



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 7th December 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Year A

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

Isaiah 11:1-10

With righteousness he shall judge the poor.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 71: 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R cf. 7

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

Second Reading

Romans 15: 4-9

Christ saves humanity.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3: 4, 6

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Gospel

Matthew 3: 1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

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

'Repentance' is an unattractive idea. It conjures up morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea. This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. In both Hebrew and Greek, the concept is a change of behaviour, a change of direction. John is calling on them to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet who was to return to announce the final coming of the Lord. He proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan Valley, below sea level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the east. So he makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the Lord. We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving Saviour, but John was not yet proclaiming Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God, when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our scale of values. Am I the only person who matters to me?

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 this Sunday and on 21st December. Everyone is welcome.

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.

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 every day.

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.

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

Noticeboard: Our 'Parish Groups' display on the noticeboard is a celebration of the 21 groups that are active in our Parish. Over 50 people are involved in the groups. Please stop and take a look at the display. There may be something you can help with, perhaps you have a skill for flower arranging or would like to find out more about how you can support Caritas. We are particularly looking for more people to become Stewards. If you are interested in joining any group please speak with Fr Christopher.

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. The last session before the Christmas break will be on Sunday 21st December and sessions will restart on Sunday 4th January.

Safety in Winter: A reminder to everyone to take extra care when you are out & about at this time of year. The Parish Ice & Snow Plan, which lays out which areas will be gritted when it is icy, is displayed on the notice board. It is, however, every individual's

responsibility to ensure they and others are safe. If you have any concerns about any issues of Health & Safety on the church site, please report it by writing it on the Repairs Reporting Sheet on the noticeboard.

Sacred Heart School - Future Year

Groups at Friday Mass: 12th Dec. – Y3;
19th Dec. – Y1

St Joseph's RC High School Christmas

Extravaganza is this Thursday 11th December, at St Joseph's RC High School, Time: 5.30-7.30pm. All welcome.

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 this Sunday 7th 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/

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 16th 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 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

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/

Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese of Salford:

In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint, and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

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/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius

Mass for Engaged Couples to be

celebrated by Bishop John Arnold: On Saturday 14th 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 14th February 2026 at 1:30pm.

Advice as energy bills continue to rise: If you or those in your wider parish community are in need of support with rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website. Their energy advice service team can support with free sessions and drop-ins in your area. You can find out more by visiting www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport

'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/

November Collection: The offertory collection for November, including all standing orders and donations made via card machine was £3268.15. Thank you for your generosity. In addition, we have just received the Gift Aid collected on donations made during 2024/25 tax year which totalled £6241.35. If you would like to sign up for to allow us to collect Gift Aid on your donations, there is a form on the parish noticeboard. Thank you to everyone who is signed up!

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 92 Hark a herald voice is calling

Offertory: 94 On Jordan's bank

Communion: 989 Word made flesh,
643 Gifts of bread and wine

Recessional: 768 How lovely on the mountains

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!