



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Year C**

## **MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Saturday          | 6 pm     |
| Sunday            | 10.00 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**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

I will cause a righteous Branch to  
spring up for David.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

### **Second Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4: 2**

May the Lord establish your hearts for  
the coming of Christ.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Psalm 84: 8**

Show us, O Lord your mercy,  
and grant us your salvation.

### **Gospel**

**Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36**

Your redemption is drawing  
near.

**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 Thursday.**

## **THE WORD THIS WEEK**

Jeremiah lived and exercised his prophet ministry at the darkest moment of Israel's history, when the storm clouds of invasion were gathering, and the Babylonian conquest and exile seemed inevitable. In the reading we hear today, against all odds, Jeremiah prophesies that the promise made long ago to David will not fail. Jerusalem will be sacked, but the promise remains that the city will be named 'the Lord is our Saving Justice'. The justice of God is not like human justice, conformity with the law. It is God's fulfilling his promises made to Abraham, Moses and David. So at this dire moment Jeremiah renews those promises that the stock of David will never fail, and gives a corresponding symbolic name to the city of David. Today's gospel speaks of another destruction of Jerusalem, that wrought by the Romans in 70AD, and looks beyond it to the final coming of Christ. So several layers are envisaged: the seeming loss of the promise at the Sack of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, which will be restored by the coming of Christ at the incarnation, and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, which is the prelude to and promise of the final coming of Christ. In all these, the Lord is our Saving Justice.

**New Lectionary Resources** With the new edition of the Lectionary for Mass coming into use this weekend, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has signposted us to some useful resources introducing the new edition, what changes have been made, and why. Find out more at [www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary/) I encourage everyone, but especially our parish readers, to have a look at these resources.

**Advent Resources:** Please take one of the Walk with me booklets which has a prayer and reflection for every day of Advent. For our younger parishioners there is an Advent Calendar with a suggestion for a prayer or activity to make this season a holy time. Also, CAFOD have sent a prayer card in the form of Advent candles for every family in the parish.

### **Advent and Christmas Dates:**

Tuesday 10 December. Whole School Mass in Church 9.30 am. All welcome

Thursday 12 December Key Stage 1  
Nativity in School, 6pm

Wednesday 18 December Key Stage 2  
Readings and Carols in Church,  
1.30pm and 7pm

### **Church Christmas Tree Decoration**

The children of the parish are invited to help decorate the Church Christmas Tree after Mass on Sunday 22 December.

### **Christmas Mass Times:**

Christmas Eve, 8pm, Carols and readings from 7.30pm

Christmas Day 10 am.

**Forthcoming Funerals** Please pray for the eternal repose of Tom Newton and Jennie Mulheran who have died. Tom's Requiem Mass will be here on Friday 13 December at 10 am, and Jennie's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 19 December at 10 am. Please pray also for Tom and Jennie's family and friends at this time.

**Christmas Fare** Thanks to everyone who attended and donated items for the joint Parish and School Christmas Fare.

**Christmas Raffle:** Winners are on the noticeboard. Prizes may be collected from the stewards.

**Diocesan almanac:** the new diocesan yearbook is available from the piety stall, at £5

**Coffee Mornings** – our next coffee morning will be after this Sunday's

Mass and then on the 15<sup>th</sup> December. All welcome.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Sunday Mass. This is an opportunity for children 3-8 yrs old and who have not yet made their first holy communion to celebrate the Sunday's scripture readings in an age-appropriate way. Please register your child as you arrive for Mass.

**Volunteers needed** - we are truly delighted at the number of children taking part in the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, but it does mean we have to be careful to keep the correct ratio of adult volunteers to children. Would you be willing to join the team? Please speak with Fr Christopher, Julie or Cathy. This role will require a DBS check.

**Winter Ready** at the last Parish Finance and Property meeting we discussed ensuring our paths and car parks remained safe during the winter period. Are there any able-bodied parishioners who would volunteer to help apply salt and clear snow should the weather turn icy? Please speak with Fr Christopher if you can help.

**Altar Servers:** Our new altar servers are doing really well, if anyone who is in year 6 or attending secondary school/college would like to support our younger parishioners in this role, they would be very welcome. Please speak with Fr Christopher.



**CAFOD and Caritas** have both launched their alternative Christmas gift catalogues. If you don't know what to get a loved one, why not make a contribution to the work of these charities?

**Laudato Si' Centre - Advent Wreath Workshop** Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team on

Friday 6 December for the return of its Advent Wreath Workshop, where you will have the opportunity to learn how to create your own wreath from natural materials under the guidance of our skilled team. Find out more and book at <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/wreath-workshop>

**Becoming Pilgrims of Hope: Advent Talks** – A series of talks exploring the theme of hope is set to begin this Advent as we embark on the 2025 Year of Jubilee. Join Sr Joan Kerley, FMSJ, and Maria Kidd as they unpick our Advent readings to explore some of the themes that are central to the concept of Jubilee. The talks will take place on 6 and 13 December between 10am and 12.30pm at Wardley Hall. Find out more and register [dioceseofsalford.org.uk/advent-hope-talk-1](https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/advent-hope-talk-1)

**Diocesan Mass for Young Adults** Our Diocesan Mass for Young Adults returns to St Augustine's in Manchester with a festive feel! Join us at 5.30pm on Sunday 8 December as we gather together for Mass before enjoying some seasonal treats and the return of our series of talks exploring the Catholic faith. All are welcome!

**Advent Retreat (Age 15 to Young Adults) at Castlerigg Manor** Bookings will close for the Advent Retreat at Castlerigg on December 11<sup>th</sup> at Midday. The open retreats at Castlerigg give teens and young adults a great way to make friends, deepen their faith, and have some fun and they usually prove very popular. The weekend costs £65 but anyone who might struggle with this is invited to get in touch. Further details – [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk). Sign up at [castleriggmanor.com](https://castleriggmanor.com) >> what's coming up.

**Carol Services.** The Diocese of Salford is delighted to announce the return of its Salford Schools Singing Programme (SSP) Carol Services, which will take place in churches across the diocese this December. For a full list of dates and locations for our services, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/ssp-carol-services-24/>

**Caritas is buzzing about new launch...** Have you seen the special short animation and new campaign for Advent from our diocesan charity

Caritas Salford? This year they are asking people to make a real difference this Christmas and not make it all about the tinsel, the parties, and the supermarket queues. Watch the specially created animation, find out more, donate, or take part in the appeal in another way:

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/beethere](https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/beethere)

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2025** Our diocesan pilgrimage office is now taking bookings for its next annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. Next year's pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 3 May 2025, with an option to extend your visit by staying overnight on Friday 2 May. For more information, prices, and details on how to book, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-pilgrimage-2025> or call 0161 817 2209.

**Caritas Driver** Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity that supports people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire, is in urgent need of the support of a volunteer van driver. Van drivers are vital to Caritas services and are essential to their day-to-day running. If you can drive, have a few hours to spare each week, and want to help Caritas to support people across the diocese, then please contact their volunteer coordinator Matt on [m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk) or visit [www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer](https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer)

**A Call to Lead - A Post-Confirmation Programme** A new post-confirmation programme has been developed by Salford Youth Ministry and the Young Christian Workers Movement to bridge the gap between confirmation and adult formation, with the aim of helping young people to grow in faith and become active leaders of the parish community. For more information about the programme, please visit: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/a-call-to-lead>

**CAFOD-DEC Middle East**

**Humanitarian Appeal** - The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give)