



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 16th March 2025
2nd Sunday of Lent
Year C

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
Mon - Thurs	9am
Friday	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday	5.30 – 5.50 pm
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Stations of the Cross

Friday	7pm
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THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18

God enters into a Covenant with Abram, the man of faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26: 1, 7-9, 13-14 r.1

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading

Philippians 3: 17-4:1

Christ will configure to his glorious body.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:

'This is my beloved Son, listen to him.'

Gospel

Luke 9: 28-36

As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.

Facebook: @SHJWP parish

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

Each Lent the gospel reading of the Second Sunday is the Transfiguration, preparing the chosen three disciples and ourselves for the coming Passion. It is a scene of Christ's heavenly glory, his clothes bright as lightning, and his glory extending even to Moses and Elijah. These two personalities are here privileged to speak to Jesus because each had a vision of God on the Holy Mountain, Sinai or Horeb respectively (in the Old Testament, these are two names for the same mountain). The Voice from heaven at the baptism had been addressed to Jesus himself (in Mark and Luke); now the Voice is a public declaration of Jesus' Sonship, and authorizes him to all as the Chosen Teacher. Luke centres the scene especially clearly on the Passion by stressing that they were speaking of the 'exodus' he was to accomplish at Jerusalem—again the Lukan stress on Jerusalem. The fact that the disciples are praying, and are the same three disciples as are present at the Agony in the Garden, is a strong link to the Passion of Jesus. It is also part of Luke's stress on prayer, for Luke mentions Jesus' prayer and the importance of prayer on several occasions and in several parables (the Unjust Judge, the Friend at Midnight, the Pharisee and the Tax Collector).

Stations of the Cross. On the Fridays of Lent Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7pm in Church. All welcome.

Disability and Deaf Awareness. The second of Caritas' sessions - Deaf Awareness is being held here at Sacred Heart on Tuesday 25 March at 7pm. All welcome.

Coffee Mornings the next coffee mornings will be after Sunday Mass this Sunday and on 6th April. All welcome.

Parish Groups – Stewards: We are grateful to our Stewards who: arrive half an hour before masses start to ensure the church is prepared; support the smooth running of our masses; greet everyone in a friendly manner, welcoming both regular attendees and those who might be attending for the first time; offer additional assistance to those who may require it; are the first port of call for any health & safety, fire safety and first aid requirements during masses. If you would like to find out more about being a Steward or would like to join our team, particularly on a Saturday evening, please speak to Father Christopher or one of the Stewards.

Parish Social Events. The next parish event is Friday 25 April. This promises

to be a very exciting and informative evening entitled The REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES Not to be missed - put it in your diary!

Sacred Heart School: All pupils Launch of Caritas St Joseph's Penny Appeal; 21 March 2025: Y4 & Y5; 28 March 2025: RB; 4 April 2025: Y2 & Y3; 11 April 2025: 3C. All welcome from 9am.

Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for the crib collection of £80.80 for Christians in the Holy Land. Conditions continue to be extremely challenging. Please continue to remember FHL and those we support in your prayers as your love and prayers keep them strong.

CARITAS have written to thank everyone who contributed to their recent appeal for items for their support of new mothers and babies. The letter is on the noticeboard.

Sick and Retired Clergy Fund Our Sick and Retired Clergy Fund is a vital resource that provides key provision for our priests after years of dedicated service to our diocesan community. As the number of priests reaching retirement age has grown, this fund has never been more needed to ensure our clergy can enjoy the happy and

dignified retirement they so deserve. We invite you to find out more about this fund and read our newsletter by visiting:

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/sick-and-retired-clergy-fund/>

Primary ECT Pool 2025 Are you looking for a career in teaching? Do you know someone who is training for a career in primary education? ECT (Early Career Teachers) due to gain Qualified Teacher Status in Summer 2025 are being invited to apply for recommendation for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2025. Email millie.burton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more and apply or call 0161 817 220.

Loreto College Vacancy: Loreto Sixth Form Catholic College is seeking to appoint a teacher of Core Religious Education and Chaplaincy Support. Core RE has centrally planned resources and is not an examined subject. Therefore, there are no formal assessments and no significant marking commitments. As a Core RE teacher, your unique role will be to develop students spiritually, ethically and theologically. For more information, please go to the Loreto Website vacancies page.

<https://www.loreto.ac.uk/vacancies/>

Jubilee of Hope - Pilgrimage Walks of Prayer Join one of the six designated churches in our diocese for a prayerful pilgrimage opportunity in celebration of the holy year of Jubilee. St Alban's RC Church in Blackburn is holding two pilgrimage walks this March. The first takes place at 2pm on Saturday 22 March and the second takes place at 12.30pm on Sunday 23rd March, following the 11.15am Sunday Mass. All are welcome to attend!

Annual St Joseph's Technical High School Reunion Mass Former pupils and staff of St Joseph's RC Technical High School (Laindon Road, Manchester) are invited to this year's reunion with their families to celebrate the school's history. The reunion will take place on Saturday 22nd March 2025 at St Bernard's RC Church, Burnage. Mass begins at 12 noon, with opportunity for confession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11am. Please arrive by 11.30am to sign in. Refreshments will be available in the parish hall after Mass.

Lenten Day Retreat The Parish of Our Lady of Hope in Salford is hosting a Day

Retreat to help us prepare and reflect during this season of Lent. Taking place at Ss Peter and Paul RC Church, the retreat will include time for Adoration, praise and worship, with talks from guest speakers John Hesketh and Daniella Stephens. The retreat takes place on Saturday 29 March, 10am - 4pm. Lunch will be provided.

Retreat at the Christian Heritage Centre. Men's Spiritual Exercises - 30 March - 4 April 2025. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

Mass for People who are Sick and People with Caring Responsibilities

A special Mass to mark the Jubilee for People who are Sick and People with Caring Responsibilities will be taking place on Saturday 5 April. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, will also include an opportunity for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Mass begins at 2pm at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church. All are welcome to attend.

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Perhaps journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> and help to change people's lives. Or call Simon Holleron on 077 100 944 54 for more information.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham Our diocesan pilgrimage office is now taking bookings for its next annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. Our pilgrimage in this Holy Year of Jubilee 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 Youth Ministry Pilgrimages Our diocesan youth ministry team is organising two fantastic pilgrimage opportunities, led by Bishop John, for young people in Years 7, 8, and 9. The first pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 3 May with a pilgrimage to Walsingham, in conjunction with our main diocesan pilgrimage. The second is a pilgrimage to The Holy Island of

Lindisfarne, taking place between 20-22 June. Find out more and register at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/youth/ministry/prayer-and-pilgrimage>

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap and the current economic climate on Catholic families in England and Wales. Please share your experience by completing the survey, which can be accessed at csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey, where you'll also find further information about the survey. The survey will close on 25th March

Youth Ministry Internship Scheme at Castlerigg Manor - The retreat centre of the diocese of Lancaster, based in Keswick – for young volunteers for the 2025–26 team. The youth ministry internship scheme offers solid experience and training, formal qualifications, and gives participants the chance to live in the Lake District, be part of a dynamic team, make friends for life, and really impact the lives of young people. Interested? jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Easter Retreat for Teens and Young Adults - During the Triduum – from April 17-20 – Castlerigg Manor will once again be running their Easter Retreat for teens and young adults. A chance to journey together through the Triduum and make some friends along the way. The programme offers a combination of fun, relaxation, prayer, talks, and of course the beautiful liturgies. The cost is £85, but anyone who can't afford that is invited to get in touch (director@castleriggmanor.co.uk) and we will probably be able to help out. For more information or to sign up... [>> castleriggmanor.com](https://castleriggmanor.com) >> what's coming up?

Pilgrim's Passport - Create new family traditions this Jubilee year by picking up our 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. Find out more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/pilgrims-passport/> or visit one of our Designated Churches to begin.