



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 16th June 2024
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6 pm
Sunday	10 am
Monday – Thursday	9 am
Friday	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Ezekiel 17: 22-24

I will plant a shoot on the high mountain of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 91: 2-3, 13-16

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.

Gospel

Mark 4: 26-34

It is the smallest of seeds; yet it grows into the biggest shrub of them all.

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

The task of prophet Ezekiel was to keep up the spirits of the Jews exiled to Babylon. For them, it seemed that the Sack of Jerusalem was the end of all hope: they had lost their homes, their King, their Temple and even their covenant with God. Ezekiel was a person of fantastic imagination, not afraid to indulge in wild and daring mimes to force through his message that God was still in charge and still caring for Israel. He mimed the siege of Jerusalem by building a mud brick model and escaping through the wall. His visions are also daring and inspiring. Perhaps the best known is the Valley of the Dead Bones, prophesying that Israel will come to life again, and read at our Easter Vigil. The present chapter is an imaginative allegory about a great cedar tree despoiled by two eagles, that is, Israel despoiled by Babylon and Egypt. Our reading is a tailpiece, promising that Israel will again become a great cedar tree, in whose shade the nations will come to take shelter. The gospel parable uses the same figure of a great tree in which all peoples will shelter. The great cedars on the mountains of the Lebanon are an awesome and unforgettable sight, stretching far into the sky and wide across the hills, a suitable refuge for great birds.

Forthcoming Funerals: On Tuesday 18 June the funeral service for Bill Jones takes place in Sacred Heart Church at 10.30 am. On Monday 1 July the requiem Mass for Teresa Liles will take place at 10 am, and on Tuesday 2 July the requiem Mass for Jean Atherton takes place at 9.30 am. Please remember Bill, Teresa and Jean, their family and friends, in your prayers at this time.

Euro '24 Football Predictor Game

Good luck to everyone who has taken part. First prize will be £25, second prize £15 and third prize £10. Proceeds to parish funds.

Altar Servers: I would like to recruit some new or returning altar servers who will help with our celebration of Sunday Mass. If you are interested, please see Fr Christopher.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

recommences this Sunday, 9 June at the 10 am Mass. This is an opportunity for children from 3-8 years and who have not yet made their first holy communion to celebrate the Sunday's scripture readings in an age-appropriate way. I am grateful to the volunteer catechists who have made this

possible. Please register your child as you arrive for Mass.

Sacred Heart School Class led assemblies continue next on Friday 28th June at 3pm-class RB. All welcome.

St Joseph's High School. You're the one that we want! The Performing Arts department at St Joseph's would like to invite you to our production of Grease the musical. The event will take place in our school hall on the evenings of 9th, 10th and 11th of July at 7pm. Our fantastic pupils have been working super hard and it's going to be something you won't want to miss. Tickets are available via the EventBrite link <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/venueplan/RdiEJKhzXNnT> or by using your phone to scan the QR code on the poster in the church entrance. Get ready to hand jive your way back to the 1970s!

Advanced notice - Confirmation of students from St Joseph's will take place on Thursday 26 September 2024 at Sacred Heart, Westhoughton. Bishop John will be in attendance to celebrate this sacrament with our young people.

Day for Life – 16th June 2024

On Sunday 16th June, we celebrate the Day for Life. This year's theme is "The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life", which allows us to reflect on end-of-life care amid national debates on assisted suicide. A wide range of resources can be found on the Bishops' Conference of England Wales' website at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/>

The Day for Life has also received a special blessing from the Holy Father, which can be found via this link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-francis-gives-his-blessing-to-day-for-life/>

Mercy Brothers SVP Fundraiser

Clergy-based band The Mercy Brothers are holding a fundraising concert to help support development of the Young Vincentian programmes in Salford and Shrewsbury dioceses. The concert will take place on Friday 21st June at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Flint Street, Stockport SK3 8GE at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15 per person and can be purchased on the day or online at <https://tinyurl.com/mercybrothersconcert>

Information and Guidance on Upcoming Elections

In light of the upcoming general elections on July 4, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has shared very useful resources that offer information and guidance on key topics of interest to Catholic voters. The resources can be viewed online at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/>

SVP and CAFOD working together in the run up to the General Election As Catholics, we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among the most important issues politicians face. The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information.

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 12.00pm on Saturday 22nd June, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Moorside Road, Swinton M27 9PD. All are very welcome to attend as we pray together for the future of the priesthood in our diocese.

Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee 2025 Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Year of Jubilee – an event that happens every 25 years. To find out more about the Jubilee and this preparatory Year of Prayer, please visit:

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/>

Discernment Workshops on 25 June: a series of online workshops looking at the principles and practice of Ignatian Discernment. Open to young adults (20s and 30s). To register and for further information please email: FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com

Four Key Themes Announced from Diocesan Synod

The Diocese of Salford has recently shared the four key themes to have emerged from the Big Listen stage of our diocesan synod, which drew to a close in January. The four themes are:

- Nurturing Faith in Tomorrow's World
- Building Connections
- Enabling Access
- Fostering Christ-like Care.

To find out more about the latest updates, what's next for our diocesan synod, or how you can get involved, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/synod-gathering-1/>

Get Social Are you aged 18-35? Are you looking to celebrate your faith with other young Catholic adults across the diocese? Give the Diocese of Salford Young Adults Ministry a follow on Instagram! For the latest on upcoming events, opportunities to connect and get involved, as well as regular content and resources to nurture your faith life on the go, simply search @salfordyouth on Instagram.

Support for people who were in Ireland's Mother and Baby and County Homes

We have been contacted by Irish Community Care and associated charity, Freá, with the request to share the following notice:

The Irish Government Mother and Baby and County Home payment scheme is open for applications to people who spent time in one of 44 institutions that existed across the Republic of Ireland from 1922 to 1998. If you were in one of these homes and would like free and confidential support to apply for a payment or to access counselling, obtain Early Life Records, try to trace a family member, or even for just a chat please contact Patrick Rodgers at Fréa – Renewing Roots on 07432138682.

Diocesan Day Retreat: The Fire & The Well & The Cloak

As part of our Day Retreat Programme, another session is taking place on Saturday 6th July at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella Catholic Church, Brownedge Road, Lostock Hall, PR5 5AA. The theme for this session is "The Fire and The Well and The Cloak". It will explore the spirituality of the wonderful Saint Brigid and her compelling symbolism. It will start at 11.30am and will finish at 3pm and costs £20. Find out more and register <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/retreat-july-2024/>

Madonna Del Rosario procession

The annual Madonna Del Rosario procession, organised by the Manchester Italian Association, will take place on Sunday 7 July 2024. The procession will begin at 1.15pm from St Michael's (former church), George Leigh Street, in Ancoats. It will continue through Manchester City Centre to St Peter's Square. All are welcome to join this wonderful celebration.

Job Vacancies

Grant and Bid Writer - Diocese of Salford (replacement role)
Appointment Type: Full-time, permanent
Working Hours: 35 hours per week to be worked Monday to Friday
Location: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP
Salary: £36,338 – £40,289 per annum
Find out more and apply at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>