



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

Newsletter for August 2025

**18th – 21st Sundays in Ordinary Time
Year C**

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
Monday – Friday	9am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm

THIS MONTH'S MASSES

Responsorial Psalm

18th Sunday

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation

19th Sunday

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage

20th Sunday

Lord, make haste to help me!

21st Sunday

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

Gospel Acclamation

18th Sunday

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

19th Sunday

Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

20th Sunday

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me.

21st Sunday

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me.

THE WORD THIS MONTH

During August the gospel readings are taken from Luke chapters 12-13. In Luke 12, Jesus warns against hypocrisy, urging his disciples to fear God rather than people and to rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance. He tells the parable of the rich fool to caution against greed and emphasizes trusting God over material wealth. Jesus teaches about readiness for his return, using parables to highlight the importance of watchfulness and faithful stewardship. He warns of division that his message will bring and criticizes the crowds for failing to interpret the spiritual signs of the times.

In Luke 13, Jesus calls for repentance, referencing tragic events to emphasize that all must turn to God. He tells the parable of the barren fig tree, symbolizing God's patience but also impending judgment. Jesus heals a crippled woman on the Sabbath, challenging legalistic views. He compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed and yeast—small beginnings with great growth—and laments over Jerusalem's resistance to his message.

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.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Friday 15th August. This is a holiday of obligation and Masses will be on Thursday 14th August at 7pm and Friday 15th at 10 am.

Welcome to Mgr John Dale who will celebrate the weekend Masses on 16th-17th August, and Fr Sadju John SDB who will celebrate the Masses on 23rd-24th August. I will be away from 16th August to 29th August.

Sunday Coffee Mornings: Join us for a warm welcome and a cuppa after Mass on Sundays. Upcoming coffee mornings will take place on 3rd and 17th August. Everyone is welcome — it's a lovely opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and catch up with friends old and new.

Sacred Heart Primary School: School reopens on Wednesday 3rd September. Congratulations to all pupils, staff and governors on the outstanding Catholic Schools Inspectorate report recently received. The report highlights the

strength of the school's Catholic life, Religious Education, and collective worship. It's available to read on both the school and diocesan websites — well worth a look.

St Joseph's RC High School: The new term begins on Tuesday 2nd September for pupils in Years 7 and 11, and on Wednesday 3rd September for Years 8 to 10. We pray for all staff and students as they prepare for the year ahead.

First Communion 2025-26: The Information Sheet for parents and carers for our next preparation programme is now available on the tables at the back of Church. The programme is open to baptised catholic children living in our parish who will be in Year 3 in September, or older. Please share with anyone you think will be interested.

Finance & Buildings Committee Update:

The Finance & Buildings Committee recently met and reported a number of completed works: external repairs, installation of a new double fire door in the hall, repair and fitting of gas heaters, and a new projector and screen. If you spot anything around the property that needs attention, please note it on the 'Repairs Reporting Sheet' on the notice board. We're also updating emergency signage and reviewing the layout of the

noticeboards — do let Fr Christopher or a committee member know if you have any suggestions. We aim to share the 2024 Parish Financial Report with you soon.

Suggestions for Father's Next Social

Talk: Following the success of Father's recent talk on the 'Church Hierarchy' as part of our social evening, we're keen to organise another session. If you have any suggestions for a future topic please speak to a member of the social committee.

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Children's Liturgy is now on its summer break and will resume on Sunday 7th September.

Afternoon Tea – Wednesday 13th

August: Everyone is invited to our summer Afternoon Tea at 2pm in the parish hall. No tickets or cost involved, just come along and enjoy. If you think you'll be joining us, it would be helpful to let a member of the Social Group know, or leave a message at the Piety Stall, to help us with catering.

Upcoming Social Events:

Mark your diaries!

- Friday 26th September – Quiz Night
 - Sunday 5th October – Mass with the Sick (afternoon)
 - Friday 17th October – Live music with The Retronotes (four-piece band)
- More details to follow in future newsletters.

Oompah Band Night – 3 October:

Enjoy an evening of music and fun with Tyldesley Brass Band's Oompah Night at Westhoughton Cricket Club, raising funds for Westhoughton Assist and The Hoggery. The event begins at 7pm. For tickets, email townclerk@westhoughtontc.gov.uk or call 07921 862 603.

Safeguarding in the Parish: We are blessed by the many people who give their time in service of the parish. Most volunteer roles require a simple application process, and some also include a DBS check. Please don't be put off by the paperwork — it's part of our commitment to keeping everyone safe. If you're interested in volunteering or have safeguarding concerns, contact Cathy Ward, our Safeguarding Representative, on 07746 296095.

Accessibility in the Parish: We want to ensure everyone feels able to participate fully in parish life. If you or someone you know finds it difficult to attend Mass due to disability or other access needs,

please reach out. Lisa Spann is our Accessibility Representative and would be happy to chat about ways we can offer support.

A Time to Rest and Renew: August offers a welcome pause in our busy lives — a time to reflect, recharge, and reconnect with what truly matters. Whether you're travelling, spending time with loved ones, or simply enjoying a quieter pace at home, may you find peace and renewal in the weeks ahead. Let us continue to pray for one another, especially for those who are unwell, unable to take a break, or feeling alone.

Family Forest Fun at the Laudato Si' Centre:

Celebrate the wonder of God's creation with Family Forest Fun Mornings at the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre. These hands-on sessions take place on the first three Tuesdays of August, 10am–12.30pm, with nature-based activities for the whole family. Details at: laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/family-forest-fun-mornings

Certificate in Catholic Pastoral

Leadership: If you're involved in parish ministry and feel called to deepen your skills, Liverpool Hope University is offering a part-time online Certificate in Catholic Pastoral Leadership. This two-year course provides fresh insight into Scripture, theology, and Church teaching. Email m.mui@rcaol.org.uk for details.

Affordable Summer Retreats –

Castlerigg Manor: Castlerigg Manor in the Lake District is offering low-cost stays for families, individuals, and small groups this August. It's a wonderful chance to spend time together in a beautiful setting. Find out more and book at castleriggmanor.com/open or email director@castleriggmanor.co.uk.

What Is God? Course – 22 to 25 August:

In partnership with CEPHAS, this annual course explores how different traditions understand the nature of God. It begins with philosophical foundations before exploring Christian and Islamic perspectives, including St Thomas Aquinas' insights. Full details at: christianheritagecentre.com/events/what-is-god

Outdoor Mass – Season of Creation: Join us for an Outdoor Mass to mark the start of the Season of Creation at the Laudato Si' Centre, on Monday 1st September at 9.30am. It's a beautiful way to pray in nature and reflect on our shared

responsibility for the world around us. Email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for more information.

Walk the Tolkien Trail – Fundraiser for

Caritas Salford: Support those facing poverty and hardship by joining Caritas Salford's fundraising walk — a scenic 7-mile route along the Tolkien Trail in the Ribble Valley. Open to adults (18+) and taking place on Saturday 13th September. Sign up here: caritassalford.org.uk/lancswalk

Jubilee of Social Justice – Saturday 20

September: Caritas Social Action Network is hosting a Jubilee of Social Justice at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral from 12noon. The day includes Mass with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, lunch, talks, and a social action exhibition. Free coach places available from Salford Diocese. More info: caritassalford.org.uk/SocialJusticeJubilee

Hope for Our Common Home Pilgrimage

– **25 September:** Join this special 9-mile pilgrimage organised with the Columban Missionaries, starting at the Laudato Si' Centre and ending with Mass. The walk is a time of prayer and reflection on the beauty of God's creation. Spaces are limited — register now at: dioceseofsalford.org.uk/columban-pilgrimage-register

80 Afternoon Teas for 80 Veterans – 15

August: The Westhoughton branch of the Royal British Legion is hosting a free Afternoon Tea Party for veterans in the BL5 area, with two sittings from 12:30pm. Taking place at Westhoughton Lions Rugby Club. To reserve a place, email westhoughton.secretary@rbl.community

God Bless You This Summer

