



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 March 2026
4th Sunday of Lent
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	6pm
Sunday	10am
Monday – Thursday	9am
Friday (Year 2)	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday 7pm

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a
David is anointed King of Israel

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6, R1
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5: 8-14
Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

John 9: 1-41
He went and washed and received his sight.

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 second of the three great Johannine readings about water, light and life featured in the baptisms of Easter gives us the splendid account of Jesus bringing light to the blind man in the Temple. It is full of Johannine contrasts and irony. The 'Jews' or the Pharisees think they have the light and knowledge, but the more they abuse the man born blind, the clearer their own darkness and ignorance become. The more they try to thrust him away from Jesus, the more they push him into seeking refuge in him. Much of the colouring of the scene comes from the controversies towards the end of the first century, when the Pharisees were the only branch of Judaism to survive after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. The New Testament shows that there was bitter opposition between those Jews who accepted the divine claims for Jesus, and those who rejected them. This is especially clear in the fear of the blind man's parents that they would be excluded from the synagogue if they accepted that Jesus' grant of sight was a sign of his divine mission. The doughty and pugnacious man born blind has no such hesitation!

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

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 next coffee mornings are today and 29th March. Everyone is welcome.

Sacramental Programme: Please continue to pray for the children on our first communion programme this year. The next session for parents will be on 27th March at 3pm in school.

Parish report: please take a copy of our Parish report for 2025 which details our activities and a financial summary of the year.

CAFOD: Big Lent Walk 2026: Up to last Sunday Lisa Spann and the team have walked 309kms towards the team's total of 800kms. Only another 491kms to go! They are walking across the 40 days of Lent hoping to raise £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.



Calligrapher wanted: Are you skilled with a pen or quill? I would like someone to write the First Holy Communion certificates this year. Please speak with Fr Christopher if this is something you could do.

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 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.

Forthcoming funerals: Please remember Paul Morris and Stephen Settle in your prayers. Paul and Stephen both died this week and funeral arrangements are yet

to be finalised. Please also remember their families and friends.

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.

Future School Mass Times:

19th March 09:30-10:30: Mass at Church - Whole School (St Joseph)

20th March 10:00-11:00: Mass at Church - Year 2

27th March 10:00-11:00: Mass at Church - Year 3 & 4

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 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.

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.

Our Parish Groups: Our final group of volunteers are those that carry out administrative roles in the parish. Our Safeguarding and Accessibility Representatives ensure we meet our obligations to keep our most vulnerable parishioners safe. Both these representatives have been appointed by the parish priest and have a wealth of experience in these areas. The parish Finance & Property Committee currently has six members, including Father Christopher, and was formed in November 2023. Jim Maxfield is currently sharing his extensive knowledge with Lisa, who will join the committee when Jim resigns. We are very grateful to Jim for his dedication despite him no longer living in the

parish. Finally, our Newsletter Team, which also has six members. If you have experience of using Microsoft Outlook & OneDrive and would like to join the team or if you have any suggestions for items you would like included in the newsletter, please email the team via shjwesthoughtonnewsletter@outlook.com.

Manchester Chinese Catholic

Community (MCCC): MCCC would like to invite you to their monthly Mass on the second Sunday of the month at 2PM and is held in Salford's temporary Cathedral on Great George Street, M3 6EH.

Young Adults Hub: The diocesan Youth Team have commenced a Young Adults Hub, for those aged 18–35 across the Diocese of Salford. The Hub offers a welcoming space for young adults to deepen their faith, build authentic friendships, and grow together through prayer, formation, and social gatherings. For more information, please reach out to Mikey hub.president@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk and Edward hub.chair@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

Laudato Si' Centre Parish Awards 2026:

The inaugural Laudato Si' Centre Parish Awards will take place this year. 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. Please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is Friday 27th March.

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 convention will gather leading authorities on the Shroud of Turin for a day of discovery, reflection and new insights. Tickets £40. 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 Cathedral. For more details, visit: <https://bstsnewsletter.com/>

Called to Love, 2 - 3 May 2026: A retreat offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst; for singles, dating and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. This year's retreat will have as its theme masculinity and femininity. Runs from Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd May, with the option of staying Friday night.

christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/

Youth pilgrimage to Lindisfarne:

Salford diocese youth ministry is offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22 May – Sunday 24 May 2026. The cost is £120 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the SVP Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Forming Catholic Student Leaders: Two summer courses exploring faith, ethics and leadership for sixth form students, offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. Join us for 6 days in the beautiful Ribble Valley to explore themes linked to The Common Good (Year 12, 10-15 August) and to The Human Ecology (Year 13, 5-10 July). www.christianleadershipformation.com

Lourdes - Diocesan Youth Group:

Young people are invited to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. 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.

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 747 The light of Christ

Kyrie: 516

Gospel Acc. 184

Offertory: 948 Because the Lord is my shepherd or 806 The Lord's my shepherd

Holy Holy: 1014

Lamb of God: 1019

Communion: 883 Christ be our light, 772 Lord Jesus Christ

Recessional: 846 Amazing grace

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!