

## Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist.

St John's is the mother church of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford. The cathedral was built as a large urban church between 1844-48 for the burgeoning Catholic community of Manchester and Salford. The foundation stone was laid on Whit Thursday 1844 by Bishop James Sharples (1897-1853), Coadjutor to the Vicar Apostolic of the Lancashire District. The church was elevated to a Cathedral in 1850 when the Diocese of Salford was established upon the Restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy of England and Wales. The building underwent further decoration befitting a cathedral and was formally opened on 27th September 1855.

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**A large and magnificent building by any standards and one of the most ambitious Roman Catholic churches of its day.**

- Nikolaus Pevsner  
”

The architect was Matthew Ellison Hadfield (1812-85). He designed a number of churches in the Diocese including St Mary's Mulberry Street (the Hidden Gem), Manchester and St Chad's, Cheetham Hill. Built during the Gothic Revival, the Cathedral is designed in the Decorated Gothic style of the early 14th century, heavily influenced by the medieval churches of Selby Abbey, Howden Minster, and Newark parish church. Later additions include the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of 1884, The WWI Memorial Chapel of 1923 and crossing Sanctuary of 1973.

The interior has changed dramatically over the years but remains the beautiful and prayerful heart of the Diocese of Salford. In November 2021 our cathedral announced an ambitious restoration project, aiming to revive the iconic splendour of this church whilst making it the most sustainable cathedral in the country. We hope that you enjoy your visit and that this guide provides you with an insight of this remarkable Cathedral.

# SALFORD CATHEDRAL

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



## OUR SANCTUARY IN THE CITY

### A GUIDE

#### Open Daily

Monday – Saturday: 07.30 – 18.30

#### Holy Mass

Monday – Friday: 08.00, 12.10 & 17.30

Saturday: 10.00 and 17.30 Vigil Mass

Sunday: 08.00, 09.15, 11.00 & 17.30

#### Holy Days of Obligation:

17.30 (Vigil), 08.00, 10.00 (Term time only),  
12.10 & 19.30

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday – Friday: 11.30 – 12.00

Saturday: 10.30 – 11.30

#### Confession:

Monday – Friday: 11.30 – 11.55

Saturday: 10.30 – 11.25 and 16.45 – 17.15

The Cathedral Church of  
St John the Evangelist,  
250 Chapel Street,  
Salford,  
M3 5LE

Email: [cathedral@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:cathedral@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

Web: [www.salfordcathedral.co.uk](http://www.salfordcathedral.co.uk)

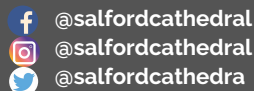
Tel: 0161 817 2210

We are working hard to restore Salford Cathedral  
and build for its future.



If you would like to help you can make a donation by  
scanning this QR Code. Thank you!

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journey at:



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Above is the original rood cross, that originally hung in the arch at the front of the choir, it was carved by Cesar De Jonghe of Bruges and is decorated with the symbols of the four Evangelists. In front of the Bishop Sharples Memorial is the tomb of Bishop Thomas Holland (1908-99), 8th Bishop of Salford.

The window depicts the glory of the Church in England from the Conversion of King Ethelbert by St Augustine in 597 to the Restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in 1850, as well as Our Lady with numerous saints of significance to England, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Last Judgement.

**4.)** The WWI Memorial Chapel was opened in 1923; it contains the names of over 600 men of the Diocese who died in the conflict. The chapel was initially the Blessed Sacrament Chapel until 1884; from 1884-1923 it was the Calvary Chapel, housing the pieta seen here today. The windows, depict the Eucharistic and sacrificial scenes denoting the original dedication, carved medallions on the ceiling depict the instruments of the Passion and date from the time of the chapel's dedication as the Calvary Chapel.

**8.)** The Leeming Chantry was established by the family of John Leeming Esq (d. 1837) of Adelphi House, Salford. He and a number of the family are buried in the vault. The carved stone altar depicts the St Joseph in death and in the company of the angels. As with the Lee Chantry the windows are by Hardman of Birmingham; the central window illustrates St Elizabeth of Hungary and St John the Baptist while the right window depicts Sts William, Margaret, Edward, John the Evangelist, Henry, and Charles Borromeo.

**5.)** The Choir originally formed part of the large sanctuary, housing a fine carved stone high altar, carved oak cathedra and choirstalls, these were removed in the 1980s. During WWII the Cathedral was damaged by fire, the resulting restoration in 1947-51 saw the mosaic floor re-laid with the coat of arms of the Pope (Pius XII) added.

**9.)** The Blessed Sacrament Chapel was created in 1884 to mark the 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. Designed by Peter Paul Pugin (1851-1904) with painted decoration by Joseph Aloysius Pippet and carving by R. L. Boulton & Sons it is one of the most beautiful parts of the Cathedral. The chapel houses relics of many Saints, including St Aurelius, Archbishop of Carthage in the early 5th century, whose bones lie beneath the altar.

**1.)** The crossing Sanctuary with a new freestanding marble altar was formed in 1973 to provide for Mass orientated towards the congregation following the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). The new Baptismal font and Bishop's throne were added between 1985-88.

**2.)** The Holy Rosary Altar was added in 1885 and originally located in the south transept. Painted by Joseph Aloysius Pippet (1841-1903) it is similar in decoration to the painted panelling of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The altar bears the names of every parish in the Diocese at that time, connected by vines and roses with Our Lady of the Rosary in the centre.

**3.)** The Bishop Sharples Memorial - The memorial is in memory of Bishop James Sharples (1897-1853) who is buried at St Mary's church, Great Eccleston, Lancashire. Bishop Sharples was coadjutor to the Vicar Apostolic of the Lancashire District before the restoration of the Catholic Diocesan Hierarchy of England and Wales in 1850, he laid the foundation stone of St John's in 1844.

**6.)** The Lee Chantry was established by Daniel Lee Esq (d. 1877), J.P. and Knight of St Gregory. With John Leeming, he was one of the major benefactors of the Cathedral. In the north wall is a memorial of Lee who is buried at Weaste cemetery. The carved stone altar depicts Our Lady with St Catherine and two of Lee's daughters to the left and St Patrick with a young Daniel Lee to the right. The windows by Hardman of Birmingham; the left illustrates the life of the prophet Daniel while the central one depicts Ss. Susannah, Brigid, Mary, Richard, Catherine, and John the Evangelist.

**7.)** The Lady Chapel has a beautiful altar and reredos of stone and red Devonshire porphyry. Carved emblems illustrate the titles of the Blessed Virgin in Her Litany. The great East Window dates from 1854. The gift of the first Bishop of Salford, William Turner (1799-1872), it was produced by William Wailes of Newcastle.

