



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 12th January 2025

Baptism 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 40: 1-5, 9-11

'Prepare the way of the Lord.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103: 1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

My God, how great you are!

Second Reading

Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7

'He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.'

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2: 2

He who is mightier than I is coming, said John.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Gospel

Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.

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 sentence in our second reading on that seizes the attention is: 'He saved us through the waters of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Is it referring to Jesus' baptism or to yours and mine? My guess is that in the original letter it referred to our baptism, but that, by putting it forward on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church is referring it to Jesus' baptism as the model of your and my baptism. We received in our baptism the same rebirth as children of God and the same renewal in the Holy Spirit as he did in the Jordan. The image of birth from the waters is a fascinating one, and can be taken on many levels, the ocean as the great, turbulent earth mother from which all life derives, the source of life and fertility for plants, animals and humans, the 'waters' of each mammal's birth. By the waters of baptism, we are given a wholly new life as adopted children of God. In Luke's account of the Baptism of Jesus, the coming of the Spirit has the main focus. On us, too, the Spirit comes at baptism and empowers us to do all kinds of good work beyond any human ability.

Coffee Mornings the next coffee morning will be after Mass on Sunday 19th January. All welcome.

Forthcoming Funeral The funeral service for Gerard (Ged) 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.

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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year, we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity between 18th and 25th January. The theme this year is "Do you believe this?", based on Martha's confession of faith in Jesus, as told in John 11:17-27.

For prayers and resources to help you celebrate this week, please visit <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

Caritas Sunday Did you know that on Sunday 26 January, we will be marking Caritas Sunday? This annual occasion is a great opportunity to celebrate work of our diocesan charity, Caritas Diocese of Salford. To find out more about the work of Caritas Salford and how you can get involved, please visit <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/caritas-sunday/>. We invite you to keep our diocesan charity in your prayers over this coming week.

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>

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Rome

Young adults across the diocese are invited to join our Diocesan Youth Ministry Team for a rare pilgrimage to Rome this summer. Pope Francis has announced a special Jubilee for Youth in celebration of the 2025 Pilgrims of

Hope Jubilee, which also coincides with the canonisation of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. To find out more about this remarkable opportunity and to register your interest, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/jubilee-of-youth-rome/>

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

Accessible Prayer Walk The Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre is teaming up with diocesan charity Caritas Salford to host an accessible prayer walk. The session offers an opportunity to explore the beautiful, accessible grounds of the Laudato Si' Centre along with a peaceful prayer reflection, taking place between 10 and 11.30am on Friday 31 January. Find out more and register by emailing laudatosi@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>

Vacancies:

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>

Baptism of the Lord

Baptism links us with the Trinity. In fact it gives us a share even now on earth in the life which the Trinity enjoys. Being baptised in the name of the Father is not just words. It's sharing the Father's life... something of his characteristics.

The Father is the author of all life and we too are given the role of bringing life to wherever we may be called. This could mean human life through parenthood, or perhaps being challenged to foster and promote growth, development, harmony and peace. Baptism is more than a few drops of water on the head.

To be baptised in the name of the Son is to share Christ's own mission. This is about improving the world and returning it to the Father. Christ's call involves living a life that contradicts many contemporary ideas. It includes self-sacrifice, dying to oneself, giving rather than taking, being at the service of others, present to those in need, proclaiming the values of God's kingdom.

It is the Holy Spirit who inspires those who are baptised in his name. To be baptised in the Spirit is to bring hope, comfort and encouragement to others, to be an inspiration, to live a life of holiness that in turn uplifts other people. Love, joy and peace are signs that our life is imbued with the gifts of the Spirit which give us strength to go on.

So baptism is more than a nice ceremony. It's about being part of the Trinity. And it means getting more than your feet wet.

