



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 28th April
5th Sunday of Easter
Year B

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 10 am
Monday – Friday No Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Acts 9: 26-31

Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21: 26-28, 30-32

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Second Reading

1 John 3: 18-24

The commandment of faith and love.

Gospel

John 15: 1-8

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Facebook: @SHJWParish

Suggested items for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter may be emailed to

SHJWesthoughtonNewsletter@outlook.com

Please submit items for inclusion by midday on Thursday.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

A vine is an extraordinary plant. It can grow to a huge size, spreading over a large area, a whole garden wall or trellis work, all from one single root, and it produces a rich sap that yields grapes at the end of countless little branches. And then there is the business of pruning: cut it back thoroughly on all its many shoots and tendrils, and it seems only more determined to grow thick and strong. So the vine was the symbol of Israel, drawing from the Lord a sap that penetrated to all its shoots, and lovingly pruned by the gardener in a way that best encouraged its growth. The image was taken over by Jesus for his own community, the new Israel. Pairing with last week's picture of the good shepherd, it is one of the greatest of John's images. It perfectly sums up the two emphases of today's other two readings. The only source of fruitful energy for the Christian is union with and dependence on the life flowing from Christ. Without that, the branches wither and die; a trimming cut off from a vine no longer has any chance of life. The vine itself at pruning season looks stark, rough and suffering. It is, in fact, bursting with new life. How have you benefited from the vinedresser's pruning knife?

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all the children of our parish who have made their First Communion this year. There will be a final celebration later in May when all the children can get together. The piety stall continues to stock a selection of cards and gifts, should a child in your family be making their First Communion elsewhere in the coming weeks.

Canon Law Society Annual

Conference I will be away this week attending the annual conference of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland which this year is being held in Krakow, Poland. In consequence there will be no weekday Mass. Thank you for your understanding.

'Hail Queen of Heaven' Concert Here at Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday 22 May at 7pm. Salford Cathedral Choir and Choirs from our own Sacred Heart Primary School will perform one hour of concert music in honour of Our Blessed Lady including well known hymns for all to sing. Free admission, with a retiring collection towards Salford Cathedral Music Foundation. All welcome.

Sacred Heart School Class led

assemblies continue at 3pm on Friday 10th May – Class 4CD. 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.

Ecclesiastical Education Fund

The annual collection for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund will take place this weekend 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.

CAFOD'S Sudan Crisis Appeal - Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan crisis appeal in church on 18/19 May or at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers. You can also text CAFODSUDAN to 70450 to donate £10

Mass to mark Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse Tuesday 30th April is the Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse. Celebrated each year on the Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter, it is a day on which the Catholic Church in England and Wales holds in prayer all who have been abused, in whatever way, by another, whether within the Church or any other setting. It is a day not only to recommit to learn from past mistakes and make the Church a safe setting for all but also a day to reflect on the Church's ministry of healing and welcome to Survivors/Victims. At 6pm on Tuesday 30th April Bishop John will celebrate Mass to mark this Day at St. Patrick's, Livesey Street, Collyhurst. All are warmly invited to join him.

Volunteer Registrations for Lourdes pilgrimage closing soon. There's not long left for volunteers to register for the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in our centenary year. Head to <https://www.salfordlourdes.co.uk>

to find out more and register before 30th April. Aged 18-35? To join the Young Adults Pilgrimage. Email: youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Talks on the Constitutions of Vatican II. The series of weekly talks on the Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council continue into May. The talks have been organised as part of our preparation for the 2025 Year of Jubilee, in response to Pope Francis' invitation to learn more about these important documents.

The last talk takes place next week: *Wednesday 1 May – The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes) – Phil Callaghan (Young Christian*

Workers) To find out more and to register, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/>

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 closes on the 30th of April. It 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/>