



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 10th December 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B

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

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84: 9-14

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

We are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord.

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

The Second Letter of Peter, from which our second reading this weekend is taken, is probably the last of all the writings of the New Testament. In our reading today it sets out to comfort Christians who were disappointed that the 'Big Bang' at the end of the world had not yet happened. The first generations of Christians had expected the world to come rapidly to an end — and yet it continued. In the first generation of Christians, much of St Paul's moral teaching is shaped by the idea that the Second Coming of Christ will occur very soon. In the second generation, the author of this letter does not have such an immediate expectation. He says that our task is to live holy lives in peace, and to wait in patience. The Second Coming is still imminent in the sense that we must live our lives in view of it, and we have no time to lose. From this point of view, the annual cycle of Church feasts and festivals, even of Christmas, is a reminder that God is in total control of his universe. For us the seasons roll round, but, for God, time is meaningless.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday 23 December, 6 pm
Sunday 24 December, 10 am

Christmas

Sunday 24 December 6 pm
Monday 25 December 10 am
Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 Dec. 10 am

Feast of Holy Family

Saturday 30 December 6 pm
Sunday 31 December 10 am

Mary, Mother of God

Monday 1 January 10 am

From Wednesday 3 January we return to our usual timetable.

Christmas Tree Decorating I would like to invite the children of the parish to decorate the church Christmas Tree after Mass next Sunday, 17 December during the Coffee Morning.

Card Payments. We now have a card payment machine, which you will find in the entrance foyer. You can use the machine to make credit or debit card donations to the parish, to pay for items from the piety stall or make donations to CAFOD, Caritas or any second collections we hold. The first time you use a new card it will ask you if

you want to gift aid the donation – please say yes if you pay income tax as this increases your donation by 25% at no cost to you. You can use all major credit or debit cards, as well as Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Parish and School Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair, which was a great success.

Parish Raffle Thank you to everyone who supported our parish raffle. If you have won a prize, please speak to one of the stewards/welcomers.

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

Our Schools' Preparations for Christmas:

Sacred Heart Primary School

Key Stage Christmas Services are being held all this week. All are welcome.

Key Stage 1 – Monday 11 Dec. 2pm & 6.30pm

Lower Key Stage 2 – Tuesday 12 Dec. 2 pm & 6.30pm

Upper Key Stage 2 – Wednesday 13 Dec. 2pm & 6.30pm

Reception Thursday 14 Dec. 2.30pm & 5.30pm

Musical Achievement Recital
Wednesday 20 Dec. 2 pm.

St. Joseph's High School

Candlelight Concert, Thursday 14 December, 6.30pm. An evening of music, dance, readings and drama to help prepare for Christmas. The evening will also be a celebration of our students gifts and talents. There is no charge, however donations will be taken on the evening in aid of Caritas. All welcome

60th Birthday Celebrations will continue on Friday 16th Feb at Rivington Barn. Tickets available by 'googling' Eventbrite St Joseph's Alumni or follow the link from St. Joseph's school Facebook page.

2025 'Pilgrims of Hope' Jubilee This Advent, Pope Francis invites people across the world to embark on a Year of Prayer in preparation for the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee. Over the coming weeks and months, the Diocese of Salford will be sharing a range of resources and ideas to help us journey together through this Year of Prayer. Head to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/> to find out more.

Schools singing programme Schools across the diocese are set to present a wonderful series of festive carol services as part of the Schools Singing Programme. Services will be taking place over the coming weeks in parishes right across the diocese. Head to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/school-singing-programme-carol-services/> to find a carol service near you!

Caritas Diocese of Salford Advent Appeal Caritas Salford, has launched its Advent appeal for 2023, including a very special animation film voiced by local children. You can view the short animation and find out more about how you can donate to the appeal, or take action to help people in your parish who are experiencing crisis this Christmas, by visiting www.caritassalford.org.uk/beethere

Discover more about our Diocesan Synod Over the coming weeks and months, the

Diocese of Salford is carrying out the first key stage of our diocesan synod. But what is



a synod? And what does it mean for our diocese and the future of the Church in Greater Manchester and Lancashire? Scan the QR code to find out more.

Cafod Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal Donate at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

Reminder -Your travel to church Survey as the Diocese of Salford works to reach its goal of net zero by 2038, we want to find out about the travel patterns of people in the diocese. The survey can be found at <https://forms.gle/skCHYKnBzhDrvbn9>.

ECT Primary Pool 2024 Are you looking for a career in teaching? Do you know someone who is training for a career in primary education? ECT (Early Career Teachers) due to gain Qualified Teacher Status in Summer 2024 are being invited to apply for recommendation for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2024. Email education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more and apply.

Christian Heritage Centre Marriage Preparation Courses The next marriage preparation course at the CHC will run over two consecutive Saturdays: 27 January and 3 February. The course offers a testimony to the sacramental married life, an overview of the key themes underpinning the Church's vision of marriage, relational exercises for the couples, time for discussion as couples and in groups. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/marriage-preparation/>

Welcome to our parish: If you are new to Westhoughton, or are visiting us just for the weekend, you are very welcome! Please introduce yourself to Fr Christopher after Mass.

Baptism and Marriage preparation: Please speak to Fr Christopher if you are a parent and would like to have your child baptised or if are hoping to get married either in this parish or elsewhere (a minimum of six months' notice is required for marriage).

Collection During November the combined total of offertory collections and standing orders was £2,754.09. Thank you for your generous support of our parish. The raffle raised £456.80. Thank you!

Advent

Our time is a time of waiting; waiting is its special destiny. And every time is a time of waiting, waiting for the breaking in of eternity. All time runs forward. All time, both history and personal life, is expectation. Time itself is waiting, waiting not for another time, but for that which is eternal. (Paul Tillich).

St John the Baptist

Hair of the camel furnished a course raiment

To your blessed members; leather your girdle;
You did drink the cold spring, food for you wild honey
Mingled with locusts.

All other prophets, in their hearts divining,
Sang of the light coming to the people;
Your finger touched the Lamb of God who takes
Sin from the world.

None has arisen in the mighty spaces
Of round earth's borders holier than John was;
Great was his grace who poured the mystic waters
O'er the Redeemer.

(Paul, Deacon of Apulia, eighth century)

