



# Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Year A**

## **MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Saturday             | 6 pm   |
| Sunday               | 10 am  |
| Monday               | 9 am   |
| Tuesday – all school | 9.30am |
| Wednesday – Thursday | 9am    |
| Friday               | 10 am  |

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm  
and at call

## **THIS SUNDAY'S MASS**

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.*

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 121: 1-2. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R cf. 1**

*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

### **Second Reading**

**Romans 13: 11-14a**

*Salvation is nearer to us now.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Psalm 84: 8**

*Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.*

### **Gospel**

**Matthew 24: 37-44**

*Stay awake so that you may be ready.*

**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**

With the beginning of Advent we turn to the idea of the coming of Christ, in history (that is, at Bethlehem), in mystery (that is, in the Church) and in majesty (that is, at the end of time). First of all, we turn to the vision of the peace that Christ brings, and for which we all yearn. The hill on which Jerusalem lies is not particularly high, but when Christ comes it will be a towering mountain, dominating the whole country. All nations will realize its importance and come to Jerusalem to draw salvation from it, the source of all salvation. The increasing concern of Israel for the salvation of the gentiles, which first comes to the fore in the post-exilic book, here reaches a highpoint. The permanent ending of war and strife is signalled by the remoulding of the weapons of war. You can't make war if you have converted your tanks into chicken houses and your aircraft carriers into skateboard parks—the modern equivalent of swords into ploughshares and swords into sickles. So Advent is a time of peace, peace between nations but also peace between families and within families, a time for reconciliation of quarrels as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

**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 will be on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December. Everyone is welcome.

**Forthcoming Funeral:** The Funeral of Annette Scoles will take place at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Please remember Annette and her family and friends in your prayers at this time.

**Mass Times this week:** on Tuesday Mass will be at the slightly later time of 9.30am and we will be joined by all classes of our School.

**Walk with me:** The Advent Walk with me booklets are available at the back of Church. It provides a reflection and prayer for every day of Advent and Christmas. Also available are the Children's Advent calendars, with an idea for everyday.

**CAFOD** have sent us some Advent candle prayer cards. Please take one home.

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

**Noticeboard:** please stop and take a look at the display on our parish noticeboard which highlights all the various parish groups. If you are interested in joining any group please speak with Fr Christopher.

**Miss Betty Stenson** wishes to thank the children of Sacred Heart School, parishioners, friends and family, and all who made her 100th birthday such a special day. 'God bless you all.'

**Christmas Tree Decoration:** Children of the parish are invited to help decorate the parish Christmas Tree after Mass on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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.

**Sacred Heart School - Future Year Groups at Friday Mass:** 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. – Y5; 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. – Y3; 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. – Y1

**St Joseph's RC High School:** is 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 11<sup>th</sup> December, Where: St Joseph's RC High School, Time: 5.30-7.30pm. Stall cost: £20. To book a stall please contact [spepperday@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:spepperday@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 3 pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at St Patrick's, Collyhurst (M4 5HF). Following Mass, the Salford Lourdes Pilgrimage group will share information on the 2026 pilgrimage plans.

**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/be-e-there-2025/](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/be-e-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 the Laudato Si' Centre's upcoming wreath-making workshop? The workshop is taking place on the Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 10:00am - 12:00pm. Please email [laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto: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 until 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:joankfmsj@gmail.com) or phone 07934 816796 to register your interest.

**Laudato Si' Centre Volunteer Call-out: Retired Educators:** The Diocese of Salford's Environment Team is inviting retired education staff to volunteer at the Laudato Si' Centre to assist with their successful programme of school visits. Volunteers would support sessions with children from nursery age to Year 11, including activities such as arts and crafts, games, and foraging. To find out more, please email [laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**December Carol Services: Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme:** The Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme will be hosting a series of free carol services in churches across the diocese this December. Each service begins at 6.30 pm and includes traditional carols and readings as part of a one-hour programme. Find your nearest service at [dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/](http://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/)

**Ignatian Spiritual Exercises: Men's 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/men-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius](http://christianheritagecentre.com/events/men-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius)

**Mass for Engaged Couples to be celebrated by Bishop John Arnold:** On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass for engaged couples across the diocese. The Mass provides couples with an opportunity to seek God's blessing to guide and strengthen them during this time of preparation. Newly-married couples are also invited to receive a blessing in their first year of marriage. The Mass will take place at St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 1:30pm.

**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 [dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/vocations/](http://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/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/)

#### HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 982 O Jesus Christ  
remember

Offertory: 92 Hark a herald voice is  
calling

Communion: 883 Longing for light, 88  
Wait for the Lord (refrain)

Recessional: 771 the Spirit lives to set  
us free

**Please note: Hymns are subject to  
last minute changes!**