



SAINT MARY'S
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
MULBERRY ST

1794

2026

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
16TH 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

ST MARY'S - THE HIDDEN GEM

Hidden away among the modern buildings of
Manchester city centre stands one of the city's
greatest treasures: **St Mary's Catholic
Church**, affectionately known as **The Hidden
Gem**. For well over two centuries, this
remarkable church has been a place of prayer,
hope and welcome, serving generations of
Catholics while offering a peaceful sanctuary
in the heart of a busy city.

The story of St Mary's begins in **1794**, at a time
when Catholics in England were only
beginning to emerge from centuries of
persecution following the Reformation. Father
Roland Broomhead, who had faithfully
ministered to Manchester's small Catholic community, purchased land on
Mulberry Street and built a new church dedicated to **Our Lady of the
Assumption**. It was officially opened on 30 November 1794, making it one
of the earliest Catholic churches to be built after the easing of the Penal
Laws.



The church that we see today dates largely from **1848**. After structural
problems caused the original building to collapse in 1835, a magnificent
new church was constructed under the direction of architect Richard Lane.
Its richly decorated interior, with beautiful marble altars, carved statues
and striking sanctuary, provides a wonderful contrast to its modest
exterior. It remains one of Manchester's finest Victorian churches and is
now recognised as a **Grade II*** listed building.

The name "**The Hidden Gem**" was first used by Bishop Herbert Vaughan,
Bishop of Salford, later Cardinal Vaughan of Westminster, in the nineteenth
century. Looking at the church nestled among the surrounding buildings,
he famously remarked, "No matter on what side of the church you look, you
behold a hidden gem." The name has remained ever since and perfectly
captures the experience of discovering this beautiful house of God tucked
away from the city's busy streets.

Throughout its history, St Mary's has been far more than an architectural
treasure. It has been a place where countless people have encountered
Christ through the celebration of the Holy Mass, the Sacrament of
Penance, Eucharistic Adoration and quiet personal prayer. From the days
when it stood amid crowded Victorian housing to today's thriving
commercial district, the church has remained a constant witness to the
Catholic faith in Manchester.

Today, as pilgrims, workers, students, shoppers and visitors cross its
threshold, The Hidden Gem continues its mission of offering a sanctuary of
silence, beauty and prayer. More than 230 years after its foundation, St
Mary's remains exactly what it has always been: a living parish where
hearts are lifted to God and where Our Lady continues to watch over the
city of Manchester.

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY’S

MONDAY 17 August Feria	TUESDAY 18 August Feria	WEDNESDAY 19 August Feria	THURSDAY 20 August St Bernard	FRIDAY 21 August St Pius X	SATURDAY 22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	SUNDAY 23 August TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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 - 5.00pm Confessions	

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 packed lunch 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



CONGRATULATIONS

Our warmest congratulations to **Eleanor and James**, who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage here at St Mary's last Saturday. They were at University here in Manchester and attended St Mary's during that time and returned to be married here. We wish them every blessing and happiness in their married life.

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 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.

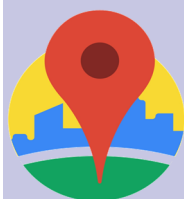
CATECHISM CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Catechism Classes for adults who would like to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist will begin with an on Thursday 4th September at 7.00pm with **Introduction to the Catechism Course**. Classes will then take place each Thursday evening in the Upper Room or in church at 7pm - 8.15pm.

Adults who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith are invited to join us for this series of Catechism classes. You may not have been baptised, or you have been baptised in a Christian church and would like to be received into Communion with the Catholic Church, or you may have been baptised as a Catholic but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation or Holy Communion.

If you are interested in learning more about Catholic Faith and preparing for reception of the Sacraments, and have not already done so, please have a word with Fr Anthony or send him an email for more details about the catechism classes and to register for the course. Due to large numbers last year, this class is only open to those who are preparing to receive the Sacraments.

HELP OTHERS TO FIND US AT ST MARY'S



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 Widdecombe; Kate Hayes; Mary Foley; Marie de Botte ; Anne Kendrick; James Chong Lan Po

Anniversaries: Mary Harrigan (15/08); Alan Oates (15/08); Canon Stewart Ansbro (18/08); Fr Derek Woodhead (18/08); Frank Wardle; Henry Armenta

In remembrance: The Holy Souls; Franca Okiti; Peggy Grundy; Paul Grogan; Bridget McDonagh; Julia Doona; Joao Antonio Silveira

Special Intentions: Kate Wynn; Feidhlim O'Riordain; Eileen Sullivan; The Marsh family; Thanks to St Jude & St Expedite for favour received; Susan O'Hara; Special Intention (BL); Constance Johnson; Felicity Johnson; Sheila Elvin; Hannah Kiteley; Mr & Mrs Conrad Apostol & family; Donor's intentions; Patricia Kelly; Anne Stapleton; Joanna Jakobkiewicz; K.M; Phil & Krissie

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

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] James Chong Lan Po RIP
- [2] Alice & Edwina Livesey RIP
- [3] Mary & James Burns RIP
- [4] Patrick Penny RIP (A)
- [5] B.D. Kemew RIP (A)
- [6] All members of Penny & Kelly family

THE SACRED HEART

- [1] Christopher Fitzpatrick RIP
- [2] Kathleen & Michael Campbell RIP
- [3] Special Intention

TABERNACLE (OUR LADY)

- [1] For Favours received
- [2] Roseline Oye
- [3] Viven Kloszek RIP

TABERNACLE (LEFT SIDE)

- [1] John & Ruth Kay (SI)

TABERNACLE (RIGHT SIDE)

- [1] Stone and Kay families RIP

TABERNACLE (ST JOSEPH)

- [1] Emma and Violet
- [2] Katherine Donna Delima (SI)
- [3] Bille Jo Hale & Neil Hale RIP

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA

- [1] Shantha J.
- [2] Special Intention

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

- [1] The Varkeys
- [2] Pauline Vam der Meijde

OUR LADY OF MANCHESTER

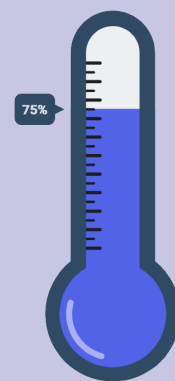
- [1] Kate Wynn (SI)
- [2] Patrick Burke RIP (A 15/8)
- [3] Christopher Burke RIP (A21/8)
- [4] Nora McParland RIP (LD)

ST AMBROSE BARLOW

- [1] Karl and Dan (SI)
- [2] Rose, mum, and nan

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

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