



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

8 LORD STREET, WESTHOUGHTON, BOLTON, BL5 3SE

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Christopher Dawson

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 5th January 2025
Epiphany of the Lord
Year C

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday	5.30 – 5.50 pm
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THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Isaiah 60: 1-6

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 71: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13

All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2: 2-3a, 5-6

It has now been revealed that the Gentiles are fellow heirs of the promise.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2: 2

We saw his star when it rose
And have come to worship the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 2: 1-12

We have come from the east to worship the king.

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 message of the Letter to the Ephesians, from which our second reading today is taken, is that the mystery hidden from the beginning of the ages has in Christ at last been revealed. In the first century there was great expectation of a defining and transforming event. In Christ, this event had taken place. In some of his earlier letters, Paul had already referred to it. Now two other dimensions have become clear. The division between Jews and gentiles is no longer valid, for in Christ all nations are summoned to the salvation promised to Abraham. This was only the completion of the promise that in Abraham all nations would bless themselves. Second, in Christ creation was brought to its completion. Just as all creation was created in Christ, the Word and Wisdom of the Father, just so all creation was summed up and brought to a head in Christ. As Christians we believe this, but to what extent do we live by it? Do we see all creatures, and especially all human creatures, as united with us and making sense only in Christ, even if they do not realize it. What confidence and joy this should give us!

Coffee Mornings – our coffee mornings in January will be after 10am Mass today Sundays 5th, and Sunday 19th. 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.

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/

St Joseph's High School reopens for the Spring Term on Monday 6th January. **Sacred Heart Primary School** reopens on Tuesday 7th January. We wish all pupils and staff a very happy term.

Forthcoming Funeral The funeral service for Gerard Rowen will take place at Sacred Heart Church on Monday 13 January at 1pm. Please remember Ged, and his family and friends at this time.

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.

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

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>

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Religious people get used to strange sounding words and they end up using them without thinking. Epiphany is one such word. We all use it, but we probably just think about the three kings or wise men, and we don't really stop to think what the actual word means.

But if we pause for a moment and look at the word itself, then we learn a lot about the meaning of the feast. For its real meaning is 'showing' or 'manifestation'.

An odd word for a feast? Maybe, but that's exactly what happened at the first Epiphany. After all the stages of the Christmas story had unfurled, the men came from far away to see the infant Jesus. And in this action God 'showed' himself not only to the locals but to the whole world in the person of the three kings. His glory was 'manifested' or put on display for all to know about. The gifts which the kings brought are symbols of the respect which the entire world now owes to God. And following on all the spectacular events of the Nativity, what better way to round off the Christmas season than by proclaiming God in our midst not only to Bethlehem but to the farthest corners of the world?

