



SAINT MARY'S
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
MULBERRY ST

1794 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
3RD MAY 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

Monsignor Canon Anthony Kay

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

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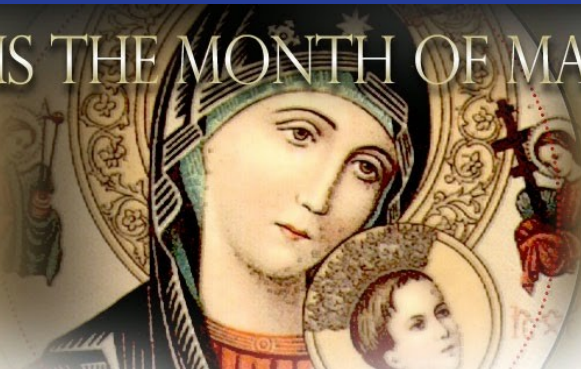
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 St Mary's Parish
@rchiddengem

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

HOLY MARY
MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US



THE MONTH OF MARY

May has long been cherished in the Catholic tradition as the Month of Mary - a time when the Church invites us to turn our hearts in a special way toward the Blessed Virgin, honouring her unique role in God's plan of salvation and seeking her loving intercession.

This devotion dates back several centuries and is rooted in both cultural and spiritual traditions. In many parts of the world, May is a season of new life: flowers bloom, the days grow longer, and creation itself seems to rejoice. It is fitting, then, that the Church dedicates this month to Mary, who brought forth the source of all life, Jesus Christ. Just as the earth blossoms in beauty, so too does Mary reflect the beauty of holiness and the fullness of grace.

Throughout May, Catholics express their devotion in a variety of ways. One of the most familiar practices is the May Crowning, in which a statue or image of Mary is adorned with a crown of flowers. This simple yet profound gesture symbolises her queenship as the Mother of God and Queen of Heaven, while also reflecting our desire to honour her with the best of what we have. It is often a joyful, communal celebration, especially involving children, reminding us of Mary's gentle and maternal care for all.

The Rosary also takes on special significance during this month. By meditating on the mysteries of Christ's life through Mary's eyes, we are drawn more deeply into the Gospel. Mary

always leads us to her Son - never to herself alone. Her words at the Wedding at Cana, "Do whatever he tells you," remain a guiding principle for all who seek to follow Christ faithfully.

May is also an opportunity to grow in imitation of Mary's virtues. Her humility, obedience, faith, and quiet strength offer a model for Christian living. In a world often marked by noise and distraction, Mary teaches us the value of listening - truly listening - to God's voice. In moments of uncertainty, her trust in God's plan encourages us to place our own lives more fully in His hands.

Importantly, honouring Mary does not take away from our worship of God; rather, it enriches it. By drawing closer to Mary, we are led more deeply into the mystery of Christ and His Church. She is both our mother and our companion on the journey of faith, always interceding for us and guiding us toward her Son.

As we enter this Month of Mary, let us take time - whether through prayer, reflection, or simple acts of devotion - to renew our relationship with her. Perhaps we might pray a daily decade of the Rosary, or even better five decades of the Rosary each day, visit a Marian shrine, or simply pause each day to ask for her guidance and protection.

In doing so, we open our hearts to the grace that Mary so perfectly received. And like her, may we become bearers of Christ's love in the world, bringing hope, peace, and joy to all we encounter.

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

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.

Welcome to St Mary's, Mulberry Street

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

MONDAY 04 May THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	TUESDAY 05 May Easter Weekday	WEDNESDAY 06 May Easter Weekday	THURSDAY 07 May Easter Weekday	FRIDAY 08 May Easter Weekday	SATURDAY 09 May Easter Weekday	SUNDAY 10 May Sixth Sunday of Easter
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
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 Clearing</i>	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>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 3.00pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction	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 5.15pm VIGIL MASS of SUNDAY	09.00am - 9.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions 10.00am HOLY MASS 11.00am CHILDREN'S CATECHISM 12 noon SOLEMN MASS Church closes after Mass
4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions	4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions
			7.00pm ADULT'S CATECHISM			Church closes after Mass

PARISH DIARY

Thursday 14 May	FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	11.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary 12.30pm Holy Mass 6.00pm Solemn Mass
Sunday 24 May	FEAST OF PENTECOST Sacrament of Confirmation	5.15pm Vigil Mass of Pentecost 10.00am Holy Mass 12noon Solemn Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation
Friday 05 June	FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS 	11.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary 12.30pm Holy Mass 1.00pm Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday 06 June	FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS 	10.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions 11.30am Holy Rosary 12 noon Holy Mass 12.30pm Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sunday 07 June	FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI First Holy Communions	5.15pm Vigil Mass 10.00am Holy Mass and First Holy Communions 12noon Solemn Mass
Friday 12 June	FEAST OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS	11.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions 12 noon Holy Rosary 12.30pm Holy Mass 6.00pm Solemn Mass

PRAYING THE HOLY ROSARY

Praying the Holy Rosary slowly, softly, and with a meditative spirit allows us to move beyond mere repetition into true encounter with Christ. Each decade becomes an invitation to dwell within the mysteries of His life, seen through the loving gaze of His Mother, the Virgin Mary. When we pray together, keeping the same gentle rhythm as the person leading the Rosary fosters unity and helps everyone enter more deeply into prayer. In this quiet harmony, the Rosary becomes not just words we recite, but a sacred journey - drawing us closer to Jesus with Mary as our guide.



MAY SUNDAY AND THE CROWING OF OUR BLESSED LADY

On this first Sunday in May, at the end of the Sunday 10 am Mass, we will dedicate the Month of May to Our Blessed Lady, and crown our parish statue in her honour. In the month of May, we traditionally renew our devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. Our Blessed Lady always draws us closer to her Son Jesus our Lord, and helps us on our journey through this life as our spiritual mother. One way we can do this is by praying the Holy Rosary each day.

FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

The Feast of the English Martyrs, celebrated on Monday 4th May, honours the men and women who remained faithful to the Catholic faith during times of persecution in England between the 16th and 17th centuries. Among them were saints like Saint Ambrose Barlow, Saint Edmund Campion and Saint Margaret Clitherow, who gave their lives rather than deny Christ or abandon the Church. Their courage and steadfast witness remind us of the cost of discipleship and the power of grace in times of trial. As we remember them, may we be inspired to live our faith with conviction, courage, and enduring trust in God.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

A number of our parishioners are preparing for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on Pentecost Sunday and First Holy Communion celebrated on Corpus Christi. Please remember in your prayers those of our parish who are preparing at this time to receive these sacraments.

SILENCE

Please try to keep silence in St Mary's church at all times: before, during, and after the celebrations of Holy Mass and other services. Please be particularly attentive to maintain the silence after Holy Mass. Many people seek out St Mary's because it is a sanctuary of silence and prayer at the heart of city. Please do not spoil the silence by unnecessarily talking to others in church; please wait until you go outside. Thank you.

HELP OTHERS TO FIND US AT ST MARY'S



Despite not being the easiest place to find in Manchester, given our location, I am always amazed at how many people manage to find our church each day. We get lots of regular visitors to St Mary's, but we also get lots of new people every day, particularly people who are visiting Manchester on holiday or business. Over the last while, we have found an increasing number of people finding St Mary's with the help of

Google Maps. We have received some great reviews on Google Maps and we are asking your help to help others find our church by giving us a positive review and a good rating (5*). The more positive reviews and the higher rating we get, the easier it is for people to find us.

To find us on Google Maps, one easy way is to scan the QR code provided here:

Or go to Google Maps and either:

- Put in the search - St Mary's church, Manchester
- Put in - Catholic church, Manchester
- Or put in the postcode - M2 6LN

Then just click on the map where you see **St Mary's Church** highlighted on Mulberry Street. We currently have a star rating of 4.8 out of 5, which is great, and we now have 703 reviews, many of them very good reviews. **Please leave us a 5* star rating and a positive review. Thank you.,**

The summary of all the reviews currently says:

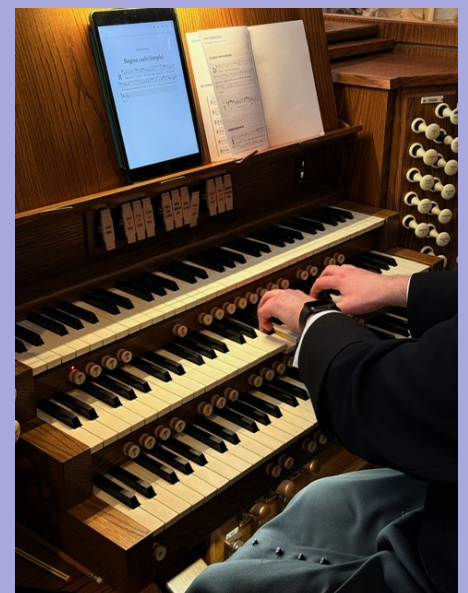
"People say this Catholic church offers a peaceful place for prayer and reflection, and a beautiful Sunday Mass. They highlight the contemplative atmosphere, the welcoming community, and the daily Adoration. They also like the historic architecture and the sense of solitude and peace."



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



It is good to see that we have a growing following on our parish Instagram account. Instagram is a great way to keep up with news from the parish and also a great way to share the life of our vibrant parish with others. If you are on Instagram, please follow us and like and share our posts. **@rchiddengem**



HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

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

Lately deceased: Margaret Young; Elizabeth Rose Stephens; Alma Stockwell; Eamonn Boylan; Vincent Morrison; Kathleen Quinn; Maria Tucker; Elizabeth Burke; Julie Orange; Sr Colette

Anniversaries: James McBride (02/05); Anita Ross (04/05); Fr Frank Occleston (08/05); Fr Peter Gooden (09/05); Gino Cangini (09/05); Austin McKenna; Ellie McDermott

In remembrance: The Holy Souls; Dora Colghan; In reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the sins of Abortion

Special Intentions: Kate Wynn; Kathleen Walker; Rose Wright & family; Barbara Golijanek & family; Petrina & family; Bob Hathaway & family; Kay Hilton & family; Walker family; Marsh family; Kramp family; Hand family; Anna J & family; McGahran family; Larry Healy; Laura, Chris, Tom; All people whose birthdays are in May; In thanksgiving for the successful completion of my studies; Alice & Dan; Elizabeth Varela Sheffield; Reynaldo & Rosario Ducusin; Paul Rafferty; Rodrigues family; Thomas Toole

CARITAS FOODBANK

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

Thank you for your generosity to Caritas

Can you help?

This month we are collecting:



Tinned meat - tuna, corned beef, ham, meatballs, stews

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 raise **£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



SANCTUARY CANDLES



THE CALVARY ALTAR

- [1] Shantha J.
- [2] The Varkeys
- [3] Margaet Thanker RI P(LD)
- [4] Kate Wynn (SI)

THE SACRED HEART

- [1] Christopher Fitzpatrick RIP
- [2] Mary Harvey
- [3] Kathleen & Michael Campbell (SI)

TABERNACLE (OUR LADY)

- [1] Scott family
- [2] Margaret Murray (SI)
- [3] Ellie McDermott

TABERNACLE (LEFT SIDE)

- [1] John & Ruth Kay (SI)

If you would like to have a Sanctuary candle alight in the church for seven 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 **£6.00**. Candles are lit on Saturdays

TABERNACLE (RIGHT SIDE)

- [1] Stone and Kay families RIP

TABERNACLE (ST JOSEPH)

- [1] Emma and Violet
- [2] In thanks for health results
- [3] The Odulah family

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA

- [1] Christopher (SI)
- [2] Martin (SI)

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

- [1] Karl (SI)
- [2] For the peace of mum

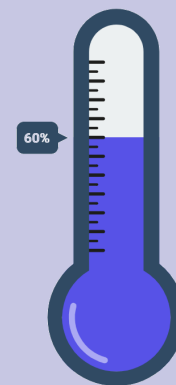
OUR LADY OF MANCHESTER

- [1] Sheila (SI)
- [2] The Odulah family
- [3] Family Special Intention (M)

ST AMBROSE BARLOW

- [1] Hilton family
- [2] Peter Wright (SI)

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