCE AND PRAYER AT THE HEART OF THE CITY

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

St Mary's Church | 17 Mulberry Street | MANCHESTER | M2 6LN
Monsignor Canon Anthony Kay | 0161 834 3547
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BISHOP'S PASTORAL VISITATION TO THE PARISH

It was a joy to welcome Bishop John to St Mary's last weekend for the celebration of the Sunday Masses as part of his Pastoral Visitation to the Parish. Many thanks to all those who joined us last weekend for the celebrations of Holy Mass and to all those who welcomed the Bishop to St Mary's.

I received a very nice letter from Bishop John during the week, thanking me for the invitation for him to make a Pastoral Visitation and for the welcome he received.

In his letter, amongst the things that Bishop John said are: "I was pleased with the visit and I hope that it may have been a positive event for you and the parish community.....I was very pleased to meet so many people, both as they arrived and left the church and heard so many comments about the friendliness of the parish community.



It was good to hear about the Catechism group and the growing attendance and the group for children. Certainly, those to whom I spoke who were confirmed were grateful for the preparation that they had received. Receiving individuals into the Church, and baptising and confirming adults, is a great encouragement for the parish community.



It was good to see so many volunteers for the church and the group of altars who are committed to the liturgy.....



Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Bishop's Visitation and great occasion for the life of St Mary's parish.



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 29 April	TUESDAY 30 April	WEDNESDAY 01 May	THURSDAY 02 May	FRIDAY 03 May	SATURDAY 04 May	SUNDAY 05 May
St Catherine of Siena Virgin and Doctor of the Church	Easter Weekday	St Joseph the Worker	St Athanasius Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Ss PHILIP & JAMES Apostles	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
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	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	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 12 noon HOLY MASS 1.30pm BAPTISM of Elizabeth Church closes after the baptism

PARISH DIARY

Wednesday 01 May	YOUNG ADULTS GROUP	Weekly Mass, Adoration, and meeting at 6.00pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 02 May	ADULT CATECHISM CLASS	Weekly Catechism Class for adults at 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Thursday 02 May	SVP CONFERENCE	Meeting at 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Thursday 02 May	ADULT CATECHISM CLASS	Weekly Catechism Class for adults at 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Friday 03 May	FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS	11.00am Adoration, 12 noon Rosary, 12.30pm Mass & Devotions
Saturday 04 May	FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS	10.30am Adoration, 11.30am Rosary, 12noon Mass & Devotions
Sunday 05 May	MAY SUNDAY and FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS	Sunday Masses at 10.00am and 12noon <i>First Holy Communions for children at the 10.00am Mass Crowning of Our Lady's Statue at 10.00am and 12noon Mass</i>
Sunday 05 May	PARISH SOCIAL	Organised by the SVP - Ape and Apple Pub 1.30pm

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

Please place Mass intentions and the donation in a envelope with the Mass Intention clearly marked on the front of the envelope and hand it into the church or presbytery.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated for the following intentions:

Lately deceased: Fr Billy Molloy; Kirst Parnell; Philip Anderson; Edward Robert Mather; Roddy Halvey; Igor Szalapski

Anniversaries: James McBride (02/05); Austin McKenna; Tom Melia;

In remembrance: The Holy Souls; John Taylor;

Special Intentions: Kate Wynn; Martin Gordon; Charlotte Gordon; Bernadette Lunney; James Geraghty; Eva Smyth; Madeline O'Neill; Anthony McGahran; Martine Wickham; Loreto and Stewart (Wedding Anniversary); Margaret Maddocks (B); Maximillian Mulholland; Obianuju Okwusogu



PARISH INSTAGRAM @rchiddengem

ST MARY'S RECEIVES RECOGNITION AS THE TOP HIDDEN GEM IN THE WORLD

The 3 Countries with the Most Hidden Gems



St Mary's has been named "the top hidden gem in the world" according to a new study by Tour Operator Software Provider Bókun, a part of the TripAdvisor family. Saint Mary's church nestled in the heart of Manchester City Centre has topped the global list of "hidden gem" tourist attractions, ahead of other locations in the United States, Australia and France.

Dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption, Saint Mary's Parish dates back to 1794. The church has retained its sacred allure, remaining a haven of tranquillity amid the bustling cityscape.

With a tagline that describes it as "a sanctuary of silence and prayer at the heart of the city", the church has lived up to its values for centuries, attracting worshippers and visitors alike.

Cardinal Herbert Vaughan who became the second Bishop of Salford in 1872, was the first to refer to the church as a "hidden gem", commenting that: "No matter on what side of the church you look, you behold a hidden gem".

Commenting on the parish's global recognition, the Parish Priest, Monsignor Canon Anthony Kay said; "All my life I have known Saint Mary's, Mulberry Street, as 'The Hidden Gem', as have many generations going back to the time of Cardinal Vaughan. The church is very dear to many Catholics all around Manchester and beyond. And it is wonderful to hear that our little church has been recognised as the top hidden gem in this study of the many comments on TripAdvisor. Saint Mary's Church continues to be a spiritual oasis, for

everyone in the heart of the busy and thriving modern city of Manchester and I encourage you to visit the church; you will be made most welcome.

[Article in the Manchester Evening News](#)

[Article on the Bókun study that revealed us as #1](#)

[Article on the Diocesan website](#)

FOODBANK COLLECTION POINT

We continue to welcome donations to the **Foodbank** at the back of church. The Caritas group makes fortnightly deliveries from the foodbank to The Lalley Centre and Cornerstone Day Centre. Both organisations always welcome non-perishable goods including these items which are currently needed:

Tinned tomatoes, 500g of pasta, 500g bags of rice, tinned sweetcorn, Ling Life Milk, tinned fish, tinned meats, Pot noodles/ noodle packets, pulses/legume tins (eg chickpeas, kidney beans, lentils), tinned fruit

Donations to the **Poor Box** at the back of church always go to support those in need in our city. **Thank you for your ongoing generosity.**

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND EMERGENCY LIGHTING

We were pleased to hear this week that all the consents now been obtained to install a Fire Alarm System and Emergency Lighting in the church and the presbytery. This will be undertaken in two phases, and phase one works will start this week, with Fire detection in the church, and the stairwell of the presbytery, and emergency lighting. The second phase of works will follow at a later date, tied in with other works on the buildings, when funding allows. **Thank you once again for your ongoing generosity to St Mary's.**

SVP PARISH SOCIAL

The Parish SVP group is holding a social next Sunday, 5th May, to raise funds to help those in most need in our city. The cost of tickets is £5, and will be available this weekend. All funds raised will go the work of the SVP. There will be a buffet lunch and you will have the opportunity to buy drinks at the bar. There will be a short quiz and maybe some bingo. There will be a free raffle as tickets will be numbered.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

The Pietà Altar:

- [1] Paul Grogan (SI)
- [2] Anna J.
- [3] The Varkeys
- [4] Shantha J.
- [5] Lide (SI)
- [6] Shallmya Selvanathan & family
- [7] Teresa Topping RIP (A 24/04)
- [8] Lawrence Lavelle (SI)

Sacred Heart of Jesus:

- [1] Katerina (SI)
- [2] Roddy & Mary Frances Havley (SI)
- [3] Ann Adamson
- [4] Bill Crompton
- [5] James Webb

Tabernacle [Our Lady]:

- [1] Kieran Maguire (SI)
- [2] Anthony Fay (SI)
- [3] Chris Smith & family

Tabernacle [Left side]:

- [1] Michael Bramall RIP (BR 22/04)

Tabernacle [Right side]:

- [1] John & Ruth Kay (SI)

Tabernacle [St Joseph]:

- [1] N.M. (SI)
- [2] Obianuju Okwusogu
- [3] For continuing help

Saint Anthony of Padua:

- [1] Kate Wynn (SI)
- [2] Special Intention
- [3] Special Intentions of Brett family

Saint Therese of Lisieux

- [1] The Scott family
- [2] Peter Hamilton (SI)

Our Lady of Manchester:

- [1] Magdalena (SI)
- [2] The Arndt Family (S)
- [3] Daniel & Nelly McAtamney
- [4] Dorz McAtamney (B)
- [5] The Markham Family
- [6] Val & Dympna Mullins (SI)
- [7] Janneke (SI)
- [8] Maire McAlister
- [9] For my son, Brendan (SI)
- [10] Sonni Vernardakis (SI)
- [11] Joan

RESTORATION OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY

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. 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.

PHASE TWO Fire Alarm System & rebuild of the Church Organ [EARLY 2024]

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, recently, we have appointed a contractor to install the first part of the scheme, the cost of which will be **£35,000**. **All the permissions have now been obtained, and work on the installation will begin this week.**

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. Earlier in the year, we appointed Viscount Classical Organs to rebuild our organ. 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**.

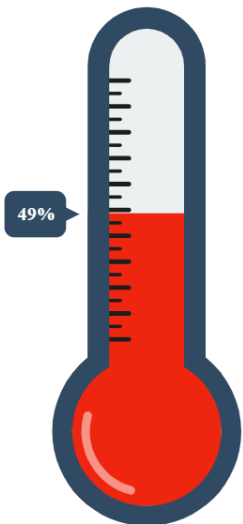
Thus we are starting with both elements of Phase Two now and we will move forward with Phase Three later in the year when it has been costed and as and when funding becomes available and the necessary permissions are sought and given.

PHASE THREE [2024 - 2025]

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

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

FUNDRAISING TARGET FOR PHASE TWO £80,000



FUNDRAISING FOR PHASE TWO

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.

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 Machines in church**
5. Donations given to the **Votive Candle Boxes in church**
6. Donations put in the **Window box** at the back of church
7. Funds raised from the **Parish Piety Stall**
8. **Tax reclaimed from HMRC** on Gift Aided Donations
9. Other **Personal Donations** by cash or cheque given specifically for The Restoration Fund

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

TO MAKE A DONATION TOWARDS THE 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**