



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**  
**The Presentation of The Lord**  
**Year C**

## **MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Saturday               | 6pm     |
| Sunday                 | 10am    |
| Monday                 | 9am     |
| Tuesday (whole school) | 9.30am  |
| Wed-Friday             | No Mass |

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| Saturday | 5.30 – 5.50 pm |
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## **First Reading**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

The Lord whom you seek will come to his Temple.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 23: 7.8.9.10**

The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

## **Second Reading**

**Hebrews 2: 14-18**

He had to be made like his brothers in every respect.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Luke 2: 32**

A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

## **Gospel**

**Luke 2: 22-40**

The child grew, filled with wisdom.

**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 inclusion of the second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews for this feast of the Presentation is unbelievably moving: the child presented in the Temple is also to suffer, the sword will pierce Mary's heart. But it is because Jesus is fully human, and now a helpless child, that his loving obedience to the Father will save the human race. 'What was not assumed (into heaven) was not saved', say the ancient Fathers of the Church. In Jesus, the source of our salvation, the disobedience of Adam was washed away. Adam is the representative of us all, personifying the human race. Adam's sin is the myth or analysis of the sin of us all, and Jesus had to be like his brothers and sisters, to share their full human nature if he were to save their human nature. He shared our baby helplessness, our adolescent anguish, our fear of death, our loss of friends whom we thought were faithful. In all this, he knit himself into the human race, and by taking it upon himself, saved it by joining it once more into the Father's love. The language of high priesthood is used in this Letter to the Hebrews because the letter is written to Hebrews who were pining for the rituals of the Temple from which they were excluded by their faith in Jesus, and then by the destruction of the Temple itself in 70AD. But the priesthood of Christ is radically different, according to the order of Melchizedek (an unknown priesthood), in the line of Aaron.

**Forthcoming Funerals** The funeral service for Bernard (Brian) Muxlow will take place at Sacred Heart Church on Mon 10 Feb. at 11am and the Requiem Mass for Neil Liles will take place on Tues 11 Feb. at 9.30am. Please remember Brian and Neil, their family and friends in your prayers at this time.

**School Mass** will be celebrated in church this Tuesday 4 February at 9.30am by the whole school and at 10am on Friday 14 February for Y5 & Y6.

**Next week** I will be in Derry, Ireland, to teach a module on a course for new canon lawyers working in marriage tribunals. There will be no Mass on Wednesday – Friday. Thank you for your understanding.

**Coffee Mornings** will be after Sunday Mass this weekend and 16 of February. All welcome.

**Piety Stall** still has copies of the Sunday Missal with the new translation of the scripture readings back in stock. £20 each.

**Report from the Parish Finance and Buildings Committee Meeting** The initial year-end report for 2024 now

goes to the Diocese for approval and necessary journals to be actioned. The final report should be available in March and will be shared with parishioners at this time. Our thanks go to Jim for his diligent work all year and especially at year end. We have received approval from the Diocese for some external and internal works pursuant to the property report. These are now being planned. Fire safety within the church, hall & presbytery will be followed up with further discussion over the next few months.

**Parish Groups/Representatives/Role** As 2025 begins we thought it would be a good idea to list all the groups/representatives/roles etc. which volunteers undertake in the parish. New volunteers are always welcome to join the Ministry & Charity Groups: Newsletter Team, Site Winter Team, & Social Groups. If you would like more information about a particular group/team please email the Newsletter Team and we will forward your enquiry to the correct person. Some roles require volunteers to undertake a DBS check.

**Ministry Groups** – Sacristans, Readers, Musicians/Singers, Stewards, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers (children in year 6 or attending secondary school/college would be very welcome to support our younger servers), Children's Liturgy Team & Cleaning Team.

**Charity Groups/Representatives**  
Missio (Red Boxes), Caritas, Cafod.

**Parish Administration** – Finance & Buildings Committee, Safeguarding Representative, Accessibility Representative, Newsletter Team & Site Winter Team.

**Social Groups-** Coffee Morning Teams & Social Committee

If we have missed any please let us know by email so we can add your group/role to the list.

**Newsletter Team:** If you are familiar with using Office 365, particularly Outlook, Word and OneDrive and have a couple of hours to spare once every 4/5 weeks you would be welcome to join the Newsletter Team. We update the details of the readings, add information from the Diocesan Newsletter, both schools and any emails before forwarding it to Father for final editing. Interested? Please email the team or speak to Father.

**Social Group News:** The first event of the year is Friday 28 Feb. at 7.30pm when we will be entertained by a wonderful local artist David Glynn-Whitehead with an evening of Swing classics, Broadway hits and acoustic guitar covers from the 60s to the present day. Tickets available after mass priced at £7 incl. hot supper.

Future events are as follows : Friday 25 April local history talk. entitled The Real Sherlock Holmes. Friday 23 May Quiz Night. Friday 27 June Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass followed by parish social. Sunday 13 July after 10.00 am mass Family BBQ. Friday 19 September Quiz Night. Sunday 5 October Mass with the sick in the Afternoon. Friday 17 October Retronotes 4-piece live band. Joe Roberts, on behalf of Social Group

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** continues to welcome children aged between 3 and 8 years old, and who have not yet made their first holy communion, to celebrate the Sunday's scripture readings in an age-appropriate way at Sunday Mass. Please remember to register your child each week as you arrive for Mass

**Pilgrim's Passport:** Create new family traditions this Jubilee year by picking up a family-friendly guide to Jubilee churches in the Diocese of Salford. With fast facts, thought-provoking questions, and different activities, our Pilgrim's Passport is the ideal companion to help families pray and journey together this Jubilee Year  
<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/pilgrims-passport/> or visit one of our Designated Churches to begin.

**Feast of St Josephine Bakhita:** The feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, takes place on 8 Feb. There are 50 million victims of human trafficking across the world and as many as 130,000 in the UK. Charities across the UK and our diocese are working hard to raise awareness and take action on what Pope Francis describes as 'a crime against humanity.'  
[santamartagroup.org/resources](https://santamartagroup.org/resources)

**Jubilee for Communications:** In celebration of the Holy Year, we are having a Jubilee of Jubilees to shine a light on a number of different themes represented in our diocese. We begin with our Jubilee for Communications, in which we explore this month's Gospels to reflect on how we can share the Good News in our world today. Access the resources now at  
<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/calendar/>

**Jubilee Resources:** Want to learn more about our Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee? Want to find out how we're observing the Holy Year in our diocese? The Diocese's website has a range of information to accompany you this Jubilee Year, with information on our Designated Churches, upcoming pilgrimages, and a range of different resources. <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025>

**Mercy Brothers:** Join us for a family-friendly night of musical entertainment with clergy band, The Mercy Brothers. The concert will raise funds for our Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund, supporting our sick pilgrims and medical team. The concert will take place on Fri 21 Feb. at Hough End Centre, Chorlton. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £20 (free for under 16s) and includes a hot supper. Book now: [www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/fundraising](http://www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/fundraising) or phone the pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209.

**Laudato Si' Centre Gardening Club:** The Diocese of Salford's environment hub,

The Laudato Si' Centre, is delighted to announce a regular gardening club, taking place on Fridays. Parish groups and volunteers are invited to join the team at the Centre to explore sustainable gardening techniques, top tips, and to come together in shared faith to care for our common home. Email [laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) to find out more.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2025:** Bookings are now being taken for the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. It 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.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** Bookings are now being taken for the 2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This year's pilgrimage will take place between 31 July and 6 August. For more information on how to book as a pilgrim or register as a volunteer, please visit <https://www.salfordlourdes.co.uk>

**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 between 28 July and 4 August. 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/> or Email [youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**Retreats at the Christian Heritage Centre** There are 2 upcoming retreats: The Search for Truth: Edith Stein, 14 – 16 March. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-search-for-truth-edith-stein/>

Mens' Spiritual Exercises, 30 March – 4 April 2025. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

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