



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 14th January
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
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

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20

Your bodies are members making up the body of Christ.

Gospel

John 1: 35-42

They saw where he lived, and stayed with him.

Facebook: @SHJWP parish

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 readings of Sundays 'in ordinary time', the first reading normally links to the gospel reading, and today we have a superb example of such a link: the call of Samuel and his response prepare us for the call of the first disciples of Jesus in the gospel.

The call of the young boy Samuel into the Lord's service is always a favourite. It is easy to imagine the boy lying, dozing on his mat in the half-darkness, hearing the voice murmur 'Shmuel' (the Hebrew form of his name). Was it really a call, was it the old prophet calling out, or just the wind in the pillars of the Shrine? He has all the directness, willingness and simplicity of a child, the sort of qualities needed for the Kingdom of God. Often, however, in the same way we do not know whether an 'inspiration' is really the call of God or our own imagination. Prayer and the advice of someone we trust can help in discerning the genuine call of God from a madcap scheme of our own making. Others may know us better than we know ourselves, and God's call is always fitted to our true nature.

Childrens' Liturgy of the Word I am delighted to be able to say that in the near future we will be re-starting our Childrens' Liturgy of the Word at the 10 am Sunday Mass. During Mass children aged 3 – 8 years will be invited to hear the Sunday gospel and explore its meaning in a setting suited to them. I am grateful to the 3 parishioners who have volunteered to lead teams, but we now need to recruit a few other adult helpers to each team. The helper's role is to support the leader in exploring the Gospel with the children as well as ensure we always have the correct ratio of adults to children. The requirements are simply to be willing to support the group leader and share your faith with young children. If you are interested, please speak with Julie, Marie or Anne-Marie, our team leaders, Cathy, our parish safeguarding rep, or Fr Christopher at the end of Mass. There will be someone to take contact details after Masses this weekend and for the next couple of weekends. This role will require a DBS check. Thank-you.

Caritas Sunday this year is 28 January. It is an opportunity for parishes and individuals across our diocese to reflect on the work of Caritas over the last year, and a chance to find out more about what Caritas does to

support people in our diocese in need of all different kind. There will be a second collection for the work of Caritas on 28 January.

DBS Clinic Cathy, our parish safeguarding rep, will be available on Wednesday 17 January from about 7 pm (during the parish finance committee meeting) to help new parish volunteers complete the forms for a Church DBS check. Existing volunteers whose DBS has expired are also welcome to attend to start the renewal process.

Parish Finance and Property Committee Meeting There will be a meeting of the parish's Finance and Property Committee this Wednesday, 17 January at 7pm.

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.

Sacred Heart Primary School Class led assemblies continue this term with 5B on Friday 19th January 2024 at 3pm.

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

Diocesan Synod - Big Listen Closing Soon. Over the past few months, parishes, schools, groups, and individuals have been coming together to discern the future of our diocese through the Big Listen stage of our diocesan synod. This time has coincided with my first few months here at Sacred Heart, so I apologise that we have not engaged with this process yet. In order to give anyone an opportunity to contribute who wishes there is a form available on the diocesan website <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/> or, for those unable to use the online form, there are some paper forms for people to take away and complete. Please return as soon as possible.

2025 'Pilgrims of Hope' Jubilee

During Advent, Pope Francis invited people across the world to embark on a Year of Prayer in preparation for the 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope' Jubilee. The Diocese of Salford website has some resources/suggestions for how parishes can get involved in this Year of Prayer. Head to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/> to find out more.

Caritas Salford Every Step Campaign.

If you're looking for a new challenge for the New Year, why not check out the Caritas Salford website? Their brand new Every Step campaign is encouraging us all to pledge to do something this year that pushes us out of our comfort zone, and there are lots of ways you can get involved. Whether you take on a baking challenge, a 10k run or the ultimate quiz-a-thon, there's something for everyone, and the charity also has places in the Great Manchester Run and Manchester Half Marathon as well as a range of other runs available. Visit the website <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/every-step/> for more information.

Homes for Ukraine Caritas Diocese of Salford invites you to an event that explores a little more about the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Organised by St John of God Hospitaller Services and the Caritas Social Action Network, the event aims to shed light on the impact the scheme has made on families and

individuals affected by the invasion and how you can continue to support them today. The event takes place between 2 and 3.30pm on Saturday 3 February at Salford Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, M3 6DP. Find out more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/homes-for-ukraine/>

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 visit www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/fundraising or phone the pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209

Day Retreat Programme: Intro to Christian Meditation The Diocese of Salford's Day Retreat Programme returns in 2024 with a particular focus on Christian Meditation. The retreat takes place on Saturday 10th February 2024 between 11.30am and 3pm at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella's in Lostock Hall. Places are limited, so please book ahead by calling 01772 335387 or emailing office@saintgerards.org.uk.

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. Closing date 17th February 2024.

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.

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).

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 support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid. Thank you for your prayers.

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.

Collection During December the offertory collection and standing orders totalled £3209.77. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.