



SAINT MARY'S
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
MULBERRY ST

1794 2026

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
29TH MARCH 2026


THE HIDDEN GEM


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

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MANCHESTER SINCE 1794

PARISH PRIEST

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HOLY WEEK

Holy Week stands at the heart of the Catholic faith, inviting us into the most sacred days of the Church's year. It is a time when we walk closely with Christ through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, reflecting deeply on the mystery of God's love made visible in Jesus.

The week begins with **Palm Sunday**, when we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Crowds welcomed Him with palms and praise, yet we know how quickly those cries of "Hosanna" would turn to "Crucify Him." This moment reminds us of the fragility of human faith and calls us to examine our own commitment to Christ.

As the week progresses, we enter more solemn moments. On **Holy Thursday**, we commemorate the Last Supper, where Jesus gave us the gift of the Eucharist and the priesthood. In the simple act of washing His disciples' feet, He showed us that true greatness lies in humble service. We are invited to imitate this love in our daily lives, especially within our families and parish community.

Good Friday brings us to the foot of the Cross. It is a day of silence, reverence, and profound gratitude. We remember that Jesus freely gave His life for our salvation, embracing

suffering out of love for each one of us. As we venerate the Cross, we are reminded that even in our darkest moments, God is present, offering hope and redemption.

Holy Week reaches its climax in the **Easter Vigil**, the most beautiful liturgy of the year. From the darkness of the church, the light of the Paschal candle shines forth, symbolising Christ's victory over sin and death. The proclamation of the Resurrection fills us with joy: Christ is risen! This is the foundation of our faith and the source of our hope.

All parishioners are warmly invited to take part in the **Sacred Triduum** at St Mary's, beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continuing with the solemn liturgy of Good Friday, and culminating in the Easter Vigil. These liturgies are the high point of our year and a profound opportunity to enter into the saving mysteries of our faith together as a community.

Holy Week is not just a remembrance of past events; it is an invitation to enter more deeply into the life of Christ. Through prayer, participation in the liturgies, and acts of charity, we allow these sacred mysteries to transform us. May this Holy Week renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and draw us closer to the love that Christ has shown us so completely.

TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE CHURCH RESTORATION FUND

Please scan the QR code
with your mobile phone camera.

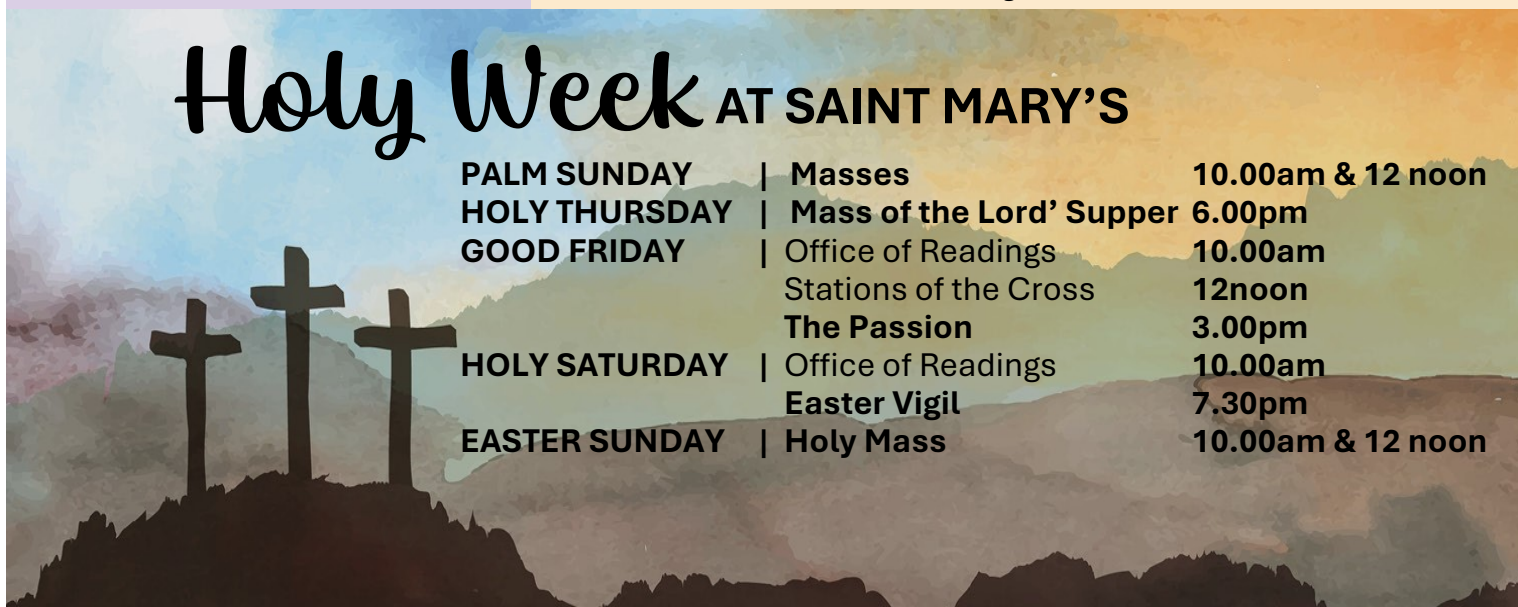


Please enter the amount of your donation and then input your payment card details. If you are a tax payer, please remember to tick the Gift Aid box.

Thank you for your generosity

Holy Week AT SAINT MARY'S

PALM SUNDAY	Masses	10.00am & 12 noon
HOLY THURSDAY	Mass of the Lord' Supper	6.00pm
GOOD FRIDAY	Office of Readings	10.00am
	Stations of the Cross	12noon
	The Passion	3.00pm
HOLY SATURDAY	Office of Readings	10.00am
	Easter Vigil	7.30pm
EASTER SUNDAY	Holy Mass	10.00am & 12 noon



THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

MONDAY 30 March Monday in Holy Week	TUESDAY 31 March Monday in Holy Week	WEDNESDAY 01 April Wednesday In Holy Week	THURSDAY 02 April HOLY THURSDAY	FRIDAY 03 April GOOD FRIDAY	SATURDAY 04 April HOLY SATURDAY	SUNDAY 05 April EASTER SUNDAY
09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	8.30am Church opens
10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	The Church is open all day for quiet prayer.	The Church is open all day for quiet prayer.	The Church is open all day for quiet prayer.	09.00am - 9.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
10.30am - 11.50am Confessions	10.30am - 11.50am Confessions	10.30am - 11.50am Confessions	There are no confessions today	There are no confessions today	There are no confessions today	10.00am HOLY MASS
12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	The only Mass today is the evening Mass			12 noon SOLEMN MASS
12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS		12 noon STATIONS OF THE CROSS		
Followed by Stations of the Cross	Followed by Stations of the Cross	Followed by Stations of the Cross		3.00pm SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION		Church closes after Mass
4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes		Church closes after The Passion		
			6.00pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER			
			followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until 9.00pm		7.30pm EASTER VIGIL and THE FIRST MASS OF EASTER	
			9.00pm Church closes		Church closes after Mass	

PARISH DIARY

Thursday 02 April	HOLY THURSDAY	6.00pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER <i>followed by the Stripping of the Altar and Watching at the Altar of Repose</i> 8.30pm Compline (Night Prayer of the Church)
Friday 03 April	GOOD FRIDAY	10.00am Office of Readings 12noon Stations of the Cross 3.00pm THE PASSION OF THE LORD
Saturday 04 April	HOLY SATURDAY	10.00am Office of Readings 7.30pm EASTER VIGIL OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION and First Mass of Easter
Sunday 05 April	EASTER SUNDAY	10.00am EASTER MASS 12noon SOLEMN EASTER MASS
Monday 06 April	CELEBRATION of the CENTENARY of the CONSECRATION of St Mary's Church	12.30pm SOLEMN MASS celebrated by Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, followed by a Buffet Lunch at the Fountain House, Albert Square
Sunday 12 April	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	Masses at 10.00am and 12noon Divine Mercy Devotions beginning at 2.00pm 2.00pm Adoration, Confessions 3.00pm Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

CENTENARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

On 5th April, 1926, Easter Monday that year, St Mary's church was consecrated by the Right Reverend Thomas Henshaw, Bishop of Salford. Early in his time as Bishop of Salford, Bishop Henshaw consecrated St Mary's church.

This year we celebrate the **centenary of the consecration of St Mary's church**. The 5th April 2026 falls on Easter Sunday this year so we have decided to hold a Centenary Mass on **Easter Monday, 6th April**.

Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, has kindly agreed to be with us on Easter Monday for a **Solemn Mass at 12.30pm** to mark the centenary of the consecration of church.

After Mass, we have organised a **buffet lunch** for all parishioners in the Fountain House on Albert Square. The buffet will be in the Memorial Hall and there is a lift in the building to get to the function room.

Tickets for the lunch are £10 each and are free for children and are available from the Piety Stall. Please join us on this special occasion as we celebrate and give thanks as a parish with our bishop. Today, Sunday, will be the last opportunity to get tickets for the lunch as we will have to give the final numbers on Monday.

The mission of 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 and 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.



PARISH NEWS

FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR EASTER

One of the joys of Easter is to see the church adorned once more with beautiful flowers. Donations are welcome towards the Easter Flowers (please place donation in an envelope with **Church Flowers** and the intention written clearly on the front or place any donations in the wall box near the Side Exit Door of the Church.

PASSIONTIDE

Passiontide is a name for the last two weeks of Lent. It commemorates the suffering of Christ, from the Latin *passio* meaning suffering. As all our statues are veiled, we don't burn candles before them and, therefore, any requests for Sanctuary candles this week **will be lit on Easter Sunday and burn for the Octave Days of Easter**. The veiling of statues is associated with the passage in St John's Gospel (John 8:46-59), in which Jesus "hid himself" from the people

SVP

To raise funds to help some families in difficulty in the area, the parish SVP conference will be organising a coffee morning after the two Sunday Masses on Easter Sunday. Please support them by staying a little while after Mass and sharing in some refreshments

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTIONS

Divine Mercy Devotions will be held here at St Mary's on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter, Sunday 12th April. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 2.00pm, with the opportunity to go to confession during this time. Devotions will begin at 3.00pm with the Holy Rosary, concluding with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is

A PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

This year we are organising a parish pilgrimage to Lourdes. Following a very successful parish pilgrimage to Walsingham last October, after which many of the participants asked that we organise a parish pilgrimage this year as well, so we have decided to organise a **5 day Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes** in the summer. We are using the services of a local travel agent, Northern Star Travel, who is used to organising pilgrimages to Lourdes all year round.

The dates of the pilgrimage are:

Tuesday 16th June - Saturday 20th June 2026

The cost for the five day pilgrimage is:

£699 per person [sharing a Twin Room]

All the single rooms have now been booked

which includes:

Return Flights from Manchester to Carcassonne
Airport Duty and Passenger Taxes - One 20 kg suitcase per person

Coach transfer from Carcassonne to Lourdes

4 nights full board in the 4* Hotel Eliseo

Services of a Northern Star Travel Rep

Full Pilgrimage Programme

Further details and booking forms are available at the back of church

Please ask Fr Anthony for more information or if you have any questions

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

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

Lately deceased: Frank O'Donnell; Brother Aidan Hendron; Therese Myerscough; Christopher Cooney; Deacon Stephen O'Connor; Bernice Woodwood

Anniversaries: Annie Hewiston (29/03); Mary Grogan (30/03); Fr Michael Corry (31/03); Canon Charles Holly-wood (02/04); Fr Vincent Cavey (02/04); Fr Peter Kitchen (03/04); Fr Myles Sheahan (04/04); Fr Bernard Charnock (04/04); Fr Bernard Wood (04/04) Ann Saunders (08/04)

In remembrance: The Holy Souls; The forgotten souls; James & Mary Kilgallon; Kelly family; Streaton family

Special Intentions: Kate Wynn; Josie Duffy; Barbara Johnson; Joy Levine; Shawn Anthony; Margaret Smith; Loretta, Jason, & Pauline; Angelica, Dominic, & Matthew; The Samson family; Anthony Walker; Mary Kileen; Special Intention; Andrew Sloane; Thanksgiving to St Anthony for favours received.

Easter Masses: Sister Anne Mary; Fr Francis Nnadi; Fr John Hitchen; Fr Francis Deegan; Kaye Halligan; Joe & Caroline; Brenda Canavan; Fr Anthony Gallagher; Colin Morrison; McCourt family

CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK

The Light is
ON for You



EVERY DAY @
ST MARY'S
THE HIDDEN GEM
MANCHESTER

One of the great blessings that our parish receives is the number of people who take the opportunity to come to St Mary's throughout the year to go to confession and to receive the Sacrament of Penance.

I very much see that giving people as much opportunity as possible to receive the Sacrament, and to be able spend time in quiet Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, are central to the mission of the Hidden Gem.

As more people generally avail of the opportunity to go to confession in Holy Week, there will be extra time in the mornings this week, but please note that there are no confessions after Wednesday.

The Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is available at Saint Mary's at the following times this week:

Monday	10.30am - 11.50am
Tuesday	10.30am - 11.50am
Wednesday	10.30am - 11.50am

Please note that there are no confessions after Wednesday.

To help you make a good confession, a leaflet is available at the back of the church - **The Light is ON for YOU.**

CARITAS FOODBANK

We continue to welcome any donations to the **Foodbank Collection point** at the back of church. The parish Caritas group makes fortnightly deliveries to Caritas. Also, all donations to the **Poor Box** at the back of church always go to support those in need.

Thank you for your generosity to Caritas

Can you help?

This month we are collecting:



Rice and pasta

RESTORATION OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY

Thanks to your generosity to Saint Mary's over the last few years, and with the help of some successful bids for grants, we have been able to undertake **£450,000** worth of essential works to preserve the fabric of the church and presbytery. This year we are continuing our fundraising efforts, by appealing to the ongoing generosity of parishioners and visitors, and applying for grants where we can, so that we can move forward with the restoration of Saint Mary's Church & Presbytery.

We have been working with our parish architect over the last four or five years and we now have a very good idea of the works that need to be undertaken and we have had many of the necessary surveys done. The further works in the coming years will be needed to bring all the external fabric of the church up to a standard in order to preserve it for many years to come as well as restoring the interior of our beautiful church.

Further meetings are taking place at this time to determine the next phase of works and, whilst it was envisaged that the next phase might take place this year, following discussions with the Property Department of the diocese, it has been decided that we try to do a larger package of works next year. Doing more works at the same time will, in the long run, be more cost effective. Once we have more details, we will update everyone in due course through the Parish Newsletter. Meanwhile, we are trying to **£500,000** towards the costs of these works.

For any donations you give to the Restoration Fund, please consider, if you pay income tax, gift aiding your donation so that the parish can claim a further 25% on your donation. This will make a real difference to our restoration project.

There are various ways that you can help in our fundraising efforts.

Our Fundraising Thermometer is updated from donations:

into the **Parish Bank Account**, through the **QR Code**,

the **Diocesan website**, the **Parish Website**,

through the **Card Machines**, given to the **Votive Candle Boxes**,

put in the **Window boxes** in church, as well as funds raised from

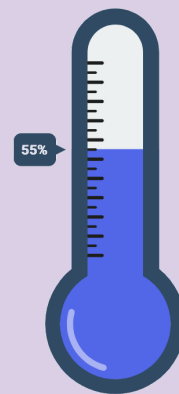
the **Parish Piety Stall**, **Tax reclaimed** on Gift Aided Donations,

and other **Personal Donations** by cash

or cheque given for The Restoration Fund

Thank you for your generosity towards the restoration of St Mary's

FUNDRAISING TARGET FOR THE NEXT PHASE £500,000



TO MAKE A DONATION TO 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

OR SCAN THE QR CODE ON THE FRONT OF THE PARISH NEWSLETTER