



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 18th January 2026
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
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 49: 3, 5-6

I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end
of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm: 39: 2, 4, 7-10a.

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your
will..

Second Reading

1 Corinthians: 1: 1-3

Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Jn. 1: 14, 12a

The Word became flesh and dwelt
among us; to all who did receive him, he
gave the authority to become children of
God.

Gospel

John 1: 29-34

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes
away the sin of the world.

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

We are about to set out, during the Ordinary Sundays of the year, Year A, on a journey through Matthew's account of Jesus' ministry. In the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, the reader accompanies the disciples in learning only gradually who and what Jesus is. In the arrangement of the lectionary, however, put before us by the Church, the gospel reading of this first Sunday after the end of the Christmas season we hear from John, and we are shown clearly who Jesus is. This year we are told he is 'the Son of God'. The first reading from Isaiah, written in the dark days of the Babylonian Exile, introduces a Servant of the Lord, formed in the womb to be the Lord's Servant and to bring light both to Israel and to the nations. Is this an individual whose mission is to bring Israel back to the Lord, or is it the nation of Israel, destined to bring the gentile nations to the Lord? Despite the failure to recognize the Messiah, the faithful of Israel still bear witness 'to the ends of the earth' to God's promises. It is remarkable that already at this stage of revelation the universalist task given by God is seen to be to bring the whole world within the orbit of the salvation promised to Israel.

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 today and then 1st February and 15th February. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Forthcoming Funerals: the requiem Mass for Roy Cottam will take place at Sacred Heart on Thursday 27th January at 2.30pm. Please remember Roy, Barbara his wife, and his family and friends in your prayers at this time. Roy was a long time parishioner at Sacred Heart helping to found and run the parish scout group in 1962. May he rest in peace.

The Year of Matthew: This year the gospel readings for the Sundays of Ordinary time and other significant feasts will be taken from the Gospel of St Matthew. I am delighted to announce that the noted scripture scholar and author Fr Micheal Winstanley SDB, will give a series of talks on the gospel of Matthew here at Sacred Heart. This will

be a wonderful opportunity to explore the themes and structure of the gospel and help our understanding of the text. Final details are being arranged as we speak, so watch this space for further details.

Have you thought of becoming a Catholic? Are you interested in exploring the Catholic faith or wondering what it might mean to become Catholic? You are warmly invited to an informal initial meeting where you can ask questions, listen, and discover more in a relaxed and friendly setting. There is no pressure or commitment — just an opportunity to begin exploring the Catholic faith. You can bring a friend if you wish! All are very welcome to meet in the Hall on Tuesday 27th January at 7.30 pm.

Sacred Heart School – Future Year Groups at Friday Mass:
23rd January – Reception
30th January – Year 4 & Year 5
13th February – Year 3

Social Event: The first parish social of 2026 promises to be a great night out here in the parish hall. On The Go Theatre presents POWER CUT, a comedic play about the lives of a group of

determined women from Wigan, who take on jobs at a newly opened restaurant 'The Lantern', to make ends meet during the labour strikes of the early 1970s. Bring your own candle there's no telling what could happen when the lights go out. Friday 30 January @ 7.30 pm. Tickets on sale from this weekend, priced at £7 including a hot supper. Limited numbers!

Our Parish Groups: We continue celebrating the voluntary groups in our parish by focusing on some of our *Ministries*. Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians/Singers, Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders & Helpers, Sacristans and Stewards all play a vital part in our celebrations of mass. Each adult volunteer in these groups is subject to a Disclosure & Barring Service Check (DBS) to ensure we keep the safeguarding of our most vulnerable parishioners at the heart of what we do. New volunteers are always welcome for all of these groups. Currently we are particularly looking for more people to join our team of Stewards, who provide a friendly and warm welcome to parishioners and visitors to the parish. If you are interested in finding out more about the role please speak to Father Christopher or email shjwesthoughtonnewsletter@outlook.com.

CAFOD: Big Lent Walk 2026: Lisa Spann is going to be walking 200km across the 40 days of Lent to raise money for CAFOD. There is an option to sign up as a parish, and she was wondering if anyone else would like to join in. More information on the walk can be found here <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>. If anyone is interested, please speak with Fr. Christopher to connect with Lisa who will set it up. The 40 days start from Ash Wednesday 18th February.

Safety in Winter: A reminder to everyone to take extra care when you are out and 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.

Parish Finances: Jim Maxfield who has been responsible for keeping our

financial records for many years is moving away from the parish in the next few weeks. We have one volunteer now but, if anyone else has bookkeeping experience and would be willing to take on this role, please speak to Jim or Father Christopher.

Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese of Salford: In January 2026, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two Diocese of Salford churches over five days, welcoming schools, parishioners, and visitors for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint, known for his deep faith and use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles worldwide. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at 15. The relics will be at St Mary's Church, Burnley, from 28-29 January 2026, then at St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst, from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More details and times available at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/relics-of-st-carlo-acutis-to-visit-diocesan-churches/>

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

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

HYMNBOARD

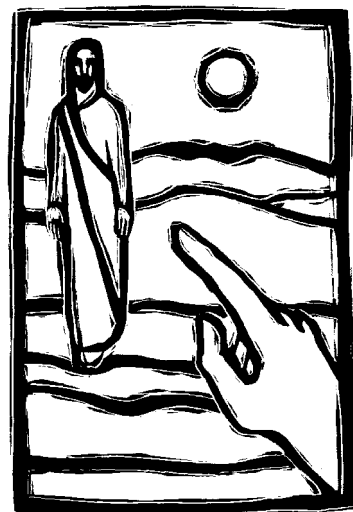
Entrance: 865 I, the Lord of sea and sky.

Offertory: 600 All that I am

Communion: 832 One bread, one body, 910 Christ be beside me

Recessional: 768 How lovely on the mountains.

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!



John the Baptist bridges the gap between Old and New Testament. He tells the crowd that Jesus is the one sent by God. Our task, too, is to be pointers to Christ, showing others that Jesus really is the Son of God, and reflecting this in the way we live. Like John the Baptist we are to be prophets to our world.