



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 15th of February 2026
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
Monday - Tuesday	9am
Ash Wednesday	10am & 7pm
Thursday - Friday	9am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday 7pm

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS First Reading

Sirach 15: 15-20

He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34, R. 1b.
Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2: 6-10

A wisdom God decreed before the ages for our glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11-25

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Gospel

Matthew 5: 17-37

It was said to those of old; but I say to you.

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

Jesus is the completion of the Law of God, given to Israel through Moses. He has come not to sweep it away but to perfect it. In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew has gathered together six instances (four this week, two next Sunday, which we miss because of the start of Lent) of the ways in which Jesus brings the law to perfection. The first factor to notice, however, is that Jesus does not hesitate to adjust the divine law on his own authority, for he too has divine authority. Each correction begins with a statement of the Old Law and boldly goes on, 'But I say this to you ...' Each of the corrections has its own character. The first is about enmity, the sixth about love. About enmity, it is not enough merely to forego violent injury; we must even expel enmity from our hearts, positively seeking reconciliation, whether the offence is our fault or not. About lust, it is similarly not enough to forego acts of lust; we must not even harbour such thoughts in our hearts. About divorce, the easy toleration of divorce in the Jewish law is swept away, and Jesus uncompromisingly calls it fornication. About truth, it is not enough to keep a legal oath; we must be people on whose every word there is reliance. These are Jesus' demanding standards.

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 today 15th February, and 1st March. 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: Please pray for Mary Newton 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 begins next week! Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and is a day of fasting and abstinence. Mass with the blessing and distribution of Ashes at 10am and 7pm.

Please pick up a 'Walk with me' book with daily prayers and reflections for

Lent, and a calendar for our younger parishioners.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent at 7pm.

First Reconciliation: Please continue to pray for the children on our first communion programme this year as they get ready for their first celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation on Thursday 12th March at 6.30pm. There will be sessions for parents on Friday 27th February and 6th March at 3pm in school.

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 with the next one February 19th

and then March 5th and 12th. All welcome. Tea and biscuits are served!

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 24th February at 7.30pm.

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 our *Social Groups*. The Coffee Morning Team provide a friendly welcome, brew and chat on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month after 10 am Mass. Everyone is very welcome, why not come along and have a chat to the people you smile at and say hi to each week! The Social Team have already planned events for 2026. Last year's events were a great success with between 50 & 70 people attending each of them. The Afternoon Tea was a fantastic multi-generational event. If you have suggestions for future events, please pass them on to someone on the team and check out the Social Calendar on the newsletter. Please don't be shy, why not come along to the next event with a few friends.

CAFOD: Big Lent Walk 2026: Lisa Spann and other members of our parish will be walking 200km across the 40 days of Lent to raise money for CAFOD. There will be an opportunity to sponsor the walkers across Lent.

Exploring our Lenten Gospels: Each Tuesday during our Lenten period, a series of reflections will be given online by various speakers, exploring the

meaning of our Lenten Gospels and their implications for our lives today. The series will begin on Tuesday 17 February with Fr. Michael Deas reflecting on The Temptations of Jesus and will conclude with Bishop John on the Palm Sunday readings. For more information on how to book your free place, 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/>

Permanent Diaconate 'Come and See' Event Could you be called to serve the church as a Permanent Deacon? If you are a Catholic man interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Salford, please come along to our 'Come and See' event. This is a chance to discuss and learn more about the ministry. This event takes place from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday 7 March at St Mary's Church,

Hall Burnley, BB10 4AU. For more information about the Diaconate, please email diaconate@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or visit the diocesan website here: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/vocations/permanent-diaconate/

Pope's February Prayer Intention: 'For children with incurable diseases' - Pope Leo XIV releases his prayer intention for the month of February and invites Catholics to pray with him to recognize the face of God in every suffering child. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-02/pope-leo-xiv-february-intention-children-incurable-diseases.html>

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

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 970 Be thou my vision

Offertory: 971 Father I place into your hands

Gloria: 1013

Sanctus: 1014

Communion: 785 Though the mountains
627 This is my body

Recessional: 974 Colours of day

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!