



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 14th December 2025
Third 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 35:1-6a, 10

God himself will come and save you

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145:6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10 R Mt. 5:3

Come, Lord, and save us.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?

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 Letter of James is rarely read on a Sunday, indeed only once in this year. Yet it is full of comforting, homely images, like the farmer waiting patiently for the autumn and spring rains, or—less comforting—the judge waiting at the gates. Whether it was written by James who was the leader of the Christian community at Jerusalem is harder to determine. It may be an assemblage of the oral wisdom teaching of this important Christian leader, written up by a disciple. In any case, the Letter was written at a time when the eschatological fever of expectation had begun to wane, when Christians no longer felt that they were in the final generation of world history, and were prepared to settle down and wait for the coming of the Lord. Indeed, in contrast to the Paul's stress on the imminence of the Second Coming, for James the delay of the Second Coming is an incitement to patience. It will certainly happen, but there is plenty of opportunity beforehand for tolerance, both towards the annoying and tiresome people within the community and towards those persecuting the community from outside.

Christmas Mass Times

Monday 22nd December Mass 9am

Tuesday 23rd December Mass 9am

Wednesday 24th December Mass 9am

CHRISTMAS

First Mass of Christmas - 7.30pm for

Readings and Carols; Mass 8pm

Thursday 25th December Mass 10am

Friday 26th December Mass 10am

HOLY FAMILY

Saturday 27th December Mass 6pm

Sunday 28th December Mass 10am

Monday 29th December – Friday 2nd

January Mass 10am

Christmas Tree Decoration: Children of the parish are invited to help decorate the parish Christmas Tree after Mass next Sunday, 21st December. All welcome!

Sunday Coffee Mornings: Join us for a warm welcome, brew and a chat after Mass on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month. Our next coffee morning is the 21st December and the 4th January. Everyone is welcome.

Forthcoming Funerals: The Funeral of Annette Scoles will take place at Sacred

Heart Church on Tuesday 16th December at 11am, and the funeral of Helen McSorley will take place at Howe Bridge Crematorium on Monday 29th December at 12 noon. Please remember Annette and Helen and their families 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.

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: 19th Dec. – Y1

Unclaimed Christmas Raffle Prize: The 3rd prize remains unclaimed. If you marked a brown ticket number 281 with the name Barbara M, please see the stewards at the back of church, to claim your prize.

Save the Date: on Friday 30th January 2026 the social group hosts a play by Theatre on the Go. Power Cut, is a comedy drama set in Wigan. Tickets £7 to include a pasty supper.

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/

Safeguarding Survey - Public Call for Information The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) are completing a safeguarding inspection within the Diocese of Salford, and would like to hear the views of as many people as possible regarding their arrangements for safeguarding. Responses will be collected anonymously unless you choose to provide your contact information, and the survey will close at 11:45pm on Friday 16th January 2026.

To submit your response, please scan the QR code:



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.

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

Love & Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle, 20 - 22 February 2026: 2026 marks the centenary of the declaration of St John of the Cross as an Doctor of the Church. In honour of this anniversary, Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend reflecting on the themes of love and beauty in the most celebrated poetry of the great Spanish mystic. For more information see: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/love-beauty-in-st-johns-spiritual-canticle/>

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: Rejoice in the Lord Always
Offertory: 100 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Communion: 777 O Lord I Know You are Near
629 I am the Bread of Life
938 Soul of my Saviour
Recessional: 864 Gods Spirit is in my Heart

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!

