



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 22nd December 2024
4th Sunday of Advent
Year C

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

See body of newsletter for details

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
Christmas Eve – after 9 am Mass.

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Micah 5: 2-5a

From you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm: 79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Behold, I have come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1: 38

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.

Gospel

Luke 1: 39-45

'Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'

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

On this final Sunday of Advent all the concentration is on Mary as she prepares to give birth to her Son. The prophecy of Micah, our first reading, reminds us that God's standards are utterly different from human standards. Bethlehem was an insignificant little hilltop town, the home of the smallest clan of Judah, in an insignificant and oppressed country. Yet it had two moments of greatness, one when David was anointed king there, the other when Jesus was born. David was the youngest of his father's sons, left to look after the sheep when all his brothers were summoned. He stands in the long tradition in the Bible that God chooses the younger or less distinguished: Abel instead of Cain, Jacob instead of Esau, Joseph the youngest of all Jacob's sons. Jesus seemed to have no visible father at all, and Mary no roof over her head for the birth of her first child. We cannot dare to estimate any person's value in God's eyes, but amid all our striving, all the pushing and shoving for priority, we do have a lurking suspicion that those nearest to God, most marked by the image of God, are the humblest and least distinguished of people. Mary was among them.

Church Christmas Tree Decoration

Reminder that children of the parish are invited to help decorate the Church Christmas Tree after Mass this Sunday.

CHRISTMAS WEEK MASS TIMES

Monday 23rd December 9 am

Tuesday 24th December 9 am followed by confessions.

CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 24th December 8 pm (Carols and readings from 7.30pm)

Wednesday 25th December 10 am

Thursday 26th December 10 am

Friday 27th December 10 am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday 28th December 6 pm

Sunday 29th December 10 am

Monday 30th December Requiem Mass for Cheryl Morris 1.30 pm

Tuesday 31st December 10am

Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday 1st January 10 am

From Thursday 2nd January we return to our usual timetable.

Requiem Mass Cheryl Morris will take place on Monday 30th December at 1.30pm Please remember Cheryl's family and friends at this time.

Coffee Mornings – our coffee mornings in January will be on Sundays 5th & 19th. All welcome.

Thank you to the children of KS2 who led two beautiful and prayerful Advent carol services on Wednesday. Thanks also to the staff and parents for your help.

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.

Crisis support over the Christmas period

If you or anyone in your local community requires support over the Christmas period, Caritas Salford has put together a page on their website which includes information on when their services are open, as well as signposting to other organisations who might also be able to support those in urgent need. You can read more here: www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-christmas-opening-times/

Pilgrims of Hope and A Popular History of the Diocese of Salford

Two brand new books, Pilgrims of Hope, and A Popular History of the Diocese of Salford, written by Monsignor John Allen have gone on sale - with proceeds going to our diocesan charity Caritas Salford. The books, which give fascinating insights into the Catholic history of Greater Manchester and Lancashire can be purchased from the Caritas Salford website using the following links: www.caritassalford.org.uk/pilgrimbook and www.caritassalford.org.uk/historybook

Advice as energy bills continue to rise:

If you, anyone you know, or someone in your wider parish community is in need of support around rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website. You can find out more by visiting <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/fuel-poverty-challenges/> and can also find details on the website page on how to arrange a session with their energy advice service team.

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.

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/>

Christmas Tree Recycling

Our Laudato Si' Centre is once again joining forces with a Christmas Tree recycling project in a bid to care for community and common home. The project raises funds for local charities by collecting used Christmas trees, while chippings from the trees will be repurposed across the Laudato Si' Centre. Find out more: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/christmas-tree-recycling-24>

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

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.

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

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

Vacancies:

Cook: Appointment Type: Part-time, permanent. **Working hours:** 9 hours per week – Worked over two days, Saturday and Sunday. 4.5 hours per day (10:30am – 3pm) **Location:** Cathedral House, 250 Chapel Street, Salford, M3 5LE **Closing date for applications:** 12 noon on Monday 6 January 2025

Parish Administrator Appointment

Type: Part-time, permanent. **Working hours:** 9 hours per week, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:30am- 12:30pm **Location:** St Mary's Presbytery, Duke Street, Denton, M34 2AN **Closing date for applications:** 12 noon on Monday 20 January 2025

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



'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'

