



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 19th April 2026
3rd Sunday of Easter
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday Vigil	6pm
Sunday	10am
Monday-Thursday	9am
Friday	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

First Reading

Acts 2: 14,22-33

It was not possible for him to be held by death.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 15: 1-2a, 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11. R1

O Lord, you will show me the path of life

Second Reading

1 Peter 1: 17-21

You were ransomed with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish.

Gospel Acclamation

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;
make our hearts burn within us when
you speak to us.

Gospel

Luke 24: 13-35

He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

In the wondrous story of the disciples on their way to Emmaus we observe the Church's faith in the Resurrection grow under Jesus' own guiding hand. As the two disciples walk with a stranger, they speak of Jesus as merely a prophet. Since this prophet has been executed and the reports from the women were not enough to lift their depression, Jesus takes up the Scriptures, which they ought to know. The question at hand is that of the Messiah himself, not a mere prophet. All three parts of the Scriptures—the law, the prophets, and the other books (which the Jews called 'the Writings') form concentric circles around the Messiah's death and Resurrection. Everything prophetically related in the Scriptures points to the fact that suffering and death are not God's last word about mankind, rather, that the archetypal and ultimate Man, the Messiah, would bring all images into fulfilled truth in his person. Jesus had already told the Sadducees that God is a God of the living and not of the dead; in Jesus he proves himself to be 'the Resurrection and the Life'. It is no exaggeration or after-the-event, artificial interpretation of the Old Covenant to bring this basic idea to light as the fundamental meaning of all the Scriptures up to that point—as Jesus does here and as the Church will continue to do. As if to verify this self-revelation, the blessing and breaking of the Bread and the disappearance of Jesus as he entrusts his Word and his Sacrament to the Church form the conclusion to the story.

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

Stewards Briefing: To ensure that all our Stewards and those who take on Fire Warden duties during masses & services are up to date with our safety arrangements we are holding our inaugural annual Stewards Briefing on Thursday 23rd April at 7 pm in the parish hall. If any parishioners are interested in finding out more about the role of Steward and would like to attend the briefing, please email Vickie at vlane60@googlemail.com. Documents to help Stewards prepare for the meeting have been emailed out this week.

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."

First Aiders & Stewards for Heart to Heart Family Walk The Social Team are well on the way with planning the Heart to Heart Family Walk on July 12th. To keep everybody safe on the walk a Risk Assessment is being written. It recommends that at least two suitably qualified First Aiders are required. If you have a current First Aid at Work (FAW) or Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) qualification (or above) and would be willing to assist with First Aid on the day please contact Frances via her email

fjsettle@yahoo.co.uk. We are also looking for as many people as possible to be Stewards on the day to support those members of the Social Team who are leading this event. Again, if you are willing and available please contact Frances. More information will be explained over the next month or so and there will be briefing before the walk starts.

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 this Sunday and 3rd and 17th of May. Everyone is welcome.

Red Box 2025: Thank You! In 2025, Sacred Heart Parish, raised £887.00 through our red boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thankyou! Our missionary community here at Sacred Heart is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Communities around the world who are being supported by missionaries like the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who feature on this year's Red Box Thank You Poster, rely on your support so they can continue to flourish. Visit missio.org.uk to find out more.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Children's Liturgy continues 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.

Maintenance work: Thank you to the parishioner who passed on details of a company that can carry out the required maintenance work. They have been contacted and hopefully the work can begin shortly.

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 this Tuesday 21st of 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. Thank you.

Taxpayers & Non-Taxpayers: As we reach the end of the 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.

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

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: www.caritassalford.org.uk/events

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 or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk 017687 72711

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 761 He is Lord
Kyrie: 516
Gloria: 1013
Offertory: 268 Alleluia, alleluia
give thanks to the risen Lord
Holy Holy: 1014
Lamb of God: 1019
Communion: 644 Alleluia, sing to
Jesus 910 Christ be beside me
Recessional: 787 Sing it in the
valleys

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!

A final thought... The disciples walked along the road with Jesus but did not recognise him. We too have the chance to meet Jesus in so many ordinary situations, day by day, at home or at work, while shopping, while at leisure etc. As we meet Jesus in his word and in the sacraments we celebrate, we ask for the sensitivity to see and hear him in those with whom we travel life's road.