



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 23rd November 2025
Christ the King Solemnity
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

2 Samuel 5: 1-3

They anointed David king over Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 121: 1-2, 4-5

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord

Second Reading

Colossians 1: 12-20

He has transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 11:9.10

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Gospel

Luke 23: 35-43

Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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 crucifixion scene in Luke, as in all the gospels, is the climax. And Jesus is stressed as being King. The soldiers mock him as such, but the gospel's use of irony ensures that we understand that they are saying more than they realize. They mock him also as Saviour ('Save yourself and us as well!'), and especially in Luke, from the Infancy Stories onwards, is Jesus seen as the true Saviour God. In Luke, the crucifixion scene is primarily a scene of forgiveness, in which Jesus carries on to the very end his work of forgiveness, which Luke has underlined throughout the gospel. It begins with the women of Jerusalem mourning for Jesus, and ends with all the spectators departing, beating their breasts, recognizing their universal guilt. Jesus spontaneously forgives his executioners, asking for them God's forgiveness before they even ask themselves. He welcomes into his Kingdom of Paradise the bandit who spontaneously acknowledges his guilt. It is the climax of the reversal of values that we have seen throughout this gospel that the King should be the wretched figure dying on the Cross, and that homage should be paid to him not by dignified courtiers, but by another wretched figure, dying by his side.

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 morning is 7th of Dec. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Fair: the joint parish and school Christmas Fair is on Thursday of this week beginning at 3.35pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. At the back of Church there are lists of items which would be gratefully received for the fair. Thank you for your generosity. The Christmas raffle will be drawn at the end of the fair, so this is your last weekend to buy tickets.

Forthcoming Funeral: the funeral of Annette Scoles will take place at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 16th December. Please remember Annette and her family and friends in your prayers at this time.

Finance & Buildings Committee: Are there 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.

Jim Maxfield who has been keeping our financial records for many years is moving away in the next few months. If anyone has any bookkeeping experience and would be willing to take on this role, please speak to Jim or Father Christopher.

We are also looking to increase the number of people in our Winter Site Team who help to keep our church and grounds safe and welcoming throughout the winter months. If you would be willing to help, please speak to Father Christopher or email the Newsletter Team.

Christmas Tree Decoration children of the parish are invited to help decorate the parish Christmas Tree after Mass on Sunday 21 December. Save the date!

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.

Sacred Heart School - Future Year

Groups at Friday Mass: 28th Nov. – Y4;
5th Dec. – Y5; 12th Dec. – Y3; 19th Dec. – Y1

St Joseph's RC High School are calling local creators and small businesses to join them for their Christmas extravaganza. If you'd like to purchase a stall to sell your goodies - whether it's crafts, art, baked treats, jewellery or Christmas gifts – they'd love to have you join them.

Date: Thursday 11th December

Where: St Joseph's RC High School

Time: 5.30-7.30pm. Stall cost: £20.

To book a stall please contact pepperday@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Our diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage group invites you to a special Mass in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, will take place at 3pm on Sunday 7 December at St Patrick's, Collyhurst (M4 5HF). Following Mass, information will be shared by the Salford Lourdes Pilgrimage group on plans for the 2026 pilgrimage.

Caritas Salford Advent Appeal

Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, has released its 2025 Advent appeal to shine the spotlight on the true meaning of Christmas. To watch their latest animation and to find out more about how to help local people who are facing acute crisis this Christmas, please visit: www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/bee-there-2025/

Sustainable Wreath Making Workshops at Laudato Si' Centre

If you are interested in learning how to make your own Advent decorations using sustainable materials, why not sign up for one of the Laudato Si' Centre's upcoming wreath making workshops? The workshops are taking place on the below dates:

- Friday 28th November from 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Friday 5th December from 10:00am - 12:00pm

Please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for pricing, further information, and to book your place!

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.

CAFOD have sent us the Christmas Gift catalogue, which is available at the back of Church where you will also find a selection of Advent calendars and Christmas cards.

A Talk on Pedro Ballester The Catholic Chaplaincies of Manchester University (MUCC) and the Holy Name Church have invited Pedro Ballester's father to deliver a talk about his son's life, legacy, and love of God. Pedro Ballester Arenas, born in Manchester in 1996, was devoted to his lifelong faith as instilled in him first by his parents, and later through classes of Christian formation at Greygarth Hall. He went on to become a numerary member of Opus Dei and was deeply faithful to his vocation until his untimely death from cancer in 2018 at the age of 21. This illuminating talk will take place at Holy Name Church on Tuesday 25 November at 6pm – for more information please visit dioceseofsalford.org.uk/a-talk-on-pedro-ballester/

A Day of Reflection on the role of Sacred Music in the Liturgy

On 29 Nov, a practical day course will be held on understanding the use of Sacred Music within the Mass. It starts at 11am and finishes with sung Mass 5:15pm. The morning session will take place at St. Augustine's, Grosvenor Square, and the afternoon session and Mass will take place at St. Mary's, the Hidden Gem. The cost is £20 per person, including a buffet lunch and light refreshments. To book and for more information please email rosemarie.darby@manchester.ac.uk

Ignatian Spiritual Exercises: Mens' retreat, 4 & 11 February 2026: A

fantastic opportunity to experience St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises in a shortened form. The retreat will be guided by the monastic community of St

Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny, founded with the specific charism of offering this version of the Exercises and with a particular apostolate to men. It is open to men in all states of life, who wish to seek God's will through a deepened detachment from the world. christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius

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The Diocesan Vocations Team is delighted to share its latest newsletter exploring updates on vocations to diocesan ministry, which includes the priesthood and permanent diaconate. For more information, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/vocations/>

'Neurodiversity and Our Faith'

Research: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you are an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver of one, they would like to hear from you. To find out more and to complete the short surveys, please visit: www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/

HYMN BOARD

Entrance: 175 Hail Redeemer
Offertory: 316 Majesty
Communion: 131 From heaven you came
595 Jesus remember me
Recessional: 445 Sing it in the valleys

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!