



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



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Sunday 26th October 2025
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6 pm
Sunday	10 am
Monday - Thursday	9 am
Friday	9 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Sirach: 35: 15b-17, 20-22b

The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33: 2-3, 17-18, 19, 23. r 7a

The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 5:19

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Gospel

Luke 18: 9-14

The tax collector went down to his house justified, rather than the Pharisee.

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 Pharisee and Tax Collector in today's gospel parable are stock characters, sketched with Luke's brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press, since after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD they were the only surviving branch of Judaism, and so stand for the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew's picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their fussiness of observance. Jesus played them at their own game in the careful interpretation of scripture, although with a more profound understanding. Preoccupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. At that time a tax collector was the epitome of malpractice, extortion and abandonment of all decent standards. He worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So this is one more example of the reversal of all expected values, and Jesus' outreach to those generally despised, the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, the woman taken in adultery, Zacchaeus and the 'good thief'. It beautifully fulfils the first reading: 'the prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.'

Sunday Coffee Mornings: Join us for a warm welcome, brew and a chat after Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month. Our next coffee mornings are on the 2nd and 16th of November. Everyone is welcome.

Social Group - We had a fabulous evening with The Retronotes last Friday. Thank you to all who came along, donated raffle prizes, or helped in any way. The £326 raised along with £374 from the recent Quiz Night has added another £700 to parish funds - again, thank you everyone. The social group will be meeting soon to discuss next year's programme, so if you have any ideas for future events please speak to a member of the team.

Remembrance Sunday: Is there a parishioner who would like to lay the parish wreath at Westhoughton's War Memorial during the Remembrance Day Service? Please speak to Fr Christopher. As in previous years, Sunday Mass on Remembrance Sunday will start at the earlier time of 9.30am to allow attendance at the civic service.

Parish Finance & Buildings Committee - At the meeting this week we continued our work on the Risk Assessment for

Masses & Services approving procedures, protocols & policies around security. We continue to arrange for all the necessary building checks to be carried out in line with statutory requirements. New motion activated solar lights have been installed on the wall alongside the driveway to the car park at the rear of the church. They will be very useful over the winter as the hours of day light get shorter.

We are wondering if there are any parishioners who are experienced plumbers, electricians or joiners who would be willing to be included in a list of contractors we could call on to carry out minor repairs to the building. If you are suitably qualified and interested, please speak to Father Christopher or email the Newsletter Team who will pass your details on to the committee.

Jim Maxfield who has been responsible for keeping our financial records in order for many years is moving away from the parish in the next few months. If anyone has bookkeeping experience and would be willing to take on this role, please speak to Jim or Father Christopher. The role includes recording income & expenditure using Xero, counting and

banking any cheques/cash received, keeping records for Gift Aid purposes and providing quarterly/annual reports to the F & B committee, parish and Diocese. The role could be split between 2 or 3 people as it needs a minimum of two for cash handling. Training provided!

We are also looking to increase the number of people in our Winter Readiness Team who help to keep our church and grounds safe and welcoming throughout the winter months. They would be required to help with gritting the pedestrian path to make sure the church remains accessible for worship and parish activities – whatever the weather. If you would be willing to help, if required, please speak to Father Christopher or email the Newsletter Team.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: 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.

Safeguarding: Reminder to all parents, that children should always be accompanied by an adult when they use the toilets. This is for safeguarding reasons. Thank you.

Donations for raffle prizes: are now being accepted for our Christmas raffle. Please leave prizes with the apparitors as you enter or exit Church. Thank you.

Parish Talks on the Mass: Many thanks to those who have attended the first two talks in this series. We will take a break for a couple of weeks and restart on 7th November – The Liturgy of the Word; 14th November – The Liturgy of the Eucharist. Talks begin at 7.30pm, all welcome.

Wrap Up Bolton 2025: The Westhoughton Rotary Club will be collecting coats to help keep people in Bolton warm this winter. Fr Christopher has kindly agreed that The Wrap Up Box will be in the narthex until Sunday 26th October. All the coats collected will go to Bolton Community Kitchen, which provides meals every Wednesday night throughout the year for about 70 homeless or needy people in the town. Several staff past and present at Sacred Heart Primary School are key workers for the charity. Please place your unwanted coats for adults and children in the Wrap Up Box.

Sacred Heart School - Future Year Groups at Friday Mass:

7th Nov. – Y6; 14th Nov. – Y2; 21st Nov. – Reception; 28th Nov. – Y4; 5th Dec. – Y5; 12th Dec. – Y3; 19th Dec. – Y1

World Mission Sunday: Thank you for your donations to the World Mission Sunday appeal. Your prayers and support will help missionaries work alongside communities worldwide, regardless of background or belief. Please continue to pray for all who share the love and hope of Christ with our sisters and brothers in need throughout the world. To support mission year-round, visit missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 (office hours).

Diocese seeks volunteers for new survivor-led safeguarding panel: The Diocese of Salford is looking for volunteers to join a new safeguarding panel, which seeks to ensure the voice of survivors plays an integral role in how we safeguard against all forms of Church-based abuse, and how we continue to provide meaningful support and healing to those affected. Details of all panellists will be confidential and volunteers can choose to engage anonymously. To find out more or to enquire about becoming a volunteer panellist, please contact the diocesan Department for Safeguarding by emailing safeguarding@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or calling 0161 817 2206. Read more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/survivors-panel-announced/>

Remembering our loved ones - A Moment of Prayer: The Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre is inviting people to remember loved ones who have died in a special way this November with the return of its Memorial Service. On Friday 7th November, between 9.30-10.30am, the memorial service provides a peaceful opportunity to remember and give thanks for our loved ones in the beauty of God's creation. Register your interest and find out more by emailing laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

Word on Fire Comes to Salford - 'Evangelising the Culture'. Join us for a thought-provoking evening as Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire* program comes to Salford Cathedral, inviting us to explore how we can each play a part in bringing Christ's light to the world around us. The event will take place at 7:30pm on Thursday 13th November at the Cathedral Temporary Church, and refreshments will be served beforehand at 6:45pm in the cloisters. Please book your place by emailing enquiries@

salfordcathedral.co.uk or call 0161 817 2210.

Be Still and Know that I am God, 14 - 17 November 2025: A three-day retreat at the Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst, led by Fr Roger Dawson, SJ. Aiming to help participants find a greater attentiveness and disposition to God's presence in their lives through a disciplining of the mind and awareness of the present moment. For more information go to christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god

Deanery Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: This will take place on 22nd November at St. Thomas of Canterbury. Further details will be confirmed closer to the time.

Advent Talks: Reflecting on Dilexi Te During Advent, we are pleased to be joined once again by Sr Joan Kerley and Maria Kidd for a series of talks reflecting on Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*. Join us every Tuesday between 25 November and 16 December as we consider how we welcome the birth of the Messiah into a world of multifaceted poverty. The venue for this year's talks will be Our Lady and Lancashire Martyrs Church Hall, M38 0DL, and will take place from 10:30am - 12:30pm. Please email joankfmsj@gmail.com or phone 07934 816796 to register your interest.

Laudato Si' Centre Gardening Club: You are invited to join Laudato Si' regular Friday gardening club to learn more about how to care for our common home over the coming months. For top tips on seasonal gardening, sustainable techniques, and how to care for the land and biodiversity during the winter months, sign up to our friendly sessions by emailing laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 433 Seek ye first
Offertory: 223 In bread we bring
Communion: 285 Longing for light;
610 O Lord hear my prayer
Recessional: 105 Dear Lord and father of Mankind

Please note hymns are subject to last minute changes!