



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 30th March 2025
4th 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

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading

Corinthians 5:17-21

God who through Christ reconciled us to himself.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15: 18

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'.

Gospel

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Your brother was dead, and is alive.

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

In the first readings of Lent we are working through the history of Israel towards the promise of the New Covenant which is the central point of Easter. This year the whole period between the Exodus from Egyptian slavery and the promise of the New Covenant at the time of the Babylonian exile, some 600 years later, is represented by the moment of arrival in the Promised Land of Canaan which we read today. This is the moment when the provisional arrangements of the desert wanderings come to an end. It is best to think of manna as the symbol of God's wonderful protection and feeding of Israel in the harsh and almost uninhabitable conditions of the Sinai desert. The reading describes a double celebration, bringing together two festivals. The Passover in origin is a feast of wandering nomads, as they move at the first full moon of spring from their sheltered winter pastures to cooler summer pastures. The Festival of Unleavened Bread, by way of contrast, marks the beginning of the wheat harvest, a feast of a settled agricultural people. For Paul, it represents the newness of Easter, the freshness of the New Covenant.

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

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

Forthcoming funerals: The funeral service for Francis Green will be at Sacred Heart Church on Monday 31st March at 11am, and the Requiem Mass for Ken Pye, also at Sacred Heart on Monday 7th April at 10am. Please pray for them and all who have died recently.

Sacramental Programme: There will be a meeting for parents and carers of the children who have been preparing for their first holy communion on Thursday 3 April at 3pm in school.

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; 28 March 2025: RB; 4 April 2025: Y2 & Y3; 11 April 2025: 3C. All welcome from 9am.

Stay and Pray: Come and join us on our Lenten journey of prayer- you would be very welcome! These sessions are for parents, carers and parishioners on Thursday 8.35- 8.45am in the school chapel, known as the Croi. Access from the playground, door next to the Reception Class main door.

Assisted Suicide Bill the Assisted Suicide Bill completed its Committee Stage in the House of Commons this week and is expected to be voted upon again by the whole House of Commons at the end of April or beginning of May. The Bishops of England and Wales have renewed their plea that we should contact our MPs and express our opposition. There is a page on the Bishops' Conference website with the latest information and details of how to contact your MP. www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/

Thank you from Caritas Salford

Thank you to everyone who has already supported our diocesan charity, Caritas Diocese of Salford, during this year's Lent campaign. Services have continued to increase, and all of your prayers, kindness and generosity make a huge difference to the lives of people in our parish communities. To find out more about ways Caritas helps local people or to make a donation or

support in another ways this Lent or beyond, visit www.caritassalford.org.uk

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.

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.

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>

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... [>> what's coming up?](http://castleriggmanor.com)

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.

Laudato Si' Centre E-News

The Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre has created a new E-Newsletter to help you stay up to date on the latest events and activities at the Centre. Sign up now at <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk>

Stations of the Cross at Laudato Si' Centre

Experience a reflective journey through the Stations of the Cross, contemplating the Passion of Christ in the midst of nature. Providing a serene setting for prayer and meditation, each station will have an ecological reflection and quotes from Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical.

All are welcome to join one of two sessions on Friday 11 April. Find out more and register at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lsc-stations-apr-25>

Lourdes Diocesan Youth Group Are you a young person looking to take part in a pilgrimage this year? Do you want to make new friends, build community, and grow in your faith together as a pilgrim of hope? Why not join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes between 30th July to 7th August? Cost per person is £669, including travel by coach, hotel accommodation, and all meals. Young people can join one of three age groups made up of young pilgrims from across the diocese: 13-15 (aspiring volunteers), 16-17, and 18+. For more information or to register, please email youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

Jubilee of Missionaries of Mercy

This March, we continue our Jubilee of Jubilees series by exploring the theme of mercy in relation to Lent and the Jubilee to better understand how we are called to respond in this holy year of grace. For our latest resources, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/calendar/>

