



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 7th January
The Epiphany of the Lord
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 60:1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

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

This passage from the Book of Isaiah was written at a thrilling moment of Israel's development. They had returned from Exile in Babylon and were beginning to realize the universal task of Israel. The salvation promised to Israel was not just for the Jews but was for the whole world! Hence these cries of joy at all the curious camels and exotic nations thronging to Jerusalem. There is a similar opening out for us, too: Christ brings salvation not just to us, to those who come to our Church, but to the whole world—to all those grumpy, depressed, selfish, worried, suffering, disadvantaged people we meet in the street, most directly to Christians of every kind, but also to those who have not yet found Jesus. The Epiphany is the time at which Jesus 'went public', symbolized by the coming of the Wise Men from the east, the first people outside his own sphere to greet him. So we ought to go out into the street and shout for joy to alert people to what is on offer. Probably better to be a bit less crazy about it, and simply show the happiness it has brought to us by sharing our happiness in any generous way we can! Question: What is the best way in which I can express my joy in Christ's salvation?

Happy New Year In the first few months of 2024 there are two things I would like us, as a parish, to focus on. The first is the diocesan synod. Over the past months you will have seen various items about the synod on the newsletter, but since I was so new in post here, I felt it was more prudent to get settled in as parish priest before pursuing the synod agenda. I would like to think that now in the new year we could 'catch up' with the rest of the diocese on this important process.

The second item I would like to develop is a parish Laudato Si, or care for the environment group. Bishop John is keen that every parish has a group which helps not only to ensure the Church is as environmentally sustainable as it can be, but also that we do our part in raising awareness of what each of us can do to protect our common home for our children and subsequent generations.

If you are interested in either of these projects, please have a word with Fr Christopher.

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.

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.

St. Joseph's High School 60th Birthday Celebrations continue 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.

Sacred Heart Primary School The school will reopen on Monday 8th January 2024. To all pupils and staff – hoping you have had a wonderful break! There will be a class led assembly for 5B on Friday 19 January 2023 at 3pm.

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.

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.

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

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).

Liturgy of Blessing for Engaged Couples On Saturday 17th February, the Saturday nearest to St Valentine's Day, Bishop John invites those getting married in the churches of our Diocese, or who are being prepared in our parishes for marriages elsewhere, to come to a Liturgy of Blessing. In this celebration, we will seek God's blessing on them as they begin their married life. The Service will take place at St. Patrick's Church, Livesey St, Manchester at 2:30pm.

Salford Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Centenary Year

Fundraiser - The Mercy Brothers

Join us for a family-friendly night of musical entertainment with the fabulous 'Mercy Brothers' band on Friday 9th February, 8pm (doors 7.30pm), at The Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road West, Chortlon-cum-Hardy, Manchester, M21 7SX. The band is made up of members of the clergy from around the diocese. Tickets are priced at £15 (over 16s) and free for under 16s. Money raised will go to the Centenary Pilgrimage Fund and in support of our sick pilgrims and medical team. To book please visit www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/fundraising or phone the pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209

Free energy advice service for local people

As the cost-of-living crisis continues to hit our communities hard, Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, has introduced a new service to support people with energy advice. The service includes advice on saving money on utility bills, as well as practical support such as insulation methods, support with condensation and damp, LED bulbs and draught excluders. For more information on the service or to find out when and where sessions will take place, contact energyadvice@caritassalford.org.uk or call 0161 817 2250.

Notice about scam email The Diocese of Salford has shared a warning about a scam email that has been circulated to some parishes in our diocese. The email comes from a "parish priest" Gmail account, features the parish priest's name in the display name, and asks the recipient to purchase gift cards of behalf of the priest. Please be aware that this is not a genuine email. If you come across any such email, please do not engage with it and simply delete it from your inbox. If you are ever unsure about an email from the parish, please call the parish office and we'd be happy to advise. Thank you.

