

# ST. CHRYSOSTOM'S CHURCH

## VICTORIA PARK MANCHESTER

PARISH PROFILE 2026

# Welcoming

Serve all people regardless of ethnicity, age, relationship status, disability or sexual orientation

# Inclusive

We welcome the ministry of female and male deacons, priests, bishops & archbishops

# Vibrant Anglo-Catholic

Caring faith community that embraces diversity and celebrates the joy of Christ

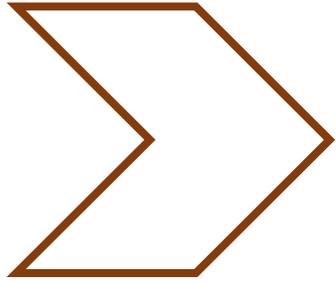
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## KEY MESSAGE

We believe in the centrality of The Mass in our worship: often *sung, concelebrated & offered with incense; but always enthusiastic, joyful, colourful and celebratory.*

Alongside worshipful adoration of the Blessed Sacrament





# WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR IN A NEW PARISH PRIEST?



## Vocation support

Encourages vocations to the priesthood: In the past we have run one-year Parish Assistant programmes leading to multiple ordinations in churches throughout the world.



## Inclusive tradition

Rooted in an inclusive Anglo-Catholic tradition, but is not too "stuffy" Has an imaginative and enthusiastic approach to leading the Mass and other Offices.



## Christ's messaging

Encourage our congregation to see Christ in everyone that we meet each day



## Welcoming attitude

Notices the quiet 'new visitor' to church, and makes a point of encouraging us to welcome them



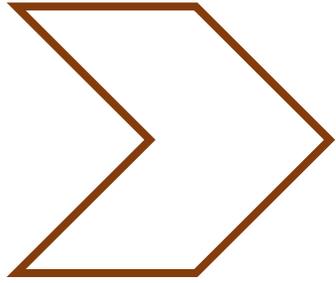
## Collaboration

Has a collaborative leadership style, building on our current practice, including the Customary. Challenges, changes and grows through consultation rather than imposition.



## Faith tolerance

Recognises different faiths with tolerance & has respect for non-Christian families. Acts with openness to make all feel truly welcomed and loved.



# THE PARISH OF VICTORIA PARK IN *NUMBERS*

## 14,000

**People**

We are a parish of nearly 14,000, and with a deprivation rank of 981\*

Nearly two thirds of the population are aged between 18 and 29.

Approx 1/2 identify as white and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> as Asian

1/3<sup>rd</sup> expressed having no religious belief in the last census, and of the remaining two thirds were divided in the main between Christian (a slight majority) and Muslim.

## 2

**Church Schools**

There are two Church of England Primary schools with close links to St Chrysostom's

In addition, there are University Halls of Residence. Our Lay Reader and a retired priest are appointed as Chaplains to St Anselm's Hall.

There are various hostels and projects, nursing homes and sheltered accommodation.

The University Choirs use the church building for practice on Monday & Tuesday evenings.

## 30

**Languages**

The congregation ranges widely in age and ethnicity with a variety of 30 "mother" languages spoken.

Diversity is celebrated in many ways, and the Church is a member of the **Inclusive Church Network**.

## 55

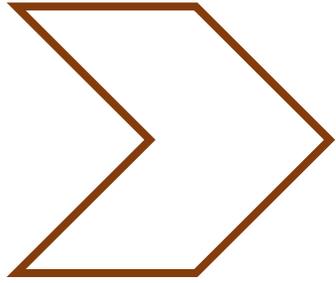
**Weekly Attendees**

The main act of worship is at 11am on Sunday which is a sung Mass, with average weekly attendance of 55, preceded by morning prayer at 10:30am.

There is a Sunday School (Kharis), which meets at the back of church during Mass.

There is an ALM led weekday prayer group each Thursday. Friday evening Compline sessions are led, online. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held the first Wednesday of the month.

\* The deprivation ranking scores 1 for the most deprived and 32,844 for the least deprived



# THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE CHURCH



## BUILT IN 1878, SUFFERED A FIRE AND WAS REBUILT IN 1904

- The Parish was formed in 1878 and the original Church, by Redmayne was consecrated in 1877.
- The current Church building dates from 1904 when it was rebuilt following a fire.
- It contains exceptional glass by Burlison and Grylls, and in the Chapel by Pearce.
- Victoria Park was formerly a wealthy gated community, with a beautifully built church to match.



## STAFFING & SUPPORT

- The Parish Priest will be supported by an assistant curate (who is a Senior Lecturer / Dean in the University) and a member of the Society of Catholic Priests. Retired clergy (OLM) with PTO who work alongside him.
- There is a Licensed Reader and a team of ALMs who minister in a variety of ways, and enhance the outreach and mission of the Church.



# The schools – some words from the Executive Headteacher – Gareth Elswood

Our local priest has always been actively engaged in all levels of school life at both St John's and St Chrysostom's Church of England Primary Schools in Manchester.



We would hope that the new priest is confident to engage with both our Christian ethos within the school community along with a well articulated respect for the many communities and cultures that our wonderfully diverse communities offer. With over 28 languages spoken we would hope that the new postholder is able to see the opportunity that such a culturally rich environment offers.



Formally the postholder would be our Ex-Officio Governor on the Formal Federation Board who meet four times a year between 6 and 8pm. These meetings are strategic and manage the oversight of a 6 million pound annual budget which supports the education of one thousand pupils and 160 employees.



In the past we have worked to employ parish assistants between the schools and church to further ensure clear strategies to lead worship and spiritual reflection sessions in school and beyond, including attending the annual year six cathedral service each year in Manchester.



Pastoral care for our employees has always been a vital part of the church ethos and ministering to sick or bereaved staff would hopefully be a natural role for the new parish priest.

# OUR ACTIVITY



St Chrysostom's has been incredibly successful in **fostering vocations to the priesthood.**

There have been more than **10 Parish Assistants** who have gone forward to **ordained ministry.**

The Parish has worked with **SCP** in providing Vocation events and weekends.

There are regular requests for **Baptism** which normally take place on a Sunday after the main Mass.

There is an annual **Confirmation Service** held in Eastertide following preparation undertaken in the Church Schools.

In addition, candidates are prepared according to circumstances.

**Weddings** average 3 or 4 a year, and funerals around 6.

**Communion to the Sick and Housebound** takes place regularly – either by the clergy, or by the ALMs.

We have a range of **joint services** with our **sister parish St Agnes** and sharing of skills where our treasurer & organists help out.



We enjoy close links with **St Peter's, Oughtrington** near Lymm.

We join with their people in our annual **Pilgrimage to Walsingham**, and to **Ladywell.**



Currently there an **active prayer group** meets each Thursday lunchtime for a **mid-week service**; regular services for **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on the first Wednesday of the month, **Morning Prayer** each Sunday morning before Mass and an online **Compline service** on Friday evenings at 9pm.

And Walking trips to the Peak District!



# OUR ACTIVITY

Share Assessment	15,500.00
Payments received	13,875.32
Encouragement Scheme	310.38
Gift Aid Received	1,314.30
Total received	15,500.00
Share Outstanding	0.00
Percentage Received	100.00%

The Church has paid the **Parish Share** each year, and remains financially viable – it is not a rich church.



There are three major **Hospitals** very near and visitors to these Hospitals often call into Church for prayer, peace and quiet. Links within the community are with Cornerstone Day Centre, Sheltered Housing), nursing homes, & a Women's' Shelter. Newbury House, a hostel for substance abuse & homelessness.

There has been partnership with **Manchester Grammar School** with some community projects.

Other Churches current make use of the Church: **Chinese, Ethiopian Orthodox, Korean Methodist Church** and **Ugandan Catholic** congregations use the building most weekends.

St Chrysostom's enjoys good relations with other Christian groups within the parish. There is **friendship with the SMA Fathers**, with the **Sisters at St Joseph's Home**, and with the **Armenian Church**.



The Church was internally scaffolded in Autumn 2022 and the interior repainted to present a fresh & clean appearance.

The external guttering of the building was replaced, in conservation grade cast iron, funded by Heritage Lottery to remain watertight.



The parish hosted the first LGBTQ+ Communion Service in the Church of England over 20 years ago, preceding the Open Table Network by many years.

### **LLF Statement**

The Living in Love and Faith process has shown that the majority of the Church of England, clergy and laity alike, now long for a Church where LGBTQ+ people are fully welcomed and celebrated without discrimination. Many, including our parish want to see the full inclusion of same-sex marriage of both our lay and ordained brothers and sisters in the Church which we believe, reflects the generous and loving heart of our God. Regardless of the continued indecision and apathy of the hierarchy, we will continue to support and advocate for full inclusion.

# **OUR ACTIVITY**



## OUR ALIGNMENT TO DIOCESAN OBJECTIVES

**01**

Strengthening childrens' and young people's ministry;

Bring forward & developing the next generation of mission minded ordained & lay leaders to guarantee future church growth.

**02**

Invest in numbers of new resource churches, church plants and new worshipping communities, under a programme of church revitalisation. Including supporting the development of a cohort of priests from the Catholic/Liberal Catholic tradition in evangelistic ministry.



## OUR MISSION ACTION PLAN

**01**

We have an opportunity to bring together these two objectives of 'growth in young people' with our track record of identifying and supporting candidates for ordination through a strategy of focussed evangelism within the University student community, a revitalised University Chaplaincy & Halls of Residence.

**02**

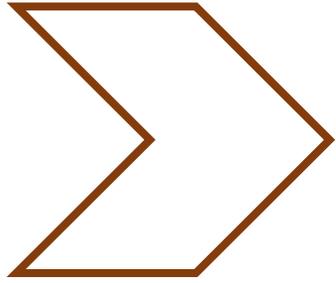
Enriching & advertising our unique Radical and Liberal Catholic tradition. Drawing congregants together as a gathered church. Increasing average weekly attendance from 55 to 100 over a period of five years.

**03**

Becoming a 'Regional Centre of Excellence for traditional Catholic worship rituals' being fully inclusive of Women in Ordained & Consecrated ministries.

**04**

Further enhancement of our musical tradition & repair of the pipe organ.



# COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT



**Weekly Newsletter**



**Weekly Meditation & Scripture Reading Service**



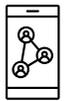
**Weekly Online Compline Service**



**Weekly Morning Prayer (Lauds)**



**Monthly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**



**Active Facebook Page**



**Active Flower Arranging Team**

St Chrysostom's Church  
Manchester



*This weekend is National Safeguarding Sunday*

St. Chrysostom's Church Weekly News Friday 14 November 2025

Sunday Mass 16 November - 11am

Mass this weekend will be at 11am, where Fr Admos will celebrate and Wayne will preach.



St Chrysostoms

Top contributor Wayne Darbyshire · 12 Dec · 🌐

Please feel free to join us for Friday Compline at 9pm tonight via the link below.

This is a quiet time of prayer and meditation to end the week.

All are welcome.

... See more



St Chrysostoms

Public group · 506 members · 47 online now

Joined

Invite

You

Featured

About

Photos

Events



## Pontifical High Mass Easter 2025

We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song



# OUR CHURCH & OUR CONGREGATION



Student give away stall



Lenten smiles



Luke & Imy's first baby

Advent lunch concert



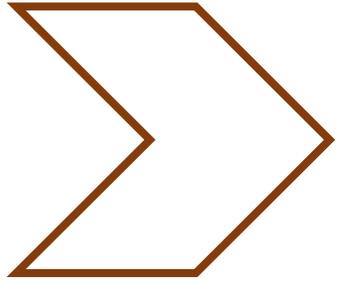
Fr Admos welcomes



Another bring & share lunch...

Sarah & Romano married





# THE RECTORY

The Rectory, is likely to be the recently refurbished St Agnes Parsonage in Longsight

Relevant contact details: Archdeacon, Area Dean, and Bishop

ROLE	NAME
Archdeacon of Manchester	The Venerable Karen Best
Area Dean (Manchester North & East)	The Revd Helen Scanlan
Bishop of Manchester	The Rt Revd Dr David Walker

And finally, from our Bishop,  
describing St Chrysostom's:

“One of the most  
diverse and  
stimulating churches  
in the diocese”

