



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 31st August 2025
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
Monday – Thursday	9am
Friday:	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Sirach 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29

Humble yourself so you will find favour
in the sight of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67: 4-5ac, 6-7b. 10-11. R.cf 11b

In your goodness, O God, you provided a
home for the poor.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24a

You have come to Mount Zion and to the
city of the living God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11: 29ab

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and
lowly in heart.

Gospel

Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Everyone who exalts himself with be
humbled, and he who humbles himself
will be exalted.

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 second reading this weekend is final reading in our sequence of passages from the Letter of the Hebrews and it brings together the two main themes of the Letter, the superiority of the priesthood of Christ to that of the Old Law, and the theme of pilgrimage, concentrating here on its goal. Just like the Israelites in the desert of the exodus, the Church is still a pilgrim Church, wending its way unsteadily towards its final goal. In soothing the nostalgia of the Hebrew priests who still yearned for the old rites of the Temple, the author compares the two pilgrimages of the Old and New Testament, and points to the superiority of the goal of New Testament pilgrimage. The pilgrimage of the Old Law was to Sinai and to the unbearably awesome experience of God on the mountain. The goal of the Christian pilgrimage is the heavenly Jerusalem, where all is peace and perfection. There is the contrast also of the two covenants, the one made on Sinai, destined to be broken repeatedly throughout the history of the Chosen People, and the eternal new covenant mediated by the priesthood of Christ, destined to remain for ever as the secure basis of our adoptive sonship and inheritance.

Sunday Coffee Mornings: Join us for a warm welcome and a cuppa after Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month. Upcoming coffee mornings will take place on 7th and 21st September. Everyone is welcome — it's a lovely opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and catch up with friends old and new.

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Children's Liturgy returns next week on Sunday 7th September. Children aged from 3 until they have made their first holy communion are invited to celebrate God's word together during our Sunday Mass. Please register your child as you arrive for Mass.

First Holy Communion 2025–26:

Information sheets for the next First Communion preparation programme are now available at the back of church. The programme is open to baptised Catholic children living in our parish who will be in Year 3 this September, or older. Please feel free to share this with any families who may be interested.

Sacred Heart Primary School: School reopens on Wednesday 3rd September.

St Joseph's 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.

Parish Talks: thank you to everyone who made suggestions for the next parish talk. Final details are currently being worked out – watch this space!

Emergency Signage: The new Emergency Evacuation Plans and Emergency Fire Action Notices have now been put up around the church building. They tell you what to do if you discover a fire and what to do if you are made aware of a fire, the escape route you should take from the room you are in, and where the Emergency Assembly Point is. It is very unlikely that a fire will happen in the building, but everyone should be aware of what to do if there is one. Please take a few minutes to have a look at them and familiarise yourself with the evacuation routes from each area of the building. If you have any questions or concerns about how you would evacuate the building safely, please speak to Father Christopher or a member of the Finance & Buildings Committee.

Noticeboard: You will see that the noticeboard in the foyer has been re-jigged. There is now a separate area for the Health & Safety notices that must be on display. The 'Repairs Reporting

Sheet' is included in this section. The rest of the board has been split into two sections: Diocesan & Other Information and Parish Community Notices. If you would like to see something on the board that isn't already on, please speak to Father Christopher or one of the stewards who will make a note of it. If you have any suggestions how we could make our lovely foyer even more welcoming to visitors and parishioners, please also share your ideas. If there is anyone who has a flair for displays including labelling, please leave your name & contact details with a steward, your creativity would be very welcome.

Supporting young people at St Joseph's:

A reminder that if you have a passion for reading and you would be willing to share it with young people at St Joseph's please contact Mrs Howe the Literacy Lead via the school's email address office@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk. If you have any experience of pilgrimages, including to Lourdes, Rome, Jerusalem and Walsingham and willing to talk to Year 10 classes students about your experiences, please email your details to shjwesthoughtonnewsletter@outlook.com.

If you would you be willing to talk to students about your chosen career, to help them learn more about the world of work, please contact Mrs Hancock, Head of Careers, on 01204 697456.

Parish Groups/Representatives/Roles:

As a new academic year begins, we thought it would be a nice idea to remind everyone about all the groups/representatives/roles that 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 speak to Father or email the Newsletter Team on shjwesthoughtonnewsletter@outlook.com, 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, Newsletter Team & Site Winter Team.

Social Groups- Coffee Morning Team & Social Team.

Afternoon Tea -This got great feedback. Thank you to all who came along. Also a huge thank you to all who helped on the day and to our home bakers and sandwich makers who made the event possible.

Hearing Loop System: Our church is equipped with a hearing loop system, helping everyone feel included and able to take part fully in our services. If you use a hearing aid, simply switch it to the 'T' setting and you'll be able to hear more clearly. We hope this makes worship and fellowship even more welcoming for all.

Upcoming Social Events:

- Friday 26th September – Quiz Night - The ticket price of £5 includes refreshments. Bring your own drinks. On sale next weekend!
 - 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.

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.

CAFOD: Response in Gaza: Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support,

they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East.

The Martyr-Saints of the North-West: A priest of Salford Diocese will be leading a weekend of study exploring more about the Reformation-era martyrs of the North West. Part-retreat, part-biographical, the weekend will be led by Mgr John Allen, who has recently published a book on the history of the diocese. The study weekend runs from 12-14th September at the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. For more information and to book <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-martyr-saints-of-the-north-west/>

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

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.