



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



Sunday 1st March 2026
2nd Sunday of Lent
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
Monday – Thursday	9am
Friday	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday 7 pm

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Genesis 12: 1-4a

The call of Abram, the father of the People of God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32: 4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. R5b

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1: 8b-10

God calls and enlightens us.

Gospel Acclamation

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.

Gospel

Matthew 17: 1-9

His face shone like the sun.

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

Each year on this second Sunday of Lent we read the account of the Transfiguration of the Lord. It was the moment at which the disciples were shown the divinity of Jesus on the Holy Mountain. The scene is reminiscent of Moses' encounter with God on Sinai, when his face, too, shone like the sun. Moses and Elijah are present because they are the two Old Testament figures who experienced the presence of God on the Holy Mountain. With his usual impetuous generosity, Peter attempts to 'freeze' the moment. The public declaration of Jesus as God's Son at the Baptism is repeated, but with the addition that Jesus is the authorized divine teacher; Matthew is alert to the implications for the Church of the presence of Christ as Teacher. The cloud is also a symbol of God's presence, to which the human response can only be to fall to the ground in fear and reverence. The awesome moment of revelation cannot, however, last, and Jesus brings his disciples back to the dire realities before them with the reminder that his death must precede the revelation of his glory at the Resurrection. Until they have experienced the limitless generosity of his death, and the vindication by God of this love, they are not ready to spread the message of Jesus.

Stations of the Cross will take place on Fridays during Lent at 7 pm. All welcome.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: takes place on 27th February. Thank you for returning your envelopes this weekend. This year, funds will support families in creating floating gardens, helping them to grow food and stay nourished even when flooding occurs. There is a CAFOD button on our parish card machine if you'd like to donate this way.

CAFOD: Big Lent Walk 2026: Up to last Sunday Lisa Spann and the team have walked 130kms towards the team's total of 800kms. Only another 670kms to go! They are walking across the 40 days of Lent hoping to raise money £500 for CAFOD. To sponsor the walkers, you can use the 'Big Lent Walk' button on the card machine at the back of Church, add your details to the sponsor form at the back of church or visit the online donation page using this QR code.



Forthcoming Funerals: Please pray for Shelia McKiernan who died recently. Shelia's funeral will take place at Sacred Heart on Friday 13th March at 12 noon.

Please remember Shelia, and her family and friends in your prayers at this time.

Sunday Coffee Mornings: Join us for a warm welcome, a brew and a chat after Mass on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month. Our coffee mornings are this Sunday, 15th March and 29th March. Everyone is welcome.

Resources for Children: *How do we support our children to engage and participate as fully as possible in Mass? What are the best religious books, faith based toys and activities which you have used to promote your child's increasing awareness and involvement with the liturgy?* We would like to put together a collection of Christian story books, faith based toys and activities which can be used by young children when they are attending Mass. If anyone has any good quality, pre-loved items that they would be willing to donate, these would be gratefully received. Over the next few weeks there will be a storage box labelled 'Donations - Faith based Books/Toys /Activities' in the foyer. When we have a big enough collection, they will be made available during Mass for parents to choose from as they enter

Church and to return after mass has finished.

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. The next session for parents will be on 6th March at 3pm in school.

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.

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 March at 7.30pm.

Did you know? There is a wide selection of faith books available to borrow in the parish hall? Parishioners are very welcome to browse and take a book home.

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

Future Social Events: save the date! April 24 Talk on the Hidden Gem, Joe O'Neill; May 22 Quiz Night Fundraiser for HCPT; June 19 Music Night with vocalist Jim Berry; July 12 'Heart to Heart' parish family walk; Aug 12 Afternoon Tea; Sept 25 Parish Quiz Night; Oct 23 Songs from the Musicals, Three Towns Choir; Nov 27 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, whose details are printed at the top of this Newsletter.

Our Parish Groups: We have so many fantastic *Ministry* groups that we have had to split them into two groups so we could celebrate them properly. Our Flower Arranging Team, Piety Stall Team, Cleaning Team and Readers play very important roles in our parish life. Some of these roles may also be subject to a DBS check. If you have an interest in or skills and experience in any of these areas, new volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in finding out more, please speak to Father Christopher or email shjwesthoughton@outlook.com.

Exploring our Lenten Gospels: Each Tuesday during Lent, 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 continue on Tuesday 3 March with Sr Maureen Murphy reflecting on The Woman at the Well, and will conclude with Bishop John on the Palm Sunday readings. For information on how to book your free place, please visit: dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/

Lenten Talks: School of Prayer: During Lent, a series of talks and prayerful reflections will take 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, please visit: dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lenten-talks-school-of-prayer/

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: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/vocations/permanent-diaconate/

Laudato Si' Centre Parish Awards 2026
The inaugural Laudato Si' Centre Parish Awards will take place this year - the

Year of St Francis. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, the awards are open to parish communities who take part in practical action that supports environmental stewardship and/or social justice, showing faith-filled care for God's creation. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a presentation at Wardley Hall where they will receive a certificate in recognition of their work, presented by Bishop John. Please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is Friday 27 March.

Lourdes - Diocesan Youth Group

Are you a young person looking to take part in a pilgrimage this year? Do you want to make new friends, build community and grow in your faith? Why not join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. It's simple to sign up and you can join a new "group" led by the Diocesan Youth Department. The pilgrimage and travel dates are 29th July to 6th August. The cost is £695 and this includes coach travel and full board hotel accommodation (Astoria Hotel). Young people can join in 3 age groups 13-15 (aspiring volunteers), 16-17 and 18+. If you are interested, please email youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for details of how to register.

British Society of the Turin Shroud

Golden Jubilee: The Society is hosting two events at Blackburn Cathedral. On April 11th, from 11:00 pm to 5:00 pm, a special convention will gather some of the world's leading authorities on the Shroud of Turin for a day of discovery, reflection and new insights. Tickets cost £40 per person and include lunch, refreshments, and a gift bag. The next day, April 12th at 1:00 pm, there is a free talk by Fr. Andrew Dalton about the Shroud of Turin in the main Cathedral. For more details, visit: bstsnewsletter.com/

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 720 Be still for the presence of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation 184 Praise to you O Christ

Offertory: 842 Come back to me
Sanctus: 1014

Communion: 956 I watch the sunrise,
643 Gifts of bread and wine.

Recessional: 770 Lord the light of your love is shining

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!