



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 14th September 2025

**The Exaltation of the Cross
Year C**

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday	5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call	

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Numbers 21: 4-9

If anyone was bitten by a serpent, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 77: 1-2. 34-38. r.7

Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Second Reading

Philippians 2: 6-11

He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.

Gospel Acclamation

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

Gospel

John 3: 13-17

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

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 story in our first reading this week about a bronze snake explains a bronze snake that was long kept in the Temple at Jerusalem as a reminder of God's healing power, which lasts from age to age. Eventually, in a purge of dubious objects of veneration, the reforming king Hezekiah (715-687 BC) decided that the snake was idolatrous and destroyed it (2 Chron 29: 3-19). One still sometimes sees a snake curled round a stake as a medical sign, a promise of healing. The Church sees that healing sign as a preparation for the great healing sign of the Cross. During Lent and Passiontide we remember the Cross chiefly for the suffering of Christ. Now, months later, we can celebrate the triumph of its healing power and the triumph of Christ's victory. The Feast originates in the victory of the Christian emperor Heraclius (reigned 610-641 AD), when he won back from the pagan Persians a great relic of the Cross they had taken from Jerusalem. The crucifixes hanging in our homes must be seen as symbols not only of Christ's suffering, but, above all, of his triumph over death.

Sunday Coffee Mornings: Join us for a warm welcome and a cuppa after Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month. Our next coffee mornings will be on 21st September and 5th October. 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 returned last 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: The Parent Information Session for this year's First Communion preparation programme will be held on Friday 26th September at 3pm in school. Parents who wish to register their child/ren are invited to attend. The programme is open to baptised Catholic children living in our parish who will be in Year 3 this September, or older. Please share this with any families who may be interested.

Parish Quiz Night: Our next social event is on Friday 26th September. The ticket price of £5, includes refreshments. Please bring your own drinks. Tickets on sale now!

Mass with the Sick is being held on Sunday 5th October at 2pm. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

Parish Talks: Thank you to everyone who made suggestions for the next Parish talk. One of the most requested topics was 'The Mass' which is too big a topic to do justice in just one session, so this autumn we will have 4 talks on the Mass on 3rd, 10th October 7th and 14th November. The first talk will look at the history of the Mass from the Last Supper to today, then the other three talks will go through the Mass: Introductory rites, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Talks begin at 7.30pm, all welcome.

Future Social Events: Friday 17th October – Live music with The Retronotes (four-piece band) More details to follow.

Notice about scam text: The Diocese of Salford has shared a warning about a scam text that has been circulated to some parishes in our diocese, purporting to be from the parish priest. Please be aware that this is not a genuine text. If you come across any such text, please do not engage with it and simply delete and report it.

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.

Supporting young people at St Joseph's: There are three opportunities to support young people at St Joseph's.

- 1) **Reading** - 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
- 2) **Pilgrimages** - please email your details to shjwesthoughtonnewsletter@outlook.com
- 3) **Careers** - please contact Mrs Hancock, Head of Careers, on 01204 697456.

Parish Groups/Representatives/Roles: There are 17 different ways in which volunteers can be involved in the life of 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.

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.

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

Talk on Pilgrimages: Dr Kathryn Hurlock from Manchester Metropolitan University will give a talk on 'The Catholic Experience of Pilgrimage Medieval to Modern' at St Ann's Parish Centre (M32 8LF) on Saturday 20 September, 10.30am. More details from Fr Ged Murphy: Gerald.Murphy@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday - celebrated on Sunday 21 September - calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. It is a Sunday more commonly known as Home Mission Sunday, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate the beauty of our faith, and our shared commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ. Celebrating 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the theme for this year is 'I believe...' as the heart of mission. More details about this can be found on the Bishops' Conference website -www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday.

Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham: Join us in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham with a special Mass at St Luke's Church (M6 7WR), in Salford, on Wednesday 24th September. Mass, which will be celebrated by Bishop John, will begin at 7pm. There will also be an opportunity to find out more about next year's diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham.

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!

Food, Music, and Games with the SVP! On Saturday 27 September, the St. Vincent DePaul Society is holding a festival at All Saints Park on Oxford Road, beginning with Mass at 11am at St. Augustine's Church (M15 6BW). Everyone is invited to the celebrations, where there will be fun and games for the whole family! The SVP is a charity whose volunteers visit the lonely, feed the homeless, and provide help for those in need. Come down and see how faith is put into action!

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.

Vacancies: There are currently three jobs being advertised in the Diocese: Cleaner, Communications Officer and Maintenance Operative. For more details and to apply see https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies_

HYMN BOARD

Entrance: 316 Majesty
Offertory: 131 From heaven you came
Communion: 556 When I survey,
298 Lord Jesus Christ
Recessional: 12 Alleluia, sing to Jesus

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!

Do you play an instrument? Would you like to join our music ministry?
Please speak to one of our musicians or Fr Christopher