



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 25th May 2025
6th Sunday of Easter
Year C

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
Monday	10am
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	9am
Ascension Vigil	7pm
Thursday Ascension Day	10am
Friday	9am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29

It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67(66): 2-3.5.6,8.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Second Reading

Revelation 21: 10-14,22-23

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Gospel

John 14:23-29

The Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

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

Our First Reading this Sunday tells the story of the crucial meeting of the whole Church at Jerusalem where the decision was made that Christianity was not only for Jews but was open to the gentiles too. Paul's activity in receiving gentiles into the Church had created a crisis: was not God's promise to Abraham limited only to Jews? Was it not limited only to those who observed the prescriptions of the Law? Could the Spirit of the Risen Christ really dwell in and animate the uncircumcised? The staggering breakthrough achieved here totally altered the course of history. The discussion at the meeting is omitted from this reading, which jumps to the concluding instructions, but you can read the full account in Acts chapter 15. The meeting is a model for a community discussion: in the awareness of the presence of the Spirit, they heard the facts of the case, listened to the opinions on both sides of the question put forward by experienced leaders, and then made their decision in the Spirit. The letter of instructions that follows is also a model of its kind, firm in its decisions, but firm also in its appreciation of individual consciences. The restrictions imposed on gentile Christians were designed to make fellowship with Jewish Christians possible without outraging their sensibilities.

Masses this week are all a bit mixed up! Monday is a Bank Holiday and Mass will be at 10am. There will be no Mass on Tuesday as I need to make an early start to get to Liverpool for the installation of Archbishop Sherrington as the new Archbishop of Liverpool (please pray for him!) Wednesday morning Mass is 9am, and on Wednesday evening we have the Vigil Mass for the feast of the Ascension at 7pm, and on Thursday the Ascension Day Mass will be at 10am. On Friday Mass will be at 9am since school is on its half-term break. And if you remember all that, well done 😊 !

Sunday Coffee Morning: the next coffee morning will be on Sunday 1 June and then Sunday 15 June. All welcome.

Forthcoming Funeral: the Requiem Mass for Linda James will take place here on Tuesday 3 June at 10.30am. Please pray for Linda, and her family and friends at this time.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: the celebration of God's word for young children is celebrated during the 10am Mass each Sunday. If your child is aged 3-8 years they are welcome to attend. Please register your child when you arrive.

First Communion 2025-26 the next programme will begin in the autumn for children who will then be in Year 3, or older. Further details will be announced over the summer.

Quiz Night: thank you to everyone who came and supported our parish Quiz Night on Friday evening in support of HCPT. A special word of thanks to Peter, our quizmaster.

Mission Appeal Each year one of the Missionary Societies is invited to make an appeal to support their work in spreading the Gospel and supporting Christian communities in other parts of the world. This year the Columban Missionaries will make the appeal on 14/15 June.

Church Maintenance Over the next couple of weeks you may see some exterior work being done on the Church. Last year we had a survey completed on the state of repair of the parish properties, and this highlighted some general condition repairs which needed to be done. Now the better weather is here these can take place.

Confirmation Bishop John will celebrate the sacrament of confirmation with young adults from our local high schools

in the coming weeks. Students of Thonleigh College will be confirmed on Wednesday 25 June, and students of St. Joseph's High School will be confirmed here at Sacred Heart on Thursday 26 June. Please remember them all in your prayers at this time.

St Joseph's High School Last week a member of the parish Newsletter team met with staff at St Joseph's High School, to discuss the most effective way information about events that celebrate the Catholic Life and Mission of the school can be shared with us, via our weekly Newsletter. A way forward has been agreed, which, with effect from September, will ensure we can follow and where appropriate attend some of their events. In the meantime if you wish to see what the students and staff of our Ofsted rated 'Good in all areas' High School get up to, you can follow them on Facebook.

Please help St. Joseph's to support the work of Fort Alice, by joining in with their Fells Walk on Sat 5 July. For further details see <https://fortalice.org.uk/fortalice-fells-walk>

It is exam time please pray for those who are taking GCSE, A-level, university and other exams at this time. Also for their families and others who support them.

Bolton Ironman Please note that on Sunday 8th June there will be some local road closures to allow the Bolton Ironman race to take place. Roads immediately around church will not be affected but you may need to allow extra time for your journey to Church. A list of roads affected is on the noticeboard.

Celebrating 10 Years of Laudato Si'
Join us at the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre on Friday 30th of May as we celebrate 10 Years of Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si', with a contemplative and interactive day of reflection. The day begins at 10am with various activities throughout, including a Mass in the Forest Walk area before the day ends at 2:30pm. There is no charge for this event but numbers are limited, so please register by emailing laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Pilgrimage Walk at St Alban's, Blackburn. A fantastic pilgrimage event has been announced by one of our Jubilee churches, St Alban's in Blackburn. Taking place on Saturday 31st May, this hour-long pilgrimage walk begins at 2pm and will take in the remarkable history of the parish and end with a short

Benediction at the Altar. Our time of prayer will be followed by refreshments and the opportunity to explore more of this impressive church. Please call or email to register your name if you wish to attend – 01254 241211 jude.harrison@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

We Believe Festival Celebrate the Jubilee at WeBelieve, a festival of Catholic Life gathering the Church to share the hope that we have in Christ. From 25th-28th July, join us for four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray, Msgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, The Southwell Consort, Fr Toby Lees & many more. Early Bird Tickets available now at www.webelievefestival.com

Parish Accessibility If you or someone you know finds it difficult to attend Mass due to any disability-related issue, please get in touch to see how we can help make things easier. Lisa Spann is our Accessibility Representative and is happy to chat and explore ways we might be able to support you.

Diocesan Mass for Young Adults Young adults across the diocese are invited to join our next Mass for Young Adults. The Mass will take place at 5.30pm on Sunday 8 June at St Augustine's, Manchester. Confessions are available between 4.45pm - 5.15pm and please join us after Mass for a short talk exploring more about our Catholic faith.

Whit Walk. The annual Manchester and Salford Ecumenical Whit Walk is set to return for another year of prayerful celebration. Taking place on Monday 26 May, the walk will begin at 9:30am from Manchester Cathedral Gardens, and the group will process to St Peter's Square for an Act of Worship. Individuals, families, and groups are all welcome to attend!

Mass to Celebrate Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries. Are you celebrating a special anniversary this year? Join us on Tuesday 3 June at 7pm at St Bernadette's in Whitefield. Couples celebrating a Jubilee Wedding Anniversary during this Holy Year of Jubilee are invited to join us for this special celebration and to acknowledge this wonderful Sacrament. Friends and family are welcome, and everyone is invited to join for refreshments after Mass. For more information please

email: formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Laudato Si' Centre Gardening Club The Diocese of Salford's environment hub, The Laudato Si' Centre, is delighted to announce a regular gardening club. 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 to find out more.

Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne. Young pilgrims in Years 7, 8, and 9 are invited to join the Diocese of Salford's Youth Ministry Team for a faith-filled pilgrimage to The Holy Island of Lindisfarne. The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop John Arnold and will take place between 20-22 June. To find out more, please email youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or call 0161 817 2214.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell The Diocese of Salford's Pilgrimage Office is delighted to announce a prayerful pilgrimage to Our Lady's shrine at Ladyewell, taking place on Saturday 28th June. Join us as we take up the Jubilee call to pilgrimage by visiting this beautiful shrine right on the doorstep of our diocese. For more information and to register, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/ladyewell-pilgrimage-2025>

Vacancies:

Cleaner Parish of Our Lady of Hope, Salford. Appointment Type: Part-time/Permanent Working Hours: 6 hours per week (Work pattern to be agreed with Parish Priest) Location: Ss Peter & Paul Church, Park Road, Pendleton, Salford M6 8JR and St Luke's Presbytery, Swinton Park Road, Irlams o' th' Height, Salford M6 7WR Salary: £12.60 per hour, 25 holidays, plus statutory bank holidays and 5 Diocesan closure days (Pro-rata for part-time)

Parish Administrator - Parish of Our Lady & St Joseph, Heywood
Appointment Type: Part-time/Permanent Working Hours: 10 hours per week (Work pattern to be agreed with Parish Priest)
Location: : St. Joseph's Presbytery, Mary Street, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 1EG
Salary: £13.23 per hour, 25 holidays, plus statutory bank holidays and 5 Diocesan closure days (Pro-rata for part-time) Find out more and apply at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies>