



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Westhoughton

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 250037



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

All Sundays of August 2026
18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, & 22nd Sundays in
Ordinary Time Year A

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 10am
Monday – Friday 9am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30-5.50pm
and at call

18th SUNDAY MASS

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm: 145: 8-9, 15-16, 17-18 R cf.16

You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

They ate and all were satisfied.

19th SUNDAY MASS

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm: 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 R.8

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Matthew 14: 22-33

Command me to come to you on the water.

20th SUNDAY MASS

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm: 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 R.4

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

O woman, great is your faith.

21st SUNDAY MASS

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm: 138 (137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 6, 8bc R8bc

O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

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 MONTH

As our parish newsletter takes a summer rest from its usual weekly rhythm, it seems fitting that the Gospel readings for the Sundays of August trace their own journey — one of trust deepening through encounter, doubt, and revelation.

We begin on the 18th Sunday with the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus, seeking solitude after news of John the Baptist's death, is met instead by crowds in need. Rather than send them away, he takes the little that is offered — five loaves and two fish — and it becomes more than enough. It's a Gospel about God's abundance meeting our scarcity, and a gentle reminder that with whatever we offer him, however small, he can work wonders.

The 19th Sunday carries us onto stormy water, as Jesus walks towards the disciples' boat and Peter, in a moment of both boldness and fear, steps out to meet him. 'Take heart, it is I; have no fear,' Jesus says. Peter's brief sinking and rescue captures something true of faith itself: it falters, but it need not fail, so long as we keep reaching for the hand that is always held out to us.

By the 20th Sunday, we meet a very different figure of faith: the Canaanite woman who pleads for her daughter's healing. An outsider by every measure, she refuses to be turned away, and Jesus commends her 'great faith'. It is a Gospel that quietly widens our sense of who belongs at God's table.

The 21st Sunday brings us to Caesarea Philippi, where Peter makes his great confession: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'. Jesus responds by naming Peter the rock on which he will build his Church, entrusting him with 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. It is the hinge on which so much of the Gospel turns — faith recognised, and a mission given.

Yet faith recognised is not faith fully understood, as the 22nd Sunday makes clear. No sooner has Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ than he balks at what that title will actually cost, drawing a sharp rebuke from Jesus: 'Get behind me, Satan!' Jesus goes on to teach that anyone who wishes to follow him must take up their cross and lose their life in order to find it. It is a sobering counterpart to Peter's earlier triumph, and a reminder that discipleship is not merely a matter of right belief, but of a willingness to walk the harder road.

Taken together, these five Sundays offer a summer's worth of quiet encouragement: God provides, God steadies us in the storm, God welcomes the persistent and the unexpected, God builds his Church on ordinary faith freely confessed, and God calls that same faith onward into costly discipleship. A blessed August to you all!

Annual Mission Appeal: Fr Eugene sends his thanks for the warm welcome he received last weekend and for the support through the retiring collections. If you still wish to donate you can by setting up a direct debit or by cheque using these details:



Account name: The Missionary Society of St Paul. Sortcode: 202963. Account Number 73306224 at Barclays Bank or by scanning 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 which are this Sunday 2nd

August & 16th August. 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.

Afternoon Tea: The social team are providing afternoon tea – a selection of sandwiches, cakes & scones with tea/coffee & soft drinks at 2pm on Wednesday 12th August 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: Sept 25th Parish Quiz Night; Oct 23rd Songs from the Musicals, Three Towns Choir; Nov 27th Bingo and Beetle Drive.

It has been decided to postpone the Heart to Heart parish walk until next year. Look out for it in next year's Social Calendar which is currently being worked on by the Social Team.

First Communion 2026-27: The information sheet for parents and carers for our next preparation programme is now available 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.

Children's Mass Bags: One of Children's Mass Bags seems to have been taken home by mistake. We appreciate this can happen quite easily. If you find that you have it, we'd be grateful if you could return it to church next time you come to Mass. The bags are shared and enjoyed by many of our young parishioners. Thank you for helping us to keep these lovely resources available for everyone.

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.

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!

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

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.

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.

Lourdes at Home: The 92nd Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Bishop John, will take place from Thursday 30 July - Wednesday 5 August. If you are not able to join us in Lourdes, please be assured of our prayers for all in the diocese during our time on pilgrimage. You can still participate in our celebrations of Mass via '**Lourdes at Home**'. This year we will be live-streaming extra Masses in the programme so that those not with us in person can still join in our Masses and processions. All live streaming links, liturgy sheets and the programme for the week can be found on the '**Lourdes at Home**' page of our website - www.salfordlourdes.co.uk. We hope you can join us.

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.

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

Services to Support Local People:

Caritas Salford runs a wide range of community and outreach services to help people in our diocesan communities who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, isolation and discrimination. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from their support, you can find details on their website www.caritassalford.org.uk/services



If you are going away this month, rest well!