



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



Sunday 12th April 2026
2nd Sunday of Easter
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday Vigil	6pm
Sunday	10am
Mon, Wed-Fri	9am
Tuesday – Requiem	11am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday	5.30-5.50pm and at call
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THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Acts 2: 42-47

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117: 2-4,13-15,22-24

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1: 3-9

You did not see Christ, yet you love him.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20: 29

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Gospel

John 20: 19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them.

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

A central theme in today's readings is faith: faith in the risen Christ, faith in the salvation that comes from God through him. The gospel continues John's account of the first Easter. The risen Jesus appears to the disciples who recognize and believe in him. In a gesture reminiscent of the creation of Adam, he breathes out the Holy Spirit on them and commissions them to carry on his mission of forgiveness and reconciliation. Thomas, one of the twelve, was not there to share this experience with the others, and when told about it he refused to believe on the basis of their testimony. He announces that he will accept what they are saying only if he can put his finger in the mark of the nails and his hand in Christ's side. His is the attitude of rational and sceptical humanity. He wants to establish his own conditions for believing. When Thomas eventually encounters Jesus, his doubts vanish. His cry of faith marks a highpoint in the entire New Testament. He recognizes Jesus as both Lord and God. The risen Christ has been so transformed by the glory of God that to the eyes of faith he shares forever the reality and the name of God.

Forthcoming funeral: The requiem Mass for Fred Nickleson will take place at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 14th April at 11 am. Please remember Fred and his family and friends at this time.

First Communion: Please join the children on our first communion programme in prayer as they enter the final weeks of preparation. The first communion Masses this year will be the parish Masses on the weekends of 25/26 April, 2/3 and 9/10 May

CAFOD: Big Lent Walk 2026: Lisa, Kathryn, Vickie and Evelyn have now completed the Big Lent Walk, and have so far raised £1203.



Thank you to all who have already donated this Lent to CAFOD. You can still donate using the 'Big Lent Walk' button on the card machine or visit the online donation page using this QR code.

Taxpayers & Non-Taxpayers: As we reach the start of a new financial year, it is 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.

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Children's Liturgy will resume this week. 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.

Sunday Coffee Mornings: Join us for a warm welcome, a brew and a chat after Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month. Our next coffee mornings are the 19th April, 3rd and 17th May. Everyone is welcome.

Maintenance work: The Finance & Property Committee are looking for suitably skilled individuals/companies to carry out the following work on the church building. Cleaning of bricks along both sides of the dwarf wall along Lord Street, re-bedding of approximately 25 coping stones along the same wall & service, repair or replacement of the door closers. If any parishioner knows of anyone that could do these jobs or can recommend someone, please leave their details with Father Christopher, someone from the F&P committee will contact them to arrange for quotes. Thank you.

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 28th April at 7.30pm.

A Call out for Knitters & Crocheters: Do we have any knitters/crocheters in the parish who could make some bible related Amigurumi characters to expand our resource packs for our young parishioners? If yes, we'd be very grateful, and request that they be approx. 20 cm in height and be safe for young children. If you choose to make an animal, please choose a pattern that looks realistic and relates to a bible story. There is a nice free pattern for a lamb on Lovecrafts. (Please use realistic coloured wool though!) If anyone has any suitable patterns, they would be willing to share with other knitters/crocheters or has suggestions for where to find free/inexpensive patterns please contact Vickie on vlane60@googlemail.com or speak to her, she is usually at mass on a Saturday night as part of the music group. She prefers to crochet, but says she is not very good at faces!!

Next Parish Social Event - The Hidden Gem: (St. Mary's, Mulberry Street, Manchester): Friday 24th 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.

Youth Ministry Gap Year Opportunity: Do you know anyone aged 18-25 who is looking for a new challenge? The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District. They run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The 'Youth Ministry Internship' scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team doing some amazing work. Interested? Contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or www.castleriggmanor.com >> join the team

British Society of the Turin Shroud Golden Jubilee: The Society is hosting a free talk by Fr. Andrew Dalton at Blackburn Cathedral on April 12th at 1:00 pm. For more details, visit: <https://bstsnewsletter.com/>

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

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 14th 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 visit: www.caritassalford.org.uk/event/deaf-awareness-bsl

Catholic Social Teaching (CST): Caritas Salford is offering a free online webinar to introduce the basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) in an accessible way, with a particular focus on building hope, homes and a positive future for all. This will take place on Thursday 30th April 2026 from 6PM to 7:15PM. With local elections approaching in May, the time is right to raise our awareness of CST and reflect on how it can help to inform the decisions and choices we make in life. Register for your free place or find out more at: caritassalford.org.uk/events

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/

Catholic Family Holidays in the Lake District: Castlerigg Manor in Keswick (heart of the Lake District) is offering budget-friendly holidays for Catholic families during May, August, and early September. Breakfast and evening meal are included and there will be Mass on site. Guests have full use of the site including the grounds, games room, chapel, and lounges, and Castlerigg is just a short walk from Keswick and Lake Derwentwater. Ideal for individuals, couples, families, or groups of friends. Head to www.castleriggmanor.com stay with us or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711

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 Ribbles 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

Collections: the total offertory collection during March, including standing orders and monies received through the parish card machine was £3577.48. The CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day raised £481.22 and the CAFOD Big Lent Walk raised a further £1203. Thank you for your continued generosity.

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 767 Majesty
Kyrie: 516
Offertory: 747 The light of Christ
Holy Holy: 1014
Lamb of God: 1019
Communion: 278 Now the green blade riseth
902 Peace is flowing
Recessional: 768 How lovely on the mountains

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!