



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Parish Priest: Rev Fr Christopher Dawson

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 5th November 2023
31st Sunday of Ordinary Time,
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 10 am
Monday - Thursday 9 am
Friday 10 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30-5.50 pm
and at call

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Malachi 1: 14-2: 2; 8-10

You have strayed from the way;
you have caused many to stumble
by your teaching.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130

Keep my soul in peace before you,
O Lord.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 2: 7-9, 13

We were eager to hand over to you
not only the Good New but our
whole lives.

Gospel

Matthew 23: 1-12

They do not practice what they
preach.

Facebook: @SHJWParish

Suggested items for inclusion in
future editions of the newsletter
may be emailed to
SHJWesthoughtonNewsletter
@outlook.com
Please submit by midday on
Thursday.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

In the three-year cycle, there are only two Sunday readings from the prophet Malachi. He could be called 'anonymous', for 'Malachi' means only 'My Messenger'. The book is printed at the very end of the Old Testament—conveniently, because it ends with a message about the coming of the final messenger of the Lord before the Day of the Lord; this leads on perfectly into the New Testament and the gospel of Matthew. The book was probably written soon after the return of the Jews from exile in Babylon. The prophets of this time show that the enthusiastic return was soon followed by a period of disillusionment and slackness in the performance of religious duties: they could not even get started on rebuilding the Temple. Today's passage denounces the religious leaders for their failure truly to give glory to God, both by their sacrifices and by their failures in moral leadership. Are they really striving to give leadership in celebrating the covenant between God and his people? The reading is obviously chosen to pair with the gospel reading, in which the religious leadership at the time of Jesus is also fiercely criticized. Slackness in religious observance is a danger in any age, even our own.

This Weekend we welcome Fr Micheal Winstanley SDB from Thornleigh to celebrate our Sunday Masses. I have been invited to Westminster Cathedral to attend a Mass and reception to mark the beginning of the National Penal Tribunal. Back in October 2019 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales announced an independent review of the Church's national safeguarding structures and arrangements. The resulting report (which can be found on the Bishops' Conference's website) recommended, among other things, the establishment of a specialised Tribunal to investigate and adjudicate allegations of canonical offences. The Tribunal is being established in two grades, or instances as they are known in canon law, the first instance and the appeal or second instance Tribunal. I have been appointed as Judicial Vicar or presiding judge of the Second Instance Tribunal. As this is a new venture it is difficult to say yet what will be the demands on my time. For now, please keep all those involved in the new tribunal your prayers.

Remembrance Sunday is next Sunday, 12 November. Sunday Mass will begin at the slightly earlier time of 9.30 am to allow parishioners to participate in Westhoughton's Wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial at 11 am.

Friday Masses: From this week our Mass on Friday mornings during school term-time will be at 10am to allow one year group from Sacred Heart School to join us each week. This means each year group will attend Mass in Church once per half-term. Additionally, there will be a whole school Mass in school each half-term, to which everyone is invited. I am grateful to the staff of Sacred Heart School, and our dedicated church cleaning team who meet after Mass on Friday mornings for enabling this to happen.

Parish Finance and Property

Committee: I am grateful to Vickie Lane, Jim Maxfield, Stephen McCoy, Hugh McGinn, and Brian Wardach who have volunteered to be a part of our parish Finance and Property Committee. Our first

meeting is this Wednesday, 8 November at 7pm.

Parish Raffle We are having a Parish Raffle! Tickets will be on sale from 4th November until 3rd December. £1 per strip of tickets. The draw will take place after 10am Mass on Sunday 3rd December.

Coffee Morning after the 10 am Mass this Sunday. All welcome.

Parish Repository Stall now has a selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars and other seasonal items.

Sacred Heart Primary School forthcoming events: 6T Class Led Assembly, Friday 17th November Christmas Fair, 8th December, 3.35pm. Further details nearer the time.

Sacred Heart Primary School Newsletter each half term Sacred Heart School will produce a newsletter to keep other members of the parish informed of what is going on in school. The first edition is available on the tables at the back of Church.

St. Joseph's High School Forthcoming Events.

5th Nov: St Joseph's 60th Birthday. Celebrations will take place on 24th November in school and on the Friday 16th Feb at Rivington Barn. We are looking forward to welcoming all our parish communities to join in our celebration of 60 Years of Catholic education where young lives have been given hope and dreams have been born.

23rd Nov: Year 11 Presentation Evening, starts at 6pm

24th Nov: 60th Reunion party in the school hall, tickets £10, starts at 7pm. Tickets available by 'googling' Eventbrite St Joseph's Alumni or follow the link from St. Joseph's school Facebook page.
Year 8 Retreat to Savio House 24-26 Nov 2023

Pastoral Visit of the Apostolic

Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, will make a pastoral visit to Salford Diocese on 29th - 30th Nov. As part of his visit he will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's, Collyhurst on Thursday

30th Nov at 6:30pm where he will impart an Apostolic Blessing on all those present. All are welcome to attend the Mass and there is no need to register.

Pastoral Letter - Caring for our Common Home. In October, Bishop John shared a pastoral letter that reflected on Pope Francis' latest document on the environment *Laudate Deum*. Echoing the pope's call for all to take action on our climate crisis, Bishop John asked parishes and schools across the diocese to make a priority of creating environmental groups to explore ways to better care for our common home. There is more information on the diocesan website www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/dioce/se/environment/get-started-in-your-parish I would be interested to hear from any parishioners who would like to be involved in setting up a parish group.

Diocesan Synod - The Big Listen

We recently launched the first key stage of our diocesan synod - The Big Listen. Over the coming months, we're inviting you to help us reflect on the needs of our community today and how our diocese is being called to respond. Please ask the parish office for any upcoming listening events or find more information about the diocesan synod and how to get involved at <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/>

Diocesan Young Adults Mass - The Big Listen - Sunday 12th November, 5.30pm St Augustine's Church, Grosvenor Square, Manchester, M15 6BW

Young adults from across the diocese are invited to join us this November as we turn our attention to our diocesan synod at our next monthly Mass. Fr David Yates, director of Salford Youth and Young Adults Ministry, will lead our celebration of Mass before handing over to our young adult synod representatives, who will conduct The Big Listen exercise for our diocesan synod. Find out more at

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/young-adults-nov-23/>

Diocesan Day Retreat: Desert

Mothers Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella, Lostock Hall, PR5 5AA Saturday 18th November, 11.30am The Diocese of Salford's Day Retreat programme returns this November to explore the deep spirituality of some of Christ's most ardent disciples. Entitled 'Desert Mothers', this month's retreat runs between 11.30am and 3pm and costs £20 per retreat. Call 01772 335387 or email office@saintgerards.org.uk to book your place.

Why God Became Man: Pre-

Advent Retreat at The Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 9PZ 24 - 26 November. Join the Christian Heritage Centre's pre-Advent retreat reflecting on the mystery of the Incarnation and exploring the beauty and the implications of Christmas. Preached by Fr de Malleray FSSP, Mass will be offered in the Extraordinary Form, with daily Holy Hour, and plenty of time for prayer and reflection. Find out more at <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/why-god-became-man-weekend-retreat/>

CAFOD have sent some of their Christmas World Gifts catalogue. If you have someone who is impossible to buy for, or if you have decided not to send gifts or cards this year please take a catalogue which provide ways of making a donation to CAFOD to support our sisters and brothers around the world.

Collections: During October the combined total of offertory collections and standing orders was £2,947.00. Thank you for your generous support of our parish. The CAFOD Family Fast Day raised £430, and World Mission Sunday raised £70. Thank you!