



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 7th September 2025
23rd 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

Wisdom 9: 13-18

Who can discern what the Lord wills?

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89: 3-6. 12-14. 17 r.1

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

Second Reading

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Have him back, no longer as a bondservant but as a beloved brother.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118: 135

Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees.

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

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

Paul's letter to Philemon—and our second reading this weekend makes up about half the letter—is a friendly little note from Paul to Philemon about a slave of Philemon's called Onesimus, who has been serving Paul in his imprisonment, and has become a Christian. There are two theories as to why Onesimus was with Paul: either Onesimus ran away from his master and took refuge with Paul, or Philemon lent Onesimus to Paul for a limited period. In either case, Paul is now sending Onesimus back, and, at the same time, pressurizing Philemon to send him Onesimus for a further period. The most important and attractive element in the Letter is Paul's affectionate brotherhood with the slave, now a Christian. After long centuries of the toleration of slavery within Christianity, Christians will realize that the affection and brotherhood here expressed make slavery among Christians intolerable. A further step taken later will be that any enslavement of human beings is incompatible with Christianity, and that all human beings must be treated as brothers and sisters, equal before the Lord. It is a classic case of the slow deepening of the understanding of Christian morality.

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 today and then on 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 this week. 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.

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 been posted 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 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 you have a flair for displays and labelling, 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 would be willing to talk to classes of Year 10 students about your experiences, please email your details to shjwesthoughtonnewsletter@outlook.com. If you are willing to speak 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 good idea to remind everyone about the various 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, enabling everyone to feel included and participate 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.

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: CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing treatment for chronic illnesses. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help. 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. CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day is on Friday 3 October. Given the high demand on their resources this year, please remember to support them.

The Martyr-Saints of the North-West: A priest from the Salford Diocese will lead a weekend of study exploring 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/>

Annual Rosary Rally - The Legion of Mary: The Legion of Mary Manchester's Annual Rosary Rally is on Saturday, 13th September at 2.30pm at St. Willibrord's Church, North Road, Clayton, M11 4wq. Everyone is invited to pray the Holy Rosary for Peace and an end to wars, as requested by Pope Leo XIV. Refreshments will follow.

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 – 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

Mass for the Care of Creation: This Season of Creation, the Diocese of Salford and the Laudato Si' Centre are joining with the Columban Missionaries in Britain for a special Mass to pray for the future of our common home. Join us at 6pm on Thursday 25th September at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church as we pray the new Mass for the Care of Creation, approved by Pope Leo this summer. All are welcome to attend!

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.