



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



Sunday 24th May 2026

Pentecost
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

First Reading

Acts 2: 1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 103:1ab, 24ac. 29b-30. 31, 34. R cf. 30
Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13

In one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Gospel

John 20: 19-23

As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit.

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 ministry of Jesus starts with the coming of the Spirit at his Baptism, and so the ministry of the Church begins with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. There can be no witness to Jesus or to his message, no spreading of the Kingship of God, without the Spirit of Jesus. Another lesson from this parallel is that the task of the Church and the life of the Church are the same as those of Jesus himself: to bring God's Kingship to its fulfilment by bringing healing, love and joy through the message of the Risen Christ. The rushing wind and the tongues of fire are an allusion to the coming of God's Spirit upon Moses and the elders in the Old Testament. So the new message is the fulfilment of the Old Testament, breaking out beyond the borders of Judaism to include all peoples of the world. The union of all these peoples, all understanding one language in their own way, is a deliberate contrast to the scene at the Tower of Babel, when the Lord split up all the peoples of the world by their inability to understand one another's languages. The list of unpronounceable peoples is itself a witness to the universality of the Church!

Come, Holy Spirit on this feast of Pentecost we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church.

Welcome to Father Saju John SDB from the Salesian community at Thornleigh who is joining us for Mass on Saturday evening while Father Christopher attends a family celebration.

Mass times this week. There are a couple of changes to our usual weekday Mass times this week. Monday is a bank holiday and Mass is at 10am; Friday's Mass is 9am as we are in the half-term break.

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 mornings are on 31st May & 7th June. Everyone is 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.

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.

Exploring the Catholic Faith: our next session for those thinking of becoming Catholic is on Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30pm, when we will look at prayer.

Finance & Property Committee: At the committee meeting held this week it was

noted we are making good progress with maintenance work to keep the site safe and looking tidy. If you do notice any faults or items which need repair, there are some forms on the parish noticeboard to report these.

Children's Mass Bags: We hope families with young children are enjoying sharing the Mass Bags. 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.

World Cup 2026 Predictor Game: Please take a game sheet from the back of Church. For each game in the group stages, predict the final score. 3 points if you get it exactly right, 1 point if you guess the result (game winner or draw). £2 per entry, and prizes for first, second and third places. Please invite family and friends to take part. Proceeds to parish funds.

HCPT Quiz Night: Thank you to everyone who attended the fundraiser for HCPT on Friday night, it was a great success.

Feast of Sacred Heart: Our Parish feast Day this year is on Friday 12th June. As usual we will celebrate with a mass in school at 10am and there will be an evening Mass at 7pm followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Diocesan Safeguarding Audit Report: Earlier this year the independent Catholic Safeguarding Standards Authority (CSSA) conducted an audit of the diocesan safeguarding arrangements, including provisions at diocesan and parish level. The CSSA have published their findings on their website and graded the diocese as 'Exceeding expectations', a grading that describes safeguarding practice as 'consistently strong and often goes beyond minimum requirements. There is evidence of positive outcomes, proactive risk management, and well-embedded systems. Leadership demonstrates a strong commitment to safeguarding, and practice is robust and forward-looking.'

This is a positive affirmation of the commitment shown across our diocese by clergy, staff and volunteers to ensuring that safeguarding is embedded in our culture, leadership and daily practice. The inspection highlights strong safeguarding arrangements, a shared sense of responsibility, and a clear focus on creating safe environments for all.

Importantly, the report also identifies areas where further development is needed, particularly in strengthening consistency and quality assurance.

The full report can be found on the CSSA website: catholicsafeguarding.org.uk and the diocesan website.

Thank you to everyone who works to establish and maintain our parish as a safe and welcoming environment for all. If you have any concerns or suggestions please speak to Fr Christopher or our parish safeguarding rep Cathy Ward.

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.

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

HYMNBOARD

Entrance: 770 Lord, the light of your love

Kyrie: 516

Gloria: 1013

Offertory: 771 The Spirit lives to set us free

Holy Holy: 1014

Communion: 832 One bread, one body, 984 All over the world

Lamb of God: 1019

Recessional: 864 God's Spirit is in my heart

Please note: Hymns are subject to last minute changes!