



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 3rd March
3rd Sunday of Lent
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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday 7pm

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Exodus 20: 1-17

The Law was given through Moses.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 18:8-11 r John 6:68

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Here we are preaching a crucified Christ, an obstacle to men, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.

Gospel

John 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

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

According to John, the cleansing of the Temple took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, on the first of Jesus' four visits to Jerusalem. At each subsequent visit the Temple authorities lay in wait for Jesus, increasingly keen to eliminate him, but unable to do so until his hour had come. The other gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, place as the final climax both this incident and all other scenes of Jesus in Jerusalem. Whichever is correct, the incident is the basic cause of Jesus' arrest and tortured death. By his action, Jesus had demonstrated that the worship carried out in the Temple was vain in God's eyes and must be superseded. To the Temple authorities, this was intolerable, and he must be removed. Again, Jesus demanded a complete reversal of standards. His puzzling saying about building the Temple anew in his body was at last understood by his disciples to mean the Temple that was his Body, the Church. The material building that had been the centre of worship was no longer important. Henceforth all worship would take place in any place, but within the Christian community. The community – or the Church – was now the place of sanctification and of prayer to God. What do you think Jesus was trying to show by his demonstration in the Temple?

SMA Fathers annual mission appeal

Thank you for making Fr Tom Ryan so welcome last weekend and for your generosity in the second collection to support the work of the SMA Fathers, which raised £707.51

CAFOD Family Fast Day: There is still plenty of time to return your Fast Day envelope, either through the offertory basket or through the presbytery door. Thank you.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent at 7pm. All welcome.

Sacramental Programme

Congratulations to those children who celebrated their first confession this week. The next Sunday celebration for the children is on 10 March at 10 am. Please continue to remember them all in your prayers.

Sacred Heart Primary School Class led assemblies continue this term with 3F on Friday 8 March 2024 at 3pm.

St Joseph's High School. Wed 6 March – St Joseph's is hosting and leading a Lenten retreat day for the GIFT teams from all our partner primary schools using the Stations of the Cross.

Tues 19 March - Feast of St Joseph –

On this day all students will be attending Mass, celebrated by Fr Richrd, Fr Christopher and Fr Morrough. Students will also be taking part in a run/walk to help clock up their kilometres for our Lenten fundraising 'Joeys go from pike to peak' to raise money for Caritas Salford and for CAFOD. <https://www.justgiving.com/team/joeyspiketopeak> Students will also take part in sessions on St Joseph, writing a new school prayer to commemorate our 60th anniversary and eco activities.

Thursday 21 March – St Joseph's will again be hosting the Easter event with our primary schools starting at 6pm. This will feature prayers and reflections created by all students on their Lenten retreat day at the start of the month. All in the community are welcome to attend this event.

St Joseph's are also continuing with their work in the local community with regular visits to Swallowfield Gardens residential home. This half

term students will be visiting residents to perform music, sit and read to residents, play board games rounded off by Easter bingo.

St Joseph's Penny and Lent appeal:

Caritas Salford has lots of information and resources on its website about how you can join in with this year's Lent and St Joseph's Penny appeals. Get the latest news and resources - as well as your free St Joseph's Penny box to collect coins to donate during Lent at www.caritassalford.org.uk/SJP

Caritas Diocese of Salford Appeal for Volunteers

Our diocesan charity Caritas Salford is looking for people who may be willing to volunteer their time to help advocate for positive accessibility solutions, identifying unmet needs and encouraging change. The team is also looking for Caritas Parish Reps who might be able to help support their work in our parishes. Find out more about these and other volunteering roles with Caritas Salford now:

www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer

Great Manchester Run

Caritas Diocese of Salford is looking for people to take on this year's Great Manchester Run to raise funds to support its work across the diocese. Our diocesan charity works to provide vital support to people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, and discrimination. Find out more at www.caritassalford.org.uk/EveryStep

Lent resources During Lent, the diocese will be sharing a range of resources to accompany people in prayer over the coming weeks. The resources have been created to support our journey throughout this Year of Prayer, as we prepare for the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee in 2025. Resources can be accessed via the diocesan social media channels or by visiting the website at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-2024-rediscovering-prayer/>

Make a change to change a life -

Caritas Salford. Whether you're making a change to your diet, fasting, amending your behaviour or adapting your thoughts and focus...as you pray, fast and give this Lent, the change you're making could also help to change a life. By remembering Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, during Lent, your donations and prayers will

make a real difference to the lives of the local people in Greater Manchester and Lancashire they support. People in our communities facing acute poverty, disadvantage, homelessness and isolation. Find out more about how you can get involved or make a donation now: www.caritassalford.org.uk/SJP

Day Retreat: Ignatian Prayer and Discernment.

Discover more about Ignatian Prayer and Discernment as a popular day retreat programme returns to our diocese. The session takes place between 11.30am - 3pm on Tuesday 5 March at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella's, Lostock Hall. Places are limited, so please book ahead by calling 01772 335387 or email office@saintgerards.org.uk

Care for Creation: Commitments, Actions, and Participation

Bishop John has been invited to speak at an environment conference hosted by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Justice and Peace Commission this spring. The event - taking place between 10am and 3.30pm on Saturday 9th March at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Wigan - aims to reflect on some of the biggest climate challenges our planet is facing and how our Catholic faith calls us to action. Find out more at <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/environment>

Young Adults Mass and Stations of the Cross.

Join our Young Adults Ministry Team at 4pm on Sunday 10th March as we enlist the sound of a live string quartet to help us meditate on Christ's final journey before our monthly Mass for Young Adults. With thought-provoking reflections from our young adults, this beautiful version of the Stations is designed to help us on a journey of self-reflection and to help prepare ourselves for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Stations will be followed with time for private prayer and opportunities for confession, before Mass begins at 5.30pm. Please join us for a relaxed social afterwards!

Caritas Diocese of Salford Fundraiser

Clergy band The Mercy Brothers will be heading to Bolton for a special St Patrick's Day fundraiser. The band will be joining forces with the parish folk group from St Cuthbert's for a fun-

filled evening of music making to raise money for Caritas Diocese of Salford.

The concert will take place on Friday 15th March, 7pm, at Thornleigh Salesian College. Tickets are £12 each (food will be included) and are available by emailing office@stcuthberts.org.uk

Stations of the Cross at the Laudato Si' Centre.

Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team on Saturday 16th March for a special Stations of the Cross in the midst of nature. Experience a reflective journey through the Stations, contemplating the Passion of Christ in the serene setting of the Centre's beautiful woodlands. All are welcome to join us at one of our three sessions. For more information and to book, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lsc-stations-2024/>

Pro-life amendment

/decriminalisation of abortion -

David Earley, Chair of SPUC Wigan Borough branch is asking parishioners to contact their MP regarding two separate forthcoming votes on amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill in Parliament. One is pro-life: to reduce the term limit for abortion to 22-weeks from the current 24-weeks which is to be supported, and to oppose the other, decriminalisation of abortion for any reason. A simple message could be: "Please support reducing the term limit of abortion to 22-weeks and oppose decriminalisation." An easy way to do this is via the automated online form on the homepage on the SPUC or Right to Life UK websites.

John Stainer's *The Crucifixion*

A special performance of John Stainer's *The Crucifixion* is heading to St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst this Lent. Taking place on Saturday 23 March at 4pm, this poignant piece will be performed by Salford Cathedral Choir, Salford Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Cambiata Boys' Choir. All are welcome to attend.

Collections: The total offertory collection including standing orders for February was £1849.69. The Mission Appeal taken on behalf of the SMA Fathers raised £707.51. Thank you for your continued generosity.