



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 29th March 2026
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

See main body of the newsletter

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30 – 5.50 pm
and at call. No confessions on Holy Saturday

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

Procession Gospel:

Matthew 21: 1-11

Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem

First Reading

Isaiah 50: 4-7

The suffering servant's perseverance

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?

Second Reading

Philippians 2: 6-11

Christ humbled himself, then was
exalted

Gospel Acclamation

Christ was humbler yet, even to
accepting death, death on a cross. But
God raised him high and gave him the
name which is above all names.

Gospel

Matthew 26: 14 – 27:66

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ



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 accounts of the Passion given by the four evangelists are not identical. The basic outline of these dreadful events was clear enough. It is confirmed by the contemporary Jewish historian Josephus, who tells us that Jesus was crucified by Pontius Pilate at the instigation of the Jewish leaders. The task of the gospel writers is not to relay to us the raw facts, but to help us understand their significance. Each author stresses a particular aspect. For instance, John underlines that this was the triumph of Jesus: he shows his divinity already at the arrest scene. He himself yielded up his Spirit only when he had completed his task. Matthew's preoccupation with Judaism dictates that he show in detail how the events accord with God's plan revealed in the scriptures. Almost every incident is told in such a way that hearers familiar with the scriptures would catch allusions to the biblical writings: nowhere is this more obvious than in the account of the death of Judas. Although Pilate the governor must bear the final responsibility for Jesus' death, Matthew also stresses the pressure put on him by the crowd manipulated by the politically adept Jewish authorities, culminating in the horrific cry, 'His blood be on us and on our children' — an allusion to the sufferings undergone by the next generation of Jerusalem residents during the siege and ultimate destruction of their city by the Romans. The significance of the events is further underlined by the apocalyptic earthquake at Jesus' death, and by the immediate release of the blessed dead, who come at last into the Holy City.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Vigil Mass Saturday 6 pm
Sunday 10 am

Please gather outside for the Blessing of
Palms and procession. If the weather is
inclement, please gather in the hall.

Monday - Mass 8.30 am

Tuesday - Mass 8.30 am

Wednesday - Mass 8.30 am

**Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's
Supper** 7 pm

Watching at the Altar of Repose until
11pm

Good Friday Morning Prayer 10 am

**Solemn Celebration of the Lord's
Passion** 3 pm

Stations of the Cross 7 pm

Holy Saturday Morning Prayer 10 am

Easter Vigil 8 pm

Easter Sunday Mass 10 am

Easter Monday Mass 10 am

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
morning is today and then 19th April.
Everyone is welcome.

Chrism Mass this year will be celebrated
on Wednesday morning at 11am at St
Patrick's Church, Collyhurst. We have
been given 3 tickets for parishioners to
attend. If you are interested, please see
Fr Christopher.

CAFOD: Big Lent Walk 2026: Lisa,
Kathryn, Vickie and Evelyn have now
completed the Big
Lent Walk. Thank
you to all who have
already donated this
Lent to CAFOD. After



Mass this weekend we are having a
second collection for anyone who would
like to and are able to donate. You can
still donate via the card machine at the
back of church or online using this QR
code.

Tax Payers & Non-Tax Payers As we reach the end of the financial year, it is the time for us to review our gift aid claimants. If anyone is no longer a taxpayer, please advise Lisa Spann or Father. If anyone is now a taxpayer, please pick up a gift aid claim form. Blank ones are available on the table near the notice board. Lisa will also be at the coffee morning this Sunday, if anyone needs a form or has any questions.

Resources for Children: Thank you to those who have donated resources so far. We are still looking to add to the collection. If you have any Bible story books or you spot any in a charity shop we would really appreciate them.

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.

Christmas Fundraising: This week the parish received a cheque for £772.01 for our share of the money raised at the joint school and parish Christmas Fair last November. Thank you to everyone who contributed, those who donated raffle prizes, sold raffle tickets and bought them too! Some of the money raised is being used to buy a selection of faith-based children's books to add to those that have been generously donated over the past few weeks.

Next Parish Social Event - The Hidden Gem: (St. Mary's, Mulberry Street, Manchester) Friday 24 April @ 7.30 pm Tickets £5 including hot supper. Bring your own drink and all proceeds are for Parish Funds.

'The Hidden Gem' is the oldest post-Reformation Catholic Church in England and its history is the story of English Catholics over the last two centuries. With the aid of illustrations, local historian Joseph O'Neill, recounts its evolution and describes its many beautiful artefacts of national importance, explaining how it influenced the building of subsequent churches. Noted for its numerous famous visitors, it is an enduring delight that remains one of the city's major attractions."

Future Social Events: save the date! 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.

Seasonal Wellbeing Events: The Team at the Laudato Si' Centre are pleased to invite you to a number of 'Seasonal Wellbeing Events' with the first session for Spring taking place on Friday 10 April from 10AM to 12PM.

These sessions are designed for seasonal connection with nature, and to heal, restore and focus on mind, body and spirit. The cost for each session is £5. Please contact laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to book your place.

Deaf Awareness and Conversational British Sign Language Course: Caritas Salford has developed a brand new 12-week course for parishioners, to equip them with basic British Sign Language skills and greater awareness of accessibility and inclusion in parish life. The course will commence on 14 April and sessions will be held weekly on Tuesday evenings at St Patrick's Church, Livesey Street, Collyhurst, Manchester, M4 5HF (with parking available in the Caritas Salford car park adjacent to the church). Places for the course are strictly limited. To find out more and book a place, visit: www.caritassalford.org.uk/event/deaf-awareness-bsl

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

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: 230 Ride on, ride on in majesty

Kyrie: 516

Gospel Acc. 184

Offertory: 749 From heaven you came

Holy Holy: 1014

Lamb of God: 1019

Communion: 756 When I survey the wondrous cross, 253 Jesus, remember me

Recessional: 320 Hail Redeemer

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!