



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 8th December 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent
Year C

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6 pm
Sunday	10.00 am
Mon, Wed, Thurs	9 am
Tuesday joined by whole school community	9.30 am
Friday – Requiem	
Tom Newton	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Baruch 5: 1-9

God will show your splendour.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 125: 1-2b, 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R.3

What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

Second Reading

Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11

Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3: 4,6

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Gospel

Luke 3: 1-6

All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

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

The part of the Book of Baruch from which our first reading is taken this week is a meditation on the prophet Isaiah's promises for Jerusalem at the return of Israel from Exile in Babylon. It is, of course, taken up by John the Baptist in his proclamation that the high mountains will be flattened and the valleys filled in to make a smooth road for the Messiah to cross the desert to Jerusalem. There were many aspects of the expected Messiah, the harbinger of God's Kingship. For Isaiah, it was a conquering hero, his garments stained with the blood of his victories. In this prophecy, the reign of God is more peaceful, a heartfelt dedication to God and the values of the divine sovereignty, for at this coming of God the names of Jerusalem shall be 'Peace through Justice' and 'Glory through Devotion'. True peace is possible only through the saving justice of God, when the people of God truly act as God's representatives, made in the image of God, and the envoys of his saving values. The ideal of God's Kingdom appears in the Garden of Eden before the Fall, when his representatives, Adam and Eve, lived in perfect harmony with one another and with God's whole creation.

Monday: is the feast of the Immaculate conception of Our Lady, this year transferred from Sunday.

New Lectionary Resources The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has signposted us to some useful resources introducing what changes have been made, and why. Find out more at

www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary/
I encourage everyone, but especially our parish readers, to have a look at these resources.

Advent and Christmas Dates:

Tuesday 10 December. Whole school Mass in church 9.30am. 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 10am

Forthcoming Funerals Please pray for the eternal repose of Tom Newton and Jennie Mulheran. Tom's Requiem is This Friday Dec. 13th at 10am and Jennie's on Thursday Dec. 19th at 10am. Please pray for their families and friends at this time.

Coffee Mornings – our next coffee morning will be on the 15th 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 delighted at the number of children taking part in the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, but 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.

Altar Servers: 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.

Advent Talks – talks exploring the theme of hope are 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 Dec. between 10am and 12.30pm at Wardley Hall. Find out more and register dioceseofsalford.org.uk/advent-hope-talk-1

In the Footsteps of Mary: An Advent Prayer Walk Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team this December for a reflective prayer walk around the Centre's beautiful woodland. This self-guided trail invites us to focus on Mary's journey to Bethlehem and the example she sets us as we continue our own spiritual journey in this season of Advent. A number of sessions will be taking place on Wednesday 18th December. Find out more at <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/advent-retreat/>

Advent Retreat (Age 15 to Young Adults) at Castlerigg Manor Bookings will close for the Advent Retreat at Castlerigg on December 11th 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.

Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee in our Diocese Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church, an event that takes place once every 25 years and offers the faithful an opportunity to renew their relationship with God, each other, and all of creation. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to observe this special year of grace in our own diocese. To find out more and how to get involved, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/>

Opening Mass for the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Our diocese will mark the start of the Jubilee year with Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, on

Sunday 29th Dec. at 2pm at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church. All are welcome to join us as we mark the start of this special year of grace.

Jubilee of Youth - Pilgrimage to Rome. Young adults are invited to join our diocesan Youth Ministry Team for a special Jubilee of youth pilgrimage to Rome next year. Our pilgrimage will take place between 28 July and 4 August. Email youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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?

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!

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 list of dates and locations for our services, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/ssp-carol-services-24/>

Caritas is buzzing about new launch... There is a 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 tinsel, parties, and 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

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 or visit 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

Christmas Fair: Thank you to everyone who supported the joint parish and school Christmas fair. A total of £2815.62 was raised to be split between us.

There are still 3 unclaimed prizes from the Christmas Raffle White and Red ticket 526-530 Rory Hardman; Green ticket 731-735; and, Green ticket 446-450 Dolecki. Please see one of the stewards to claim your prize

Collections: The total offertory collection for November, including standing orders and donations made on the card machine totaled £2843.76. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Vacancies:

For all vacancies at Salford Diocese find out more and apply at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies>