



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

8 LORD STREET, WESTHOUGHTON, BOLTON, BL5 3SE

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Christopher Dawson

01942 812174

Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 17th December 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Year B

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 10 am
Monday – Tuesday 9 am
Wednesday – Requiem 12 noon
Thursday – Friday 9 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30-5.50 pm
and at call

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

He has sent me to proclaim a year of
favour from the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept safe for the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

'There stands among you the one
coming after me'.

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 Book of Isaiah reflects the thoughts and prayers of Israel over a period of at least 200 years. The original prophet Isaiah was speaking in Jerusalem in 740 bc. Further prophecies were added during the Babylonian Exile, and still more after the return from Exile. Through them all runs the promise that God will send his Spirit upon his Chosen One. In the first part, comes the wonderful promise of a sevenfold Spirit that we always associate with Confirmation. In the dark days of the Exile came the prophecy of 'my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have sent my Spirit upon him', a prophecy which is echoed at Jesus' baptism. Now, after the return from Exile, comes the prophecy we hear in our first reading today. A prophecy of the anointed one to whom the Spirit has been given so that he may heal, bind up broken hearts, and proclaim liberty to captives. All these are fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus also gives his Spirit to his followers, and it is our task, as we live by the Spirit, to heal, to bring good news to the poor and to bind up hearts that are broken. How is the Spirit at work in our lives and in the Church today?

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.

Requiem: The requiem Mass for
Jack Holden will take place at Sacred
Heart Church on Wednesday 20
December at 12 noon. Please
remember Jack, and his family and
friends in your prayers at this time.

Friday Mass this week will at 9 am,
since Sacred Heart school will have
broken up for the Christmas holidays
on Thursday.

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.

Pretoria Pit Disaster

Commemoration Service: Thursday
21 December is the 113th
anniversary of the Pretoria Pit
disaster in which 344 men and boys,
many of whom were Catholic, lost
their lives. There will be a service at
7.45 am at the memorial in
Ditchfield Gardens, and, later in the
morning a Church service in St
Bartholomew's Church at 10 am. All
welcome.

Sacred Heart Primary School
Musical Achievement Recital
Wednesday 20 Dec. 2 pm.

School finishes for the Christmas break on Thursday 21 December, and starts again on Monday 8 January. To all pupils and staff – have a wonderful break!

St. Joseph's High School
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/>

Pilgrimage to Walsingham The Diocese of Salford is now accepting bookings for our 2024 pilgrimage to Walsingham. If you would like to join next year's pilgrimage, bring along a group, or help as a volunteer, please fill out a booking

form, available at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-2024>. You can get in touch by calling 0161 817 2214 or emailing walsingham@pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham Salford Youth and Young Adults Ministry is delighted to once again offer a dedicated youth pilgrimage to Walsingham, aimed for students in Years 7,8 and 9. This pilgrimage runs alongside the main diocesan pilgrimage and will leave on Friday 3rd May and return on Saturday 4th May 2024. For further details please contact: youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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

We live always during Advent. We are always waiting for the messiah to come. The messiah has come, but is not yet fully manifest. The messiah is not fully manifest in each of our souls, not fully manifest in humankind as a whole: that is to say, that just as Christ was born according to the flesh in Bethlehem of Judah, so must he be born according to the spirit in each of our souls. (Jean Danielou).

