



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 3rd May 2026
5th Sunday of Easter
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday Vigil	6pm
Sunday	10am
Monday	9am
Tuesday - Friday	No Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

First Reading

Acts 6: 1-7

They chose seven men full of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33: 1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R.22

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

Second Reading

1 Peter 2: 4-9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Gospel

John 14: 1-12

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

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

As the festival of the Ascension approaches, we hear in the Gospel how Jesus prepared his followers for his own departure from the world. There are two aspects of this. First, Jesus speaks of the final purpose of us all, union with the Father, and his preparation of a place for us there. 'There is plenty of room', he says, suggesting not that there are plenty of separate cubicles for different sets of people (bishops, babies, monks and so on), but that there is no lack of space. No problem of 'only one wins the prize' in this case! The second aspect is preparation for the future Church on earth, and the almost shocking promise that in the absence of Jesus—but in the strength of his Spirit—his people will do 'even greater works'. Paul teaches that believers 'make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ', for in every age the Church fills up the measure of Christ's sufferings; it is a Church that shares its Master's trials. In the same way, in every age, the Church must carry on the works of Christ. In John, the 'works' of Jesus are the marvellous deeds, beyond human powers, which show who Jesus is. We too are called on to perform marvellous deeds, beyond human powers, works of grace and generosity.

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 continue this weekend and next.

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 17th of May. Everyone is welcome.

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.

This week I will be attending the conference of the Canon Law Society which this year is being held in Glasgow. Mass on Monday will be at 9am, but there will be no weekday Mass from Tuesday to Friday. Thank you for your understanding.

Children's Mass Bags: These are now ready for families to use. There are ten bags available for children to choose from. In each bag there is a Bible or book of Bible stories, another faith-

based story book, a prayer book, a colouring book and pencils, and a Bible character. The resources are aimed at children up until they begin preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. We ask that each family takes only one bag and uses it quietly to support their child/ren to learn more about Jesus and engage with the Mass. After Mass, please return the bag and its contents to the place you got them from so more children can enjoy the bags each week. If you have any suggestions for other items that could be included or books you'd recommend, please speak to one of the stewards. Each week there are also two children's newsletters that help children to focus on and learn more about the Mass.

The next school Mass: is 15th May 10:00 Reception, Y1 & Y2

The Social Team would like to thank Joe O'Neill for his recent fascinating talk on The Hidden Gem Church. Thank you, also, to all who supported the event by buying tickets, donating to the raffle or helping in any way on the night. It was a very enjoyable evening and we raised a much appreciated £280 for parish funds.

Heart to Heart walk Sunday July 12th:

Our walk from Sacred Heart Church Westhoughton following 10am Mass, to Sacred Heart Church Hindley Green (avoiding main roads wherever possible) is for families and individuals of all ages to socialise whilst enjoying some gentle exercise and fresh air. No sponsorship is needed. The route is approximately two and a half miles. Our friends at Hindley Green have offered a warm welcome and use of their indoor and outdoor facilities including a field area for (bring your own) picnic lunch. Tea and biscuits will be available. It is important for us to have a good idea of the number of walkers taking part. A register of interest has been put on the church noticeboard. Anyone who is interested/intending to take part in this activity please sign the register. Thank You.

QUIZ NIGHT: Friday May 22nd tickets including hot supper are now on sale, just £6 each. This is a fundraiser for HCPT and is always a popular and fun night so please get your tickets as soon as possible.

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.

National Deaf Awareness Week - Free

Resources: 4-10 May is national Deaf Awareness Week. Did you know that Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, has a range of resources and tips on its website to help you make your parish even more accessible to people locally? You can access these and a range of other free resources, prayers and other documents on the Caritas website at www.caritassalford.org.uk/resources

Marriage Preparation Course - Love for

a Lifetime: will be held on Saturday 5th September and Saturday 12th September 2026 from 2PM to 5PM at St John Fisher's Presbytery, Manchester Road, Kearsley. Attendance is required on both dates. For more information and to register please email Fr Bryan Cunningham at fr.bryan@schoenstatt.org.uk or Fr Herbert Opara at fr.herbert@schoenstatt.org.uk

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. 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 are being supported by missionaries like the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who feature on this year's Red Box Thank You Poster. They rely on your support so they can continue to flourish. Visit missio.org.uk to find out more.

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 this Tuesday 12th of May at 7.30pm.

CAFOD: Stand with Sudan: On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help:

"So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a regular gift to support families who are fleeing the violence – with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you; we will stand with you until peace is restored." Donate at cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan



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

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: 278 Now the green blade riseth.

Kyrie: 516

Gloria: 1013

Offertory: 971 Father I place into your hands.

Holy Holy: 1014

Lamb of God: 1019

Communion: 629 I am the bread of life.

972: Do not be afraid.

Recessional: 954 Blest be the Lord.

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!

Collections: The total offertory collection for April, including standing orders and donations made on the card machine was £3398.64. The collection taken on Good Friday for the Church in the Holy Land was £265.97. Thank you for your generosity.

Do you sometimes keep quiet for fear of showing your ignorance? Most people do, but not the apostle Philip! On more than one occasion he blurts out what everyone else was thinking but was afraid to say. It was Philip who told Jesus there wasn't enough money to feed the 5,000 and today he asks Jesus to show the disciples the Father, and then that will be enough for them. On both occasions Philip's honesty is rewarded: the first time with the food in the desert, and today with the promise that to know and follow Jesus will lead us eventually to the Father and eternal life.