



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 21st April
4th Sunday of Easter
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

Acts 4: 8-12

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117:1.8-9,21-23,26.28-29

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2

We shall see God as he really is.

Gospel

John 10:11-18

The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

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

Each year on this Sunday there is a reading from the gospel of St. John about the Good Shepherd. To think of ourselves as woolly and cuddly sheep, obedient to the shepherd, would be a mistake. Sheep are renowned as being silly, contradictory creatures, always starting off in the wrong direction, getting themselves into tangles and difficulties. In the Holy Land, they are scraggy beasts, pastured on rocky, often dangerous ground, amid boulders and rocky cliffs, threatened by wild animals and marauders. It was not simply a matter of the shepherd sitting on a rock and idly playing his pipe. He needed to be on the alert to save the sheep from hurting themselves. So Jesus as the good shepherd is kept well occupied by our foibles, our stubbornness, our mistakes and our fears. Again, as in the other two readings today, there is the reassurance of a close relationship with the Father. Jesus knows us intimately, just as he knows the Father. It is questionable whether in real life a shepherd should lay down his life for his sheep: what would happen to the remainder of the flock? But it is an expression of his whole-hearted devotion to the sheep, and an assimilation to the case of Jesus.

First Holy Communion

congratulations to the children making their first holy communion at this time. Please continue to pray for them. The piety stall has a selection of cards and gifts.

Parish CAFOD Group: There will be a meeting to re launch the parish CAFOD group this Thursday 25 April at 7pm. All welcome.

Parish Finance and Property

Committee has been rearranged for Wednesday 24th April at 7pm. We will discuss the recently received property condition report a copy of which is available on the noticeboard for anyone to read.

Sacred Heart Primary School Class led assemblies continue at 3pm on Friday April 26 - Class 4C. All welcome.

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

Charity Fun Quiz Night At Sacred Heart Parish Hall on Friday 10th May at 7.30 pm you are invited to join with friends to enter a team in a quiz night

to raise funds for HCPT, who take disabled and disadvantaged children to Lourdes each year. Tickets are £6 per person; you can have any number in a team and may bring your own drink. Tickets on sale after masses or from Joe Roberts on 07402332955.

Good Shepherd Sunday This weekend, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday and to mark this year in a special way, we're delighted to share with you a newsletter from our Vocations Team. Please scan the QR code below for the latest updates on vocations to the priesthood and permanent diaconate in our diocese:



Ecclesiastical Education Fund The annual collection for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund will take place next weekend 27/28 April at both Masses. This is the fund which supports the training of future priests and priests engaged in further studies. As someone who has benefitted from

this fund in both categories, I do ask for your generous support.

Diocesan Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood The Diocese of Salford's Vocations team invites you to join our next Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood. The Mass will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd April, at St Catherine's Didsbury. All are very welcome to attend as we pray together for the future of the priesthood in our diocese.

Talks on the Four Constitutions of Vatican II In response to Pope Francis' invitation to revisit the Four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council, the Diocese of Salford is holding a series of four evening talks after Easter. Find out more about the series and register your interest at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/constitutions-talks/>

Local Nature Reserve Survey As part of the preparation of the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy, GMCA have launched a survey to engage the public, local community groups and organisations, with the strategy. Everyone can take part in the survey, which can be found by visiting www.gmconsult.org/environment-team-policy-and-strategy/greater-manchester-s-plan-for-nature/

Northern Dioceses' Environment Group The Northern Dioceses' Environment Group (NDEG) invites parishes and individuals to a workshop to find out more about how our food supply system links to our faith. The event, titled "Faith in Food - Thinking and acting both locally and globally about our food system" takes place on Saturday 18th May between 11am and 3:30pm at St Wilfrid's Church, Preston, PR1 8BU. To register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-in-food-tickets-879396337117>

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

Bishop John's message for Caritas Salford campaign - Why Every Step Matters. Bishop John Arnold has recorded a special video message about Caritas Salford's 2024 campaign, which is asking us to do something this year that pushes us out of our comfort zone. You can watch the video and find out more about how you can take on a challenge to support people in your local community here:
<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/bishop-john-every-step/>

Diocesan 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 3 May and return on Saturday 4 May 2024. For further details please contact:
youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Diocesan Day Retreat: The Cloud of Unknowing. Our diocesan day retreat programme continues in May with a closer look at the mystical text, The Cloud of Unknowing. Dating back to the 14th century, this profound work offers a spiritual guide to contemplative prayer. The retreat runs 11.30am - 3pm on Monday 13th May at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella's, Lostock Hall, and costs £20 to attend. Find out more and register
<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/retreat-at-may-2024/>

Manchester and Salford Ecumenical Whit Walk The annual Manchester and Salford Ecumenical Whit Walk is set to return for another year of prayerful celebration. Taking place on Mon 27 May, the walk will begin at 10am from Manchester Cathedral Gardens, and the group will process to St Peter's Square for an Act of Worship. Individuals, families, and groups are all welcome to attend!

Cemetery Mass. A special outdoor Mass will take place at St Joseph's RC Cemetery, Moston, on Monday 27th May. The Mass, led by Canon Paul Daly, will begin at 11am. An additional Mass is also due to take place at the cemetery on Monday 26th August, 11am. In the event of

wet weather, Mass will take place at St Dunstan's church.

Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee 2025 Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Year of Jubilee – an event that happens every 25 years. The theme for the upcoming Jubilee is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. To find out more about the Jubilee and this preparatory Year of Prayer, please visit
<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/>

Advertisement for new Trustees of CaTEW The Catholic Trust for England and Wales is sharing an opportunity to join its committed board of trustees. CaTEW provides, through the Conference Secretariat, a centre of knowledge and capability for assisting the Bishops and Dioceses in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and supporting the communities of faith in England and Wales. Find out more at
<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CaTEW-new-trustees.pdf> or email
HR@cbcew.org.uk

Job Vacancies. Find out more and apply at
<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>



Knowing Jesus means more than knowing about him. It means to accept him as central to our lives and decisions. If we are his sheep and he is our shepherd then we have to listen out for his voice calling us always to greener pastures. The challenge is to know where to listen.