



SAINT MARY'S
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
MULBERRY ST

1794

2026

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9TH AUGUST 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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www.hiddengem.me.uk



St Mary's Parish
@rchiddengem

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM

Each year on 15 August, the Church celebrates one of the great feasts of Our Lady: the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation in many parts of the world and a joyful reminder of the hope that awaits all who remain faithful to Christ. This year, in England, the Feast is transferred to next Sunday, 16th August.

The Assumption celebrates the truth that, at the end of her earthly life, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory. This dogma, solemnly proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950, reflects Mary's unique role in God's plan of salvation. Having been preserved from Original Sin and having given her wholehearted "yes" to God's will, it is fitting that she should share fully in the glory of her risen Son.

Yet this feast is not only about Mary; it is also about us. In the Assumption, we see our own destiny. Christ's Resurrection has opened the gates of heaven, and Mary's Assumption gives us a glimpse of what God desires for all His faithful people. She has gone before us as a loving mother, encouraging us to persevere in faith, hope and charity until we too are called to eternal life.

The Gospel for this feast recalls Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and the beautiful hymn of praise known as the Magnificat. Mary's words, "My soul magnifies the Lord," remind us that the Christian life is one of gratitude, humility and trust. Even amid life's trials, she teaches us to place our confidence entirely in God.

As we prepare for this wonderful feast, let us ask ourselves how we can imitate Mary's virtues. Can we be more attentive to God's voice in prayer? Can we serve others more generously, as Mary hurried to help Elizabeth? Can we deepen our devotion through the Rosary or by spending time before the Blessed Sacrament?

May the Feast of the Assumption fill our parish with renewed hope and joy. Through the prayers of Our Lady, assumed into heaven, may we remain steadfast in following Christ, so that one day we may rejoice with her and all the saints in the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

POPE LEO XIV'S GENERAL AUDIENCE [ST PETER'S SQUARE - 5TH AUGUST]

Catechesis on the Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.
5. The prayer of the Church

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing series of catecheses on the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, today we turn our attention to the ecclesial dimension of the Church's liturgical prayer. Far from avoiding the world and its needs, all prayer, especially in the entire liturgy, is the essential dimension of our humanity. In our prayer we unite ourselves with Jesus to offer praise and thanksgiving to God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. In a particular way, Saint Paul VI expressed a longing that the Liturgy of the Hours, the daily public prayer of the Church, would be prayed by all the members of Christ's Body. In this way, we will allow the Holy Spirit to breathe into each thought and action, inspiring a deeper experience of the Paschal Mystery. My brothers and sisters, may we find the spiritual nourishment necessary on our earthly pilgrimage by joining with the whole Church in her liturgical prayer as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY’S

MONDAY 10 August St Lawrence	TUESDAY 11 August St Clare	WEDNESDAY 12 August Feria	THURSDAY 13 August Feria	FRIDAY 14 August St Maximilian Kolbe	SATURDAY 15 August Votive Mass of Our Blessed Lady	SUNDAY 16 August THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
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 1.30pm Church Cleaning	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 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 4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions 5.15pm VIGIL MASS of SUNDAY Church closes after Mass	09.00am - 9.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions 10.00am HOLY MASS 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 Church closes	

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 16th August	THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY <i>(transferred from the 15th August)</i> PARISH FEAST DAY	5.15pm Holy Mass (Vigil Mass) 10.00am Holy Mass 12 noon Solemn Mass
Monday 31st August	PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO YORK 	8.00am Coach departs from John Dalton Street 10.45am Procession from Micklegate Bar, with prayers at the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow on the Shambles 12noon High Mass at the York Oratory Time for lunch (bring your own or find somewhere to eat) and time to explore the Historic City of York and, for those who wish, at 3.00pm there is Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the Oratory. 3.00pm Benediction at the York Oratory 8.00pm Arrival back in Manchester
Friday 04 September	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
Friday 04 September	Fr TOM CONNOLLY’S 50th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD	7.00pm SOLEMN MASS
Saturday 05 September	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

NEXT SUNDAY - FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

When the parish of St Mary's, Manchester, was founded in 1794 many restrictions against the practise of the Catholic Faith remained in force following the tumultuous events of the Protestant Reformation. The Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829 marked the longed-for moment of Catholic Emancipation when it became legal for Catholics to freely practise their faith once again.

Throughout those challenging times, the Catholic people of Manchester maintained their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and when the decision was made by Father Rowland Broomhead to build a new church on a plot of land near a place called Ridgfield, the devotion of the people influenced the title of the new church, which was dedicated to St Mary, Assumed into Heaven. This means that our parish feast day takes place each year on the 15th August, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **This year the feast is transferred from the 15th to Sunday 16th.**

In preparation for the Feast and for our Parish Feast Day we will offer a Novena, praying a litany in honour of our Blessed Lady after every Mass from 7th August - 15th August. It will be an opportunity for us to ask the special intercession of our Blessed Lady for our parish community and for the people of Manchester, particularly for those most in need, and to also offer our own personal prayer requests at this time. Here is a short prayer you can offer each day, especially if you are unable to join us for the Novena:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have destroyed the power of death and given the hope of eternal life in body and soul. You granted your Mother a special place in your glory, and did not allow decay to touch her body. As we rejoice in the Assumption of Mary, we bring before you our own personal needs and intentions (mention your request). We ask you to give to us a renewed confidence in the victory of life over death. Amen.

CATECHISM CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Catechism Classes for children (preparing for the First Holy Communion and for Confirmation) and a Catechism Class for Adults will begin in early September. Full details of the classes will be available soon but any parents, who have not already done so, and who wish their children to be included in these classes, or any adults who wish to be involved in these classes, should have a word with Fr Anthony as soon as possible.

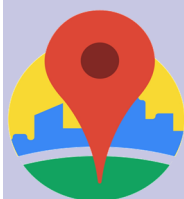
FR TOM CONNOLLY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Our good friend, Fr Tom Connolly, who helps us so much here at St Mary's with celebrating Masses and hearing confessions on a regular basis, is celebrating his Golden Jubilee as a priest on Friday 4th September. Fr Tom will be celebrating a **Solemn Mass here at St Mary's on Friday 4th September 2026 at 7pm**, in thanksgiving for the Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood, and he has asked me to invite you all to join him for the celebration of Holy Mass in thanksgiving to Almighty God on this anniversary.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO YORK NOW FULLY BOOKED

We are organising a parish day pilgrimage to York on the August Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August. The Day Pilgrimage will be a lovely opportunity to have a day out together and to join in the Annual York Pilgrimage in honour of **St Margaret Clitherow**, one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, to attend Holy Mass and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the Oratory Church, and to have a little time to visit the historic city of York. We are delighted with the response that we have had to our pilgrimage and **WE NOW HAVE TWO FULLY BOOKED COACHES**. We will be contacting everyone this week with further details.

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: Ann;

Anniversaries: Shane Tuite (10/08); Mrs Callaghan (18/08); Martin Donelon; Norah & Anthony Kelly; Peggy Grundy

In remembrance: The Holy Souls; Vito Marino; Carmelo Minafo'; Roz Ewart; Riccardo Fici; Grazia Lombardo; Mary & James Kilgallon; Tom Caulfield; Jacqui Evans; Peter Baker; Franca Okiti

Special Intentions: Kate Wynn; M. Meanwell; S.K.M.; Antonio; Walker family; Marsh family; Kramp family; Hand family; Anna J & family; Imelda McGahran & family; Barbara Golianek & family; Rose Wright & family; Patrina Montrose & family; In reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the sins of abortion; Jim, Eileen, Gabriella and Ward family; Seamus Gribbon; Donor's intentions; James; Anna & Stephen ; Lorraine Leonard; Vicky & family; Angelica, Dominic, & Matthew; Eileen Sullivan; Feidhilm O'Riordain.

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
veg - peas,
carrots,
potatoes

SANCTUARY CANDLES



THE CALVARY ALTAR

- [1] Ian Shaw Sr RIP
- [2] Betty Spedding RIP
- [3] Michael Hopkins RIP
- [4] James Chong Lan Po RIP

THE SACRED HEART

- [1] Christopher Fitzpatrick RIP
- [2] Kathryn
- [3] Fabin
- [4] Antonina V. Songalia RIP

TABERNACLE (OUR LADY)

- [1] Kate Wynn (SI)
- [2] Roseline Oye

TABERNACLE (LEFT SIDE)

- [1] John & Ruth Kay (SI)

TABERNACLE (RIGHT SIDE)

- [1] Stone and Kay families RIP

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 (ST JOSEPH)

- [1] Emma and Violet
- [2] Scott family

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA

- [1] Shantha J.

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

- [1] The Varkeys

OUR LADY OF MANCHESTER

- [1] In thanksgiving - Sue
- [2] Vicky
- [3] Billy Jo Hale & Neil Hale RIP
- [4] Kathleen & Michael Campbell RIP

ST AMBROSE BARLOW

- [1] Karl and Dan (SI)
- [2] Thanks to St Jude and St Expedite for favours received.

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.

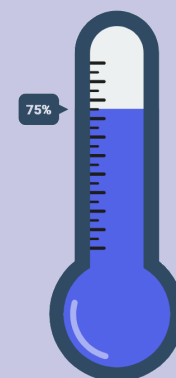
There are various ways that you can help in our fundraising efforts.

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

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