



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

8 LORD STREET, WESTHOUGHTON, BOLTON, BL5 3SE
Parish Priest: Rev Fr Christopher Dawson - 01942 812174
Parish Safeguarding Rep: Cathy Ward - 07746 296095
Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 8th of February 2026
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
Mon. Tue. Thurs	9am
Wednesday - in school	9.30am
Friday- Year 3	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Isaiah 58: 6-10

Your light shall break forth like the dawn.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112: 4-5. 6-7. 8a. 9.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

I proclaimed to you the mystery of Christ crucified.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel

Matthew 5: 13-16

You are the light 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

Look out! Lent is not far away! We need to start thinking again about genuine conversion, turning back to the Lord. Our First reading this week comes towards the end of the Book of Isaiah, written when the Jews had returned from exile in Babylon, but still things were not going right for them, still the favour of the Lord did not seem to be upon them. It makes a good examination of conscience: do I invite the homeless poor, share my advantages with others? Am I at peace with my family? Do I seek to dominate by the 'clenched fist', the wounding word, the put-down that can shrivel someone up? Isaiah is contrasting genuine service of the Lord with the merely exterior practices of religion, the conventional ways in which we may seem to be 'holy' people. In fact, however, holiness is all a matter of the heart, and—at any rate in this text—mostly a matter of seeing and serving God in other people. That is the only way our light can really shine in the darkness, and our own wounds be healed over. As in the Beatitudes, God's demands always have a promise attached.

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 mornings are the 15th February, and 1st March. Everyone is welcome.

Forthcoming Funerals: Please pray for Mary Dawson who died recently. Mary's funeral service will take place at Sacred Heart on Thursday 19th February at 11am. Please remember Mary, and her family and friends in your prayers at this time.

Lent is only 1½ weeks away! Have you thought how you will mark this holy season?

Perhaps you could join us as we gather to pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7pm.

Ash Wednesday is 18th February this year, and falls in the school half term holiday. Masses for Ash Wednesday will be at 10am and 7pm. Do you have any palms from last year at home? These are what are traditionally burned to form the ashes used on Ash Wednesday. Please bring them to church next week and we will burn them.

Parish Finance and Property Committee meet on Wednesday 11 February at 7pm in the Hall.

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 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. We will meet on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm on February 12th, 19th and March 5th and 12th. All welcome.

Sacred Heart School – Future Year Groups at Friday Mass: 13th Feb – Year 3

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 join our new group exploring the Catholic faith. There is no pressure or commitment – just an opportunity to ask questions and explore. You can even bring a friend if

you wish! Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10th February at 7.30pm.

Parish Social Events: Our first social event of the year was a sell out. It was a fantastic night enjoyed by all and raised a much appreciated £428.71 for CAFOD. A huge thank you to all who supported us by their attendance or who helped in any way.

Future Social Events: save the date! April 24th Talk on the Hidden Gem, Joe O'Neill; May 22nd Quiz Night Fundraiser for HCPT; June 19th Music Night with vocalist Jim Berry; July 12th 'Heart to Heart' parish/family walk; Aug 12th Afternoon Tea; Sept 25th Parish Quiz Night; Oct 23rd Songs from the Musicals, Three Towns Choir; Nov 27th Bingo and Beetle Drive.

Safeguarding within the parish: Please can parents ensure that children of all ages are accompanied when using the parish facilities. If you have any concerns or questions, please speak with Cathy Ward, who's details are printed at the top of this Newsletter.

Our Parish Groups: We continue celebrating the voluntary groups by focusing on the Charities that are active within the parish ie CAFOD, Missio and Caritas. As Catholics we are called to live out our core responsibilities of service, social justice and missionary discipleship. By joining one of our parish charity groups, we can put our faith into action bringing compassion, dignity and practical support to those experiencing poverty, isolation, disadvantage and social injustice, locally and globally, and support Missionary Priests working in rural communities around the world. New volunteers are always welcome for all of these groups. If you are interested in finding out more about the work these groups carry out in the parish, please speak to Father Christopher or email shjwesthoughtonnewsletter@outlook.com and we will forward your details to the right person.

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.

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.

Online Gospel Readings During Lent
During the Lenten period, there will be a series of gospel readings taking place every Tuesday and delivered online by various speakers including Fr Michael Deas, with the final reading to be given by Bishop John Arnold ahead of Palm Sunday. The first reading will be given by Fr Michael Deas on Tuesday 17 February: First Sunday of Lent (Feb 22): Matthew 4:1-11 (The temptation of Jesus)
For more information, please visit the diocesan website:
<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

Lenten Talks: School of Prayer: During Lent, a series of talks and prayerful reflections will be taking place every Tuesday from 10:30AM to 12:30PM, led by Mgr Paul Smith, Sr Joan Kerley and Maria Kidd. These will be held at Our Lady and Lancashire Martyrs Church, Little Hulton, from 17th February to 24th March. For more information on how to book your place please visit the diocesan website by clicking the following link:
<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lenten-talks-school-of-prayer/>

Talk from Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe
OP: On 17th February, Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP will be giving a talk as part of a series of guest lectures from Manchester Universities Catholic Chaplaincy. The theme will be 'How we can keep our hope alive today.' The talk will begin at 6PM at the Catholic Chaplaincy Church of the Holy Name, 339 Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PG. British Sign Language interpretation will be available. For information, please contact mucc@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Exploring God's Creation within Catholic Theology: Dr Finlay Malcolm from the University of Manchester will be delivering an interactive teaching session exploring how creation and the environment are integral to Catholic faith and theology. The event will take place on 25th February 2026, 7-9pm, at Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Church in Bury. For more information and to

sign up for the event, please use the following link: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/exploring-gods-creation-within-catholic-theology/>

Caritas Salford Call for Volunteers: Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, is looking for parish volunteers to help with a range of activities. These are flexible roles that can be tailored in line with your availability, skills or interests. If you're able to give even a few hours to help, they would be hugely grateful. Find out more at: www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/in-your-parish/

Early Career Teachers - Primary Pool Applications: The Diocese of Salford Education Team are inviting applications from ECTs to be added to their Primary Pool for 2026. The Primary Pool will identify and recommend high quality candidates who will gain Qualified Teacher Status in summer 2026 for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2026. For the Application Form, Person Specification and Job Description visit: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/ If you require further information, please email education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Vacancy: Xaverian College Vice Principal (Student support) Manchester. Xaverian College Deputy HR Manager. For further details visit www.xaverian.ac.uk/careers-with-us/

Friends of the Holy Land have written to thank us for our recent donation of £83.42 which was the total amount collected in this year's Crib Offerings.

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 720 Be still for the presence of the Lord
Offertory: 873 Come, Lord Jesus, come
Communion: 883 Longing for light
902 Peace is flowing
Recessional: 771 Walk in the light

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!