

ST MARY'S MULBERRY STREET THE HIDDEN GEM

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



SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2024

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

SOME NOTABLE FEATURES OF ST MARY'S CHURCH



The ornate doorway is the first beautiful object that attracts the eye on entering the old place; for, although darkened by time, one can plainly see above, the symbolical figure of the "Lamb", with two adorning angels, and the words of the invitation: "Ascendamus in montem Domini, et adoramus in loco sancto ejus," (Let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord, and adore him in this holy place) while the archway round, and the capitals of the four massive pillars supporting it, are fine specimens of ornamental carving.

But it is when one crosses the threshold that is especially delighted; for there rising up, as in some grand Cathedral, is the magnificent high altar of white marble, with reredos of Caen stone. In the centre, above the tabernacle, is a large figure of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, to Whom this altar is dedicated; on the Gospel side are life-size figures of St Peter, St Patrick, St Stephen, and Our Lady, whilst of the Epistle side are St John the Evangelist, St Winifred, St Augustine, and St Joseph. Although the reredos includes some fifty-three figures of saints and angels; the altar proper and the massive altar rails are of marble, surrounded with a wealth of tracery and sacred representations, symbolical of the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, that render it one of the finest altars of Catholic England.

To the left is another smaller altar of Caen stone and marble, representing a life-size "Pieta of the Dead Christ." The figure of the Mother of Sorrow bearing upon her lap the Body of her Divine Son, already stiffening in death, with Magdalene and St John kneeling by her side, with expressions of intense grief and sorry apparent in their whole attitudes, all stand out in bold relief, whilst above, the angels of Heaven are depicted sorrowing at the awful tragedy, and round about in figure and representation are the signs and symbols of the Sacrifice of Calvary. Beneath the altar proper is a beautifully carved representation of the Last Supper as painted by Da Vinci, all combining to make this Calvary Altar, as it is called, the most striking and beautiful piece of work of many in the old church.

On the Epistle side is the "Shrine of Our Lady". A magnificent life-size figure of the Mother of God, bearing the Divine Infant in her arms, carved from white marble, and standing upon a marble pedestal, from the base of which stand out figures of the ancient prophets, announcing to the world "The mystery of the Incarnation." High above, resting upon slender white marble pillars, is a beautiful canopy, also of marble, decorated with angelic figures proclaiming the praises of their Queen. On the one side in fresco is represented the scene of the Nativity of Our Lord, on the other the presentation of Our Lady in the temple, whilst below these stand out the figures of those great saints whose lives were remarkable for their devotion to the Mother of God.



Then there is the pulpit and the baptistery, each speaking its purpose in tracery and carving, and above the pulpit an exquisitely carved crucifix uniquely tinted. At the sacristy door stands a statue of St Gregory the Great by a master hand, and hidden away in the Oratory chapel is another much smaller altar of Caen stone equally beautiful, depicting the scene of the Adoration, of the Lamp from the Apocalypse.

So that Cardinal Vaughan's words are well justified: "no matter on what side of the church you look you behold a hidden gem."

The whole work, carving and decoration, was done by a Mr. Lane of Preston.

The latest addition is the Calvary Chapel, reached by the gallery stairs. Here we find enshrined a most realist Calvary group at the base of which is a perpetual remembrance of those how fell in the European war, which has earned for this chapel the title of "a gem within a gem."

From a small pamphlet on St Mary's Church, printed in the early part of the twentieth century, priced ONE PENNY

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St Mary's Parish Instagram

@rchiddengem

Young Catholic Adults Instagram

@youngcatholicadultsmanchester

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MARY'S

MONTH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

MONDAY 23 September	TUESDAY 24 September	WEDNESDAY 25 September	THURSDAY 26 September	FRIDAY 27 September	SATURDAY 28 September	SUNDAY 29 September
St Pius of Petrelcina Priest	Our Lady of Walsingham	Feria	Feria	St Vincent de Paul Priest	Votive Mass of Our Blessed Lady	TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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 - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am - 11.55pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	09.00am - 09.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
11.00am - 11.50am Confessions	11.00am - 11.50am Confessions	11.00am - 11.50am Confessions	11.00am - 11.50am Confessions	11.00am - 11.50am Confessions	10.30am - 11.15am Confessions	10.00am HOLY MASS
12 noon Holy Rosary	12 noon Holy Rosary	12 noon Holy Rosary	12 noon Holy Rosary	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	11.30am Holy Rosary & Benediction	11.00am Children's Catechism
12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS <i>After Mass Church Cleaning</i>	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS <i>After Mass Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	12 noon HOLY MASS	12 noon HOLY MASS
		5.00pm - 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		2.30pm - 2.50pm Confessions		
4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	& 5.00pm - 5.45pm Confessions	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions	Church closes after Mass
		6.00pm HOLY MASS			5.15pm VIGIL MASS of SUNDAY	
7.00pm Adult Catechism		7.30pm Church closes			Church closes after Mass	
		7.30pm - 8.30pm Young Catholic Adults Group				

PARISH DIARY

Monday 23 September	ADULTS' CATECHISM CLASS	7.00pm - 8.00pm in the Upper Room For adults wanting to explore the Catholic Faith through a structured series of Catechism Classes.
Wednesday 25 September	YOUNG ADULTS GROUP	6.00pm Holy Mass 6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7.30pm Social
Sunday 29 September	CHILDRENS' CATECHISM CLASS Preparation for FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION and Catechism for other Children of Primary School Age	Sundays 11.00am - 11.45am This meeting is for children with their parents.
Wednesday 02 October	YOUNG ADULTS GROUP	6.00pm Holy Mass 6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Hour 7.30pm Social in the Upper Room
Friday 04 October	FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS	11.00am Adoration and Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary, 12.30pm Holy Mass & Devotions
Saturday 05 October	FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS	10.30am Adoration 11.30am Holy Rosary 12noon Holy Mass & Devotions

FOODBANK COLLECTION POINT



We continue to welcome donations to the **Foodbank** at the back of church. The parish 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 most needed: **Shower Gel, Shampoo, and Deodorant**

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 to Caritas.**

CATECHISM CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Catechism Classes for adults who would like to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist began with an introduction last Monday. Classes will take place on Monday evenings in the Upper Room at 7pm - 8pm. Any adults who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith with a view to being received into the Church are invited to join us for this series of Catechism classes.

CATECHISM CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Catechism Classes for children (preparing for the First Holy Communion and for Confirmation and for other children of Primary School age) will be starting this Sunday at 11am with an introductory meeting for all parents and children.

OUR REFURBISHED ORGAN IS TO BE INSTALLED SOON

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to have our church organ rebuilt. The organ specialists who have had our instrument for the last six months have refurbished the wooden casing and installed the latest digital technology. We are looking forward to receiving the organ console back at St Mary's and we are hoping that it will be installed back in its home in the church gallery on Tuesday 2nd October.

A WORKSHOP FOR SINGERS

Mary's Praise on every Tongue! - A Workshop for Singers, will take place on Saturday 26th October 11.30am - 4pm at St Augustine's Church, Grosvenor Square, Manchester, M15 6BW. This workshop will be devoted to vocal music written in honour of Our Blessed Lady.

The main emphasis will be on Gregorian chant by there will also be some consideration of traditional hymnody and motets specifically written to give homage to Our Lady.

The day is intended as a follow-on from previous workshops by no prior experience is required. For details of registration and for more information please contact Dr Rosemarie Darby by email: stphilipnersingers@yahoo.co.uk

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND

A new multi-million pound initiative has been announced that could see significant sums of money earmarked for urgent repairs and restoration projects for historic places of worship including Catholic churches.



The National Lottery Heritage Fund has announced a three-year strategic initiative to invest £100m to help UK places of worship meet long-standing repair and conservation challenges. Part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund's ten-year strategy, Heritage 2033, the initiative is designed to ensure that the UK's much-loved places of worship can enjoy a long and sustainable future.

There are around 750 listed historic Catholic churches in England and Wales and a number of them are in urgent need of funding for capital repairs way beyond the means of their local congregations. Buildings constructed in the nineteenth century have now reached a point where, despite maintenance, materials such as slates and leadwork need replacing. Recognition that these buildings are an important part of the nation's heritage and deserving of funding is truly welcome.

I would like us, as a parish, to consider putting a bid together to undertake a major part of the Restoration of St Mary's. I have already met with someone from the National Lottery Heritage Fund who has explained the process to me. Putting together a bid is a huge piece of work and will take time and expertise in different fields undertake. If any parishioner has expertise in the area of preparing such bids and feel that they might be able to help in any way, please have a word with Fr Anthony as soon as possible. Ideally, we would like to put together a working party who can work on this and, potentially in the near future, put together an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is the first stage of the process.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund [news release](#) and section for [Places of Worship](#).

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

Please place Mass intentions and the donation in an 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:

Latently deceased: Rita Melia; Jerin; Joan Constable; Evelyn; Annie Doherty

Anniversaries: Graham Hall (22/09); Philip Smith; Mary Rose Smith; Bridie Brennan; Seamus McKeown

In remembrance: The Holy Souls; Edward & Delia Seddon (BR); Barry John Langford; Sean & Anne Frances O'Brien

Special Intentions: Kate Wynn; Irene Brown; Anthony Medupin & family; Ann Breheny; Donor's intentions; Frank Arthur; Margaret Burns; Sharon Hodkiss

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] David Jackson (SI)

Sacred Heart of Jesus:

- [1] Katerina (SI)
- [2] Karen Gordon
- [3] Sara Shite (SI)
- [4] For a successful transplant
- [5] In thanksgiving
- [6] Val Dymrna & Chris Mullins (SI)

Tabernacle [Our Lady]

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

Tabernacle [Left side]:

- [1] Anne-Marie Brown

Tabernacle [Right side]:

- [1] John & Ruth Kay (SI)

Tabernacle [St Joseph]:

- [1] Kate Wynn (SI)
- [2] Pat & Martin's intentions
- [3] Mary L (SI)

Saint Anthony of Padua:

- [1] Breda Egan RIP

Saint Therese of Lisieux

- [1] Gerard Gordon

Our Lady of Manchester:

- [1] Christina Vernardaki (SI)
- [2] Kathleen Hyland
- [3] Magdelena (SI)
- [4] The Arndt Family (S)
- [5] Marcin (SI)
- [6] Maire McAllister
- [7] Mary Davitt
- [8] Charlie Gordon
- [9] Delia & Michael Rafferty (SI)

RESTORATION OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY

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



The **Phase One** Restoration works, which began on Monday 17th April 2023, were completed at cost of £250,000. Thanks to your generosity to Saint Mary's over the last few years, and in particular this past year or so, 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 to the generosity of parishioners and visitors, and applying for grants where we can, so that we can move forward with the restoration project of Saint Mary's Church and Presbytery.

PHASE TWO Fire Detection System & Church Organ £80,000 [IN PROGRESS]

In **Phase Two** of the Restoration works we have **1)** installed the first part of a Fire Detection Alarm system and an Emergency Lighting System in the church and the presbytery at the cost of **£35,000**, and we are **2)** Rebuilding our thirty year old church organ (which failed twelve months ago) with new digital technology at a cost of **£45,000**.

PHASE THREE Presbytery Rainwater Redirection & Re-roofing £120,000 [AUTUMN 2024]

Recent investigations have established that the majority of rainwater from the church & presbytery roofs is carried through the interior of the buildings, from front to rear. Water is collected in a pipe that passes through the rear wall of the Upper Room and into the courtyard of the neighbouring pub. Increased rainfall, particularly downpours of large amounts of water in a short period of time, means that this arrangement is not sustainable any longer. A blockage of the pipe in the cellar of the pub last year resulted in a major flood in the church and presbytery which caused a fair amount of damage to the fabric of the church and the presbytery.

Phase Three of the Restoration works provides a significant first step towards the creation of a new drainage system that is entirely independent of the neighbouring pub, the works having been informed by a detailed drainage survey.

The works in this phase of the restoration comprise of:

- New rainwater pipes and associated below-ground drainage, connecting to existing drains at the front of the buildings; and the redirection of water from the front roofs of the old presbytery to eliminate internal pipes;

As well as other essential works on the old presbytery roof:

- Re-roofing the front section of the old presbytery as the existing coverings are in poor condition & uninsulated; re-making leaking lead-lined gutters and abutments; and improving the flashings and weatherproofing to the presbytery chimney.

The appointed contractor for this phase of the restoration works, Trinity Conservation, **began the works on site on 2nd September**, which will take twelve weeks to complete.

The works will cost **£120,000** to undertake.

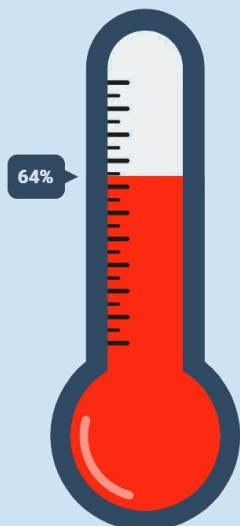
Thank you for your continued generosity for restoration of St Mary's.



**FUNDRAISING TARGET
FOR PHASE THREE
£120,000**

**FUNDRAISING
FOR PHASE THREE**

**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.

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**

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**