



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



Sunday 17th May 2026
7th Sunday of Easter
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday Vigil	6pm
Sunday	10am
Mon., Wed., Thur.	9am
Tuesday – Requiem	10am
Friday (Y3+4)	10am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

First Reading

Acts 1: 12-14

All with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26: 1. 4. 7-8a. R13

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Second Reading

1 Peter 4: 13-16

'If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed.'

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 14:18

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord. I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Gospel

John 17:1-11a

'Father, glorify your Son.'

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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

Poor disciples! What they have been through over the last few weeks! What wild swings of emotion they have had to deal with. First the horrors of Good Friday, with the anguish they felt for Jesus, the fear for themselves, the guilt over what they had done (and not done), the confusion about their future now that Jesus's mission had apparently failed. Then the beginnings of the rumours that Jesus was alive, with all the hope and terror and sheer perplexity of that. And then, at last, normality again, though a much more wonderful normality than ever before, with Jesus back among them, talking, teaching, making them feel at the centre of God's world, as he always did.

It is very unclear from the Gospels and from Paul's writings how long this period between the resurrection and the ascension lasted. The Church's liturgical year suggests just a few weeks. In Matthew, it looks very short, while Paul seems to extend it to include the appearance to him on the Damascus road. John's account is the most vivid, with the details of significant meetings and memorable meals. But for sheer poignancy, the first few verses of Acts which we hear today are hard to beat. The disciples are clearly imagining that life will now go on like it used to in the old days, only better. Jesus seems willing to concentrate only on them, with no preaching to crowds or healing outsiders, and he listens to them and answers their questions. They have forgotten all their doubts about his mission, the terrible doubts that the crucifixion caused, and they are back to believing that Jesus is going to take over Israel, and that they will be part of the new ruling party.

And then suddenly they find that he is not going to stay, and that he expects them to carry on without him. As they trudge back to Jerusalem, back to the upper room again, the flatness of the description in Acts is striking. We hear nothing of their emotions—no fear, no despair, no joy. They are all out of feelings. Tiredly, they get on with things, waiting for whatever it was that Jesus said he would send to help them, though they are not sure that they will know it when it arrives.

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 today and on 31st of May. Everyone is welcome.

Forthcoming funeral: The requiem Mass for Maureen Morris will take place at Sacred Heart at 10am on Tuesday 19th May. Please remember Maureen and her family and friends in your prayers at this time.

Come, Holy Spirit in these days between the Lord's Ascension and Pentecost we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church.

Next Saturday I will be attending a family event in Oxfordshire. As the

newsletter goes to press, I'm awaiting final confirmation, but I think one of the Salesian priests from Thornleigh will be celebrating the 6pm Mass. Please make him very welcome.

First Communion: We will welcome all the children on the First Communion programme to 10am Mass on 7th June.

As one first communion course draws to a close, we are already planning dates for next year's programme. Over the summer months details will be published for a September start. Watch this space!

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.

Exploring the Catholic Faith: our next session for those thinking of becoming Catholic is on Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Finance & Property Committee: The committee's next quarterly meeting is being held next Wednesday 20th May at 7 pm in the Hall. In the last few weeks quite a bit of work has been completed both to improve safety and maintain the site as recommended in the quinquennial condition report. Fingerguards have been fitted to three sets of double doors, the picket gate has been replaced, the dwarf walls have been cleaned, the fence panels around the Presbytery garden have been treated and new door closers have been fitted to four sets of double doors. We also had a successful Stewards/Fire Wardens Briefing which you will hear more about in the next few weeks.

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.

Toilets: a gentle reminder to all parents that children should be accompanied to the toilets.

Heart to Heart walk Sunday 12th July: 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! 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.

Caritas Volunteer Week: From 1st- 7th June it is national Volunteer Week, with various celebrations and activities taking place across the UK. Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, has a wide range of volunteering opportunities available to help support their work with people in Greater Manchester and Lancashire who are experiencing homelessness, poverty and discrimination. If you have a passion or skillset you'd like to share with others, you can find out more about the volunteering opportunities available on their website at www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer or contact Matt Yates at m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk

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

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

Free energy bill advice from Caritas: If you are worried about rising energy costs, our diocesan charity Caritas Salford runs a range of free drop-in advice sessions to help with everything from energy debt to making your home more energy efficient. You can find out more about these and other ways the team can help people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire on the Caritas website at www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport

Giving Made Simple: If you currently give in cash, thank you - your support is truly valued and makes a real difference to our parish. We are gently encouraging those who are able, to consider giving by standing order instead, as even small regular amounts help reduce the amount of cash we hold and need to bank each week. Standing order forms are available at the back of church, or you can set this up easily online if you prefer. Thank you, as always, for your continued generosity and support.

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 316 How great is our God
Kyrie: 516
Gloria: 1013
Offertory: 767 Majesty
Holy Holy: 1014
Communion: 644 Alleluia, sing to Jesus; 627 This is my body
Lamb of God: 1019
Recessional: 293 Abba Father, send your Spirit