



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

8 LORD STREET, WESTHOUGHTON, BOLTON, BL5 3SE
Parish Priest: Rev Fr Christopher Dawson - 01942 812174
Parish Safeguarding Rep: Cathy Ward - 07746 296095
Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Sunday 26th July 2026
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 10am
Monday – Friday No Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30-5.50pm
and at call

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

First Reading

Kings 3:5-6a,7-12

You have asked for yourself
understanding.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 119(118):57,72.76-77.

127-128.129-130

O lord, how I love your law.

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

He predestined to be conformed to the
image of his son.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:25

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and
earth you have revealed the secrets of
the kingdom to little children.

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

He sells all that he has and buys that
field.

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

This Sunday we hear the three final pictures from Matthew's collection of Jesus' images of the Kingdom of Heaven and the Christian community. Matthew likes pairs of parables: the dragnet pairs with last week's parable of the wheat and the weeds, the treasure pairs with the pearl. The Kingdom is an exciting and unexpected treasure that can change our whole life, like winning the pools or the lottery—except that God's gifts change us only for the good, and fill our lives with meaning and joy. Of course, we know that God's call is demanding: you've got to pay a price for the field in which the treasure lies, or the genuine pearl found in a junk shop. The very last picture—the householder bringing down different food packets, pots and jars off the shelf—is encouraging, too: some are old favourites (perhaps the Christian values and prayers we inherited from our families), but some also add new flavours, which we have discovered or been taught ourselves. If we listen, the Spirit is always there to show us new ways of living out our Christian call, an opportunity for prayer or help or service. This 'householder' is often thought to be Matthew's own secret signature: he brings out old and new in the Christian message.

Annual Mission Appeal: In the spirit of the recently finished World Cup, we have a late substitution! Fr Eugene Lugh MSP of the Missionary Society of St Paul will make the mission appeal this weekend. The



MSP is a religious congregation working in different parts of the world, committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvific work of God the Father in the Holy Spirit. The MSP warmly invites you to support their mission appeal. There will be a retiring collection at both Masses. Additionally you can donate by setting up a direct debit or by cheque using these details: Account name: The Missionary Society of St Paul Sort code 202963 account number 73306224 at Barclays Bank. Alternatively, scan the QR code above

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. There is an extra coffee morning today providing opportunity for Fr. Eugene of the missionary society of St

Paul to meet parishioners. Everyone is welcome.

Friday Morning Mass: during August the Friday morning Mass will usually be at 9am until the beginning of the new school term in September.

CAFOD: as part of the Disaster's Emergency Committee, CAFOD have launched an appeal on behalf of the people of Venezuela after the recent earthquakes devastated parts of their country. We have our mission appeal this weekend so we will not hold a second collection but please remember there is always the CAFOD button on the card machine if you would like to support CAFOD's work.

Retreat: I am away on retreat this week, returning on Friday afternoon. There will be no weekday Masses this week. Thank you for your understanding. Please pray for me, as I will pray for you all.

First Communion 2026-27: The Information Sheet for parents and carers for our next preparation programme is now available on the tables at the back of Church. The programme is open to baptised catholic children living in our parish who will be in Year 3 in

September, or older. Please share with anyone you think will be interested.

One newsletter for August: The parish newsletter of 1st/2nd August will be for the whole month. Please submit notices intended for the beginning of September in time for inclusion in this edition.

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Children's Liturgy of the Word is taking a break for the summer period and will return on the 6th of September. Thank you to the whole team for a great year!

Afternoon Tea: The social team are providing afternoon tea at 2pm on Wed. Aug 12th as a repeat of last year's highly popular event. It is open to all whether older or younger, families are welcome and there is no charge! Do join us if you can.

Future Social Events: save the dates! Aug 12th Afternoon Tea; Sept 25th Parish Quiz Night; Oct 23rd Songs from the Musicals, Three Towns Choir; Nov 27th Bingo and Beetle Drive.

We are hoping to re schedule the Heart to Heart parish walk for late summer/early autumn after finalising a date with Sacred Heart Hindley Green.

Finance and Property Committee: The committee's quarterly meeting was held on Wednesday in church. The committee met Martin Heywood, Health & Safety Business Partner for Salford Diocese recently. He was pleased to see how well looked after the church buildings and grounds are. We discussed the quotes we obtained for the installation of a Fire Alarm system and how best to assist those with mobility issues to evacuate the building safely and in a timely manner. We are pleased to say that work on the new fire alarm should begin in the near future.

Visiting Blessed Sacrament: Reminder that if anyone wishes to visit the Blessed Sacrament on weekdays, the doors to the church will remain unlocked. Please speak to Father Christopher for the code to the keypad on the main doors. The prayer books and books of Christian poetry that were in the adoration chapel remain where they were and can be accessed when you visit.

Piety Stall: Please do take a moment to visit the piety stall after Mass. They have a lovely range of beautiful gifts, cards and religious items for all occasions, with prices starting from just 50p. Stop by, have a browse and perhaps find

something special for yourself or someone else.

Exploring the Catholic Faith: Our next session for those thinking of becoming Catholic will resume on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Free Catholic Social Teaching webinar:

Catholic Social Teaching has been referred to as 'the Catholic Church's best kept secret' (Mark Shea). Many people are unaware of the depth of the Church's teaching on social justice, which applies the Gospel to current social issues impacting our communities. With the by-election for the Mayor of Greater Manchester set to take place on Thursday 30th July, the time is right to raise our awareness of Catholic Social Teaching and reflect on how it can help to inform the decisions and choices we make in life. Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, is running a free webinar to introduce you to the basic principles in an accessible way. Book your free place now: www.caritassalford.org.uk/event/cst-webinar

Love knitting, crocheting, sewing or making? Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, is looking for creative parishioners who might be able to help them raise funds to help support people in our parish communities who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. They're looking for people who can either make items to sell in aid of the charity, or groups of people from our parishes who can be paired with local schools to help knit hats and scarves for pupils to wear in their Big Sleep Out fundraisers. If you can help, please get in touch with the team at fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk or call 0161 817 2250.

Join the Catholic Medical Association: Whether you are a doctor, nurse, student, or allied professional — if you are a Catholic in healthcare, join us to grow in fellowship, prayer and formation together. For more information & upcoming events, visit: catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk

A Night of Music and Fun: The African Priests and Religious of the Diocese of Salford invite you to a concert celebrating African Liturgical and folk music. This is to be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Failsworth, M35 0NN on 31st July 2026 at 7 pm.

Catholic holidays in the Lake District this summer: During August and September, Castlerigg Manor in Keswick is opening

its doors to families, groups of friends, or private individuals who are looking for an affordable stay in the Lake District. Breakfast and evening meal are provided, and Mass is celebrated on site. For more information check out castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk 017687 72711

St Mary's RC Cemetery & Southern

Cemetery Masses: This annual Mass will take place on Monday 31st August at 11 am at St Mary's Cemetery, Wardley. It will be held outside the Chapel and there will be limited seating. The mass at Southern Cemetery will be on Monday 31st August at 12 noon.

The Traditional Roman Rite study

weekend: Join us from the 11th – 13th September to explore the key elements of the Roman Church's liturgical tradition. The weekend is intended to offer a deeper understanding of both the Traditional Rite specifically as well as of the New Rite of the Mass, which draws principally on the same heritage of the Church's worship over the centuries. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-traditional-roman-rite-study-weekend>

Quiet retreats for adults this October:

During October half term, Castlerigg Manor is running a quiet retreat for individual adults who want to spend a few days of peace, relaxation and prayer in the Lake District. Each day there will be a talk, Mass, and evening prayer, and then free time to do as you wish. Book at castleriggmanor.com/events or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

New Volunteering Role at Caritas

Salford: Our diocesan charity Caritas Salford has a team of almost 200 amazing volunteers, all of whom support people in our parishes who are experiencing poverty, homelessness and discrimination. The team is looking for suitable volunteers who would be interested in giving a little time to work alongside families at their young parent accommodation in Blackburn - supporting and facilitating activities with the babies and their parents. All roles will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring check. To find out more visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer or m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk