



St John The Evangelist
Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG



Our Lady Help of Christians
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU



St John Fisher
Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH

<https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

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Assistant Priest:

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Parish Administrator:

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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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Address for all correspondence:
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@ChessValleyRC

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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Mill End Parish

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Diocesan Safeguarding

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
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Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
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Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
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THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 25TH OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Sometimes it helps to spell things out – that is exactly what today’s First Reading does with respect to the Gospel reading. It’s easy to assume that we’re obeying the two great commandments. Of course we love God and our neighbours! But what if the theoretical is brought down to the practical level? That practical level was important to Israel – and to Jesus.

The Laws Jesus recites in today’s Gospel reading appear in the Old Testament: the first, in Deuteronomy 6:5, part of the Shema, a prayer that Jews recite three times a day; the second, in Leviticus 19:18, one of the many Laws of conduct meant to keep Israel set apart or consecrated to the Lord.

The First Reading, from Exodus, is also an excerpt from the Laws. In fact, from Exodus 19:1 to Numbers 10:10 the Laws continue, following the description of Israel’s encampment at Mt Sinai on the way to the Promised Land. While many of those Laws come from a later period, their placement alongside the original ones suggests that they were understood to show how the people remained faithful to the covenant in new situations, such as when they settled in the new land.

Today’s readings might be summarized as follows: Do unto others as I have done unto you; for I am compassionate. The Israelites had only to remember that they had once been slaves to recall what God had done for them. This they must do for others.

The Gospel reading is, again, tense with conflict. Jesus is questioned, literally “tested” by a lawyer or scholar of the law – an expert. How ironic – the lawyer testing the Son of the Giver of the Law, the one who came not to abolish but to fulfil the Law and the Prophets! Let us pray that we may always try to live our lives in a way that is indeed the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets.

WEEKDAY MASS AND VOLUNTEERS

We are now celebrating public Masses at **Our Lady’s** on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays, 9.30am**. There is no online booking, but attendance is on a first-come first-serve basis. Be aware that if there are funerals or memorial services on Wednesdays and Fridays, public Mass will be cancelled. However, information about cancellations will be given as soon as possible.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Although it isn’t currently possible for the priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the confessional, both Fr Damian and I are available for the celebration of the sacrament by individual appointment. The celebration would take place, outside of Mass time, either in the garden (weather permitting) or in an empty church. Any parishioners wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation should contact either Fr Damian or me to arrange a mutually convenient time.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 25TH OCTOBER	4.00pm	Praise & Worship Gathering	
MON 26TH OCTOBER	7.30pm	Online Bible Study - The Bible Course	

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 24 TH OCTOBER	John Thomson RIP		
SUNDAY 25 TH OCTOBER 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am Joe & Jacqueline Grove RIP 6pm Norah MacWilliam RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Audrey Lewin RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 26 TH OCTOBER	Frazer Bradshaw RIP		
TUESDAY 27 TH OCTOBER	Terry McGrady RIP		
WED 28TH OCTOBER <i>SS SIMON & JUDE,</i> <i>APOSTLES</i>	9.30am Mary McCormack RIP		
THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER <i>BLESSED MARTYRS OF</i> <i>DOUAI COLLEGE</i>	Neille Flynn RIP		
FRIDAY 30 TH OCTOBER	9.30am Stephen Norton RIP		
SATURDAY 31 ST OCTOBER	Leo & Catherine Gaughan RIP		
SUNDAY 1 ST NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS	10am Josie Livingston RIP (Anniv.) 6pm John Reid RIP	10.30am Betty Page RIP	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon:	Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.
1st Reading:	Exodus 22:20-26
Response to Psalm:	I love you, Lord, my strength.
2nd Reading:	1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
Gospel:	Matthew 22:34-40
Communion Antiphon:	We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Malachi 1:14 - 2:2. 8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13, Matthew 23:1-12 (Gospel)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townend, Maureen Douglas, Josie Westhrop, and Gillian Loose.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock and Joan Hart.

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Angela Hoy, Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, and Paddy Goble.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month of the Holy Souls, when we pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed, especially remembering our departed family members, loved ones and friends. At most weekday Masses throughout November (excepting anniversary Masses) the Mass intention will be for the Holy Souls. As usual, we encourage you to write a list with the names of your departed loved ones to be included in this general intention. Due to the pandemic, this year we invite you to download and print the Holy Souls sheet from the special **Holy Souls** page on each parish website. Once completed, please email it to rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk. We will then print your list and add it to the Holy Souls box which will stand in front of the Our Lady's altar throughout November. If you would like to make an offering in connection with your Holy Souls list, you can use the **Donate to your Parish** tab where you can make a bank transfer directly to the parish. Please reference your offering as **Holy Souls**.

LIVESTREAM MASSES

If you are unable to come to Mass for health reasons, or because you could not book a place, please, join us for Mass by livestreaming. It is very simple to do. Simply go to <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>, and you can join us for the public Sunday Masses at Our Lady's (10am and 6pm), and all the private weekday Masses (9.30am, Monday – Saturday).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - MASS ATTENDANCE STICKERS AND CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE (CCP) OF 2022 SECONDARY TRANSFER

With the Sunday Mass Obligation currently suspended and the ability of families to attend Mass in the parish each Sunday being very restricted due to social distancing measures, it is currently not possible to provide Mass attendance cards and stickers to families with a child making secondary transfer in 2022. There currently seems to be a level of uncertainty about if, and on what criteria, priests are going to be asked to complete CCPs for 2022 Secondary admissions. For the time being, all parents with a child who will be seeking a place in a Catholic Secondary school in 2022 should email me at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk, providing the following information:

- Name of the child (first name and surname)
- Parents/Guardians names (first name and surname)
- Address at which you reside
- Telephone contact details

I will retain this information and keep a careful eye on Diocesan guidance with regard to the issuing of CCPs for 2022 transfer in the light of the prevailing restrictions caused by the pandemic. *Fr Shaun*

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY - THE BIBLE COURSE (VIA ZOOM)

Prior to lockdown, some of you started discipleship groups on the topic of the 'The Bible Course' which we have been unable to complete. As we approach the end of the 'The Year of the Word' and lead into Advent, we would like to invite everyone to participate in this course via Zoom. This 8 week course covers the bible storyline and through discussion and reflection helps us to understand how God speaks to us and the relevance of the bible in our world today. Running on Mondays from **26th October** at 7.30pm, please register your interest via the e-mail below and a zoom link will be sent out nearer the time. All are warmly welcome and we look forward to seeing you soon. Contact: sharon.blayne@btinternet.com

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – Sunday 25th October at new time of 4pm via 'Zoom'

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 25th October, for a short Praise and Worship gathering at 4pm. We will be using Zoom to sing a few uplifting hymns, listen to a short prayer and a reading or reflection, as well as catch up with fellow Parishioners. Please do not worry if you have not used Zoom before, it is very simple to set up, and pick up and we are happy to walk you through the process ahead of time and on the day. If you would like to attend, please email Katy Pione (cepione@hotmail.co.uk) before Sunday 25th October, so she can send you a link with the meeting invitation on it, as well as the song words. Please feel free to invite anyone who might like to attend! Look forward to seeing you then.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021

Due to the pandemic, the preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for 2021 will not commence until **January 2021**. Registration will take place in November 2020. Details of the programme are currently being finalized. The format will be remote sessions (via Zoom) for the children and parent(s) together. More details will be available at the time of registration in November.

CONFIRMATION 2021

Information about registering interest for the sacrament of Confirmation in 2021, for those in Year 9 and above, will be given this November. We hope to start the Confirmation sessions in January 2021 – possibly to be online. However, more information will be given in due course. Confirmation Masses are usually at the end of May/June.

WATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL – EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

The Chaplaincy Team at Watford General Hospital are looking for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to support Catholic patients in Watford General Hospital by bringing Holy Communion during the weekends. Can you serve the Lord in this way? You must be under 60 years old and in good health. The Chaplaincy team will provide you with full training and support. Time commitment for this ministry would be between one and two hours per visit. Please prayerfully consider this invitation to a very special ministry and speak with Fr Shaun or Fr Damian who will contact the Catholic chaplain at the hospital with your details. All applicants must have the approval and support of their parish priests to be considered for this ministry.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

PENPALS

Hello, we at St Joan's know how difficult lockdown has been for so many people over the last few months and recognise how many of the restrictions can be very isolating. We would love the opportunity to support you or someone you may know who you think would like to have a pen pal. Although it is not the same as face to face we think it is something that many may like to participate in. It is also a great chance to get back to some hand written exchanges and allow us to take a break from the immediate nature which comes with emails. This is a great chance for the different generations to stand together and support one another in these very difficult times, and hold true to our belief that we must "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Keep safe! If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested please contact St Joan of Arc and ask to speak to Miss Gaughan 01923 773881, or you can email directly tgaughan@joa.herts.sch.uk

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

VISIT BY THE CARDINAL

This Sunday we look forward very much to welcoming Cardinal Vincent Nichols at the 10.00am Mass at Our Lady's. Unfortunately, due to the present circumstances, there will be no form of social gathering after the Mass, nor will it even be possible for the Cardinal to greet people after Mass.

APPEAL FOR HELP - MORE VOLUNTEER STEWARDS AND CLEANERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MASSES

We are making an urgent appeal for more volunteer stewards and cleaners to join the rota for Sunday Masses. With the re-opening of St John Fisher and St John the Evangelist parishes our pool of volunteers has been much reduced. We cannot allow the burden to fall upon the shoulders of just a few. If more volunteers do not come forward it may jeopardize our ability to have public celebrations of Mass every Sunday. If you have no underlying health conditions and would be willing to volunteer as a steward or a cleaner (or both) then please contact Sharon Blayney at sharon.blayney@btinternet.com as soon as possible. Thank you. *Fr Shaun*

THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating Sunday Masses at Our Lady's at 10.00am and 6.00pm (Sunday evening). Places are limited and so you are invited to book online via the **EVENTS** page of Our Lady's website. Please note that you are booking **A PEW** not individual seats. *Please read the instructions on the booking page carefully and provide all the information requested.*

200 CLUB

The 200 Club begins again in October and if you are interested in joining (or cancelling your membership) please contact Kerry on 01923 773387 for further details. The membership fee is due soon for those who prefer to pay their annual subscription (£60) by cheque.

200 CLUB - September draw

Congratulations to Annie Kent £33, Richard Dumughn £24.75, Peter Waters £16.50, John Steele £8.25

FOR THE MISSIONS

Please keep saving your stamps for the Missions. For the time being, please keep them at home, do not bring them to the church porch. Thank you, *Sheila Harrington*.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

HEATING THE CHURCH

With the onset of autumn and colder days, our expectation is that our churches will be heated. Every parish currently has to make thoughtful decisions about how to heat their churches whilst at the same time ensuring good ventilation as a part of our COVID secure measures. However, we have a particular problem at St John's, Mill End, in that our heating system is a fan-blower system which recirculates the heated air throughout the church. We have, therefore, been advised by the Diocese to heat the church prior to opening the church and then turn the heating off once people begin to arrive. This will mean that the church will be not be "toastily" warm during Mass, though hopefully it will retain some of the heat. As the days get colder, we encourage you to come to Mass prepared – i.e. lots of warm layers. If you are someone who feels the cold very strongly, you might wish to book a place at Mass at Our Lady's, rather than at St John's, at least when the winter is as its coldest.

THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating a Sunday Mass at 10.30am each week. Places are limited and so you are invited to book online via the **EVENTS** page of St John's website from the Monday of each week. Please note that you are booking **A PEW** not individual seats. *Please read the instructions on the booking page carefully and provide all the information requested.*

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating a Sunday Mass at 9.00am each week. Places are limited and so you are invited to book online via the **EVENTS** page on the parish website from the Monday of each week. *Please read the instructions on the booking page carefully and provide all the information requested.*

NOT THE SJF CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

I am pleased to say we are up and running!! For *Christmas Cakes*, ring Marguerite Watkins 282780, large £16, small £11, for collection or delivery, mainly first week in December. Other delicious cakes, £4, will be available to purchase. For my potted hyacinths, daffodils etc, and the raffle and *The Silent Auction* and some bric a brac, please phone 284975 for an appointment to come in person or how to purchase long distance!!! All things are possible! Please look on our website for full details. Thank you and love, Mary Latimer