



SAINT MARY'S
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
MULBERRY ST

1794 2026

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
23RD 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

POPE LEO XIV'S GENERAL AUDIENCE [ST PETER'S SQUARE - 19TH AUGUST]

Catechesis on the Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

7. Sacred Music

Pope Leo XIV has reflected on the role of sacred music in the liturgy as part of his continuing catechesis on the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. Focusing on its chapter dedicated to sacred music, Pope Leo emphasised that music is not simply an attractive or decorative addition to worship. Rather, it is an integral part of the liturgical action, whose fundamental purposes are to glorify God and help sanctify the faithful.

The Pope explained that sacred music gives expression to both prayer and faith. By singing together, the faithful participate more deeply in the mystery being celebrated, opening their hearts to God's grace. Referring to St Augustine's teaching that "singing belongs to those who love," Pope Leo highlighted the way music expresses the emotional and spiritual dimension of prayer. Sacred song also promotes communion, bringing people together despite their differences and making the unity of the Church visibly and audibly present.

Because sacred music has such an important role, Pope Leo stressed that it must meet appropriate standards. It should be suited to the particular liturgical moment and should not simply follow contemporary fashions or individual preferences. Its musical form should be noble, simple, accessible and of genuine quality, especially when intended for congregational singing. Its texts should be profound and understandable, drawing principally from Sacred Scripture, the liturgical books and the spiritual tradition of the Church.

Pope Leo also recalled the special esteem given by the Council to Gregorian chant, while affirming that other forms of sacred music have an important place, including appropriate musical traditions from different cultures. Such inculturation, however, requires discernment so that worship retains dignity, beauty and authenticity.

The Pope further stressed that sacred music cannot be judged by artistic standards alone. It must serve the liturgy, correspond to its texts and gestures, and reflect the character of the particular rite. He echoed the call of St John Paul II to avoid music and texts that are aesthetically poor, superficial or unworthy of the sacred mysteries.

Finally, Pope Leo emphasised the importance of proper formation for priests, religious, musicians and singers. Sacred music requires both musical competence and sound liturgical understanding. Quoting St Ignatius of Antioch, he concluded by presenting the Church as a choir whose members, united in harmony, sing with one voice to God. Sacred music therefore becomes a powerful expression of the Church's communion and her worship of God.

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

MONDAY 24 August St Bartholomew	TUESDAY 25 August Feria	WEDNESDAY 26 August Blessed Dominic Barberi	THURSDAY 27 August St Monica	FRIDAY 28 August St Augustine	SATURDAY 29 August The Passion of St John the Baptist	SUNDAY 30 August TWENTY SECOND 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 - 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 - 9.45am 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 & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	11.30am Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon SOLEMN MASS
12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS 1.30pm Church Cleaning	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS 3.00pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction	12 noon HOLY MASS 4.00pm - 5.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	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	
					5.15pm VIGIL MASS of SUNDAY Church closes after Mass	

PARISH DIARY

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
Thursday 03 September	ADULTS' CATECHISM CLASS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH 1. AN INTRODUCTION		7.00pm - 8.00pm For adults wishing to explore the Catholic Faith through a structured series of Catechism Classes: For adults who wish to be baptised or to be received into Communion with the Catholic Church or for adult Catholics preparing for Sacrament of Confirmation.

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

The Day Pilgrimage to York on Monday 31st August 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 are currently contacting everyone by email with further details. If you have received an email PLEASE REPLY to confirm you still intend to travel with us.

CARITAS CONFERENCE

Tackling poverty and injustice in the Diocese of Salford Caritas Salford invites you to join them for a free day of learning and reflection on the social teaching of Pope Leo XIV. This conference will be held on Saturday 10 October from 11AM to 3.30PM. Guest speakers will be present with a free lunch provided. For more information and to book your place please visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/CaritasConference

SWITCH OFF MOBILES

Please try to remember to switch off your mobile phone as you enter the church. If we get into the habit of checking our phones as we enter church, it is less likely that we will leave our phones on and thus risk disturbing everyone in church when our phone rings.

CATECHISM CLASSES FOR ADULTS

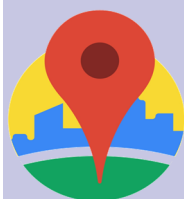
Catechism Classes for adults who would like to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist will begin with an on Thursday 3rd September at 7.00pm with an **Introduction to the Catechism Course**. Classes will then take place each Thursday evening in the Upper Room or in church 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, please have a word with Fr Anthony or send him an email 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.

A leaflet giving further details of the Catechism Course is available at the back of church.

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: Diane Pook; Jason Arday; James Taylor

Anniversaries: James Skelly (18/08); Tom Nolan (18/08); Noel Taylor (24/08); Eileen Devlin (24/08); Fr Colin Wright (25/08); Fr James Culkin (26/08); Fr Patrick McIntyre (27/08); Peter Darby (29/08) Martin Fadian; Duggie Baker; Jonny Hopkins

In remembrance: The Holy Souls; Tebb family; David Howcroft; Maria Dao Thi Phuon; Andrew Sadowski

Special Intentions: Kate Wynn; James O'Connor; Mary O'Connor; Angela; Ambrose Charbel McKeown; Matthew; Jacqueline and Noel Loughrey; Jose Manulvaz & Teresa Souza; Cecilia & Gabriel; Fedhlim O'Riordan; Vivian Onokwai; R Simcox; Aldemira Neto; Charles Oye; Rose-line Oye; Martina Leacock; Louis Gyves; Antonia and Carlos Rocha

If you wish to have a Mass celebrated at St Mary's, please place your Mass intentions and a donation for the Mass stipend in an envelope, with the Mass Intention clearly marked on the front of the envelope, and hand it into the church or presbytery.

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] James Chong Lan Po RIP
- [2] Elizabeth A. Keegan RIP (A)

THE SACRED HEART

- [1] Christopher Fitzpatrick RIP
- [2] Kathleen & Michael Campbell RIP
- [3] Special Intention (b.L.)
- [4] Anthony Cannon (SI)

TABERNACLE (OUR LADY)

- [1] McErlean family (SI)
- [2] Ann & Chris Smith
- [3] Isabelle allan

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] Matthew
- [3] Scott family

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA

- [1] Kathleen & Michael Campbell RIP

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

- [1] Shantha J.
- [2] The Varkeys

OUR LADY OF MANCHESTER

- [1] Kate Wynn (SI)
- [2] Monica and Bernard Charlsworth
- [3] Feidhlim O'Riordan

ST AMBROSE BARLOW

- [1] Karl and Dan (SI)

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.

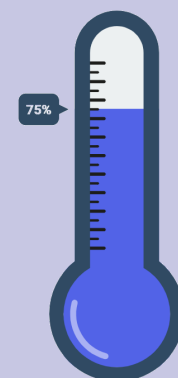
There are various ways that you can help in our fundraising efforts.

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