



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

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

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
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Assistant Priest:

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Parish Administrator:

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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga_forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

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Mill End

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 7TH FEBRUARY 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Sometimes when children are excited and tell stories of their latest adventures they can skip over details, jumping from one tale to the next. 'And then' is a common conjunction joining these hurried sentences that quickly moves the narrative forward, often in fits and starts. The excitement definitely carries the story. The listener (maybe even a parent!) is often left wondering exactly what happened. There are a number of questions left unanswered, but one thing is clear: 'This is exciting!'

Something similar is happening in the first chapter of Mark, indeed some would say it happens throughout the entire Gospel of Mark! We see this excitement and hurried storytelling on prominent display in today's gospel reading. Though we have only a few verses, there are at least three distinct vignettes. The action begins in Capernaum, where Jesus has been preaching in the synagogue. He and his new disciples go to the house of the brothers Simon and Andrew. There Simon's mother-in-law is healed. We learn from this that Simon (Peter) had a wife; and the extended family included at least his brother and his mother-in-law living under the same roof. This is family togetherness that people in our society may no longer experience.

This particular home must have been a welcoming place. Not only was it the location of such an extended family, but James and John were also with them that day. And by evening it seemed the entire town was at the door! Jesus cured many of the townspeople before leaving early the next day.

Though Capernaum formed something of a base for his Galilean ministry, Jesus still needed to get away from time to time as the last short story in today's gospel reminds us. But even a few moments of solitude were nearly beyond reach as Jesus tells his disciples that he came for one purpose: to preach.

The action and excitement covered in this brief period is palpable. In one sense it covers only twenty-four hours before concluding with a sentence that says Jesus went throughout the whole of Galilee preaching and driving out demons. Jesus has a purpose and his followers are witness to it. It's as though there is no time to spare, not even a predawn moment to himself, for that is filled with prayer.

At times our busied lives, even with the change of pace and emphasis which have come with living with the pandemic, can seem frenetic, simply moving from one activity to the next with barely a moment in between. Most of us feel the pressure of time because we are driven by a purpose. There are things we need to do. And today we hear of Jesus driven by the same. He has something to accomplish. He has a purpose. Though he wakes before the dawn to have some time to himself, even that sacred moment quickly vanishes in the midst of the day's activities. Simply being busy or having things to accomplish is not a bad thing. In fact, it can be the opposite. Today we have a chance to reflect on what motivates us. For what purpose are we driven? Are we taking time to pray, brief as it may be? Even when we do find a moment of solitude, the needs of others come before our own needs.

ASH WEDNESDAY – WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2021

Masses for Ash Wednesday will take place across the three parishes as follows:

Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – 9.30am and 8.00pm

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – 9.30am

St John's, Mill End – 8.00pm

Due to the continuing need for social distancing in our churches, it will be necessary to book places for these Masses in advance, using the online booking system on the **EVENTS** tab of the respective parish website.

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572
rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Chorleywood Parish

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

WED 10TH FEBRUARY	12 noon	Funeral - Mary King RIP	St John the Evangelist
THUR 11TH FEBRUARY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group (via Zoom)	

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 6TH FEBRUARY <i>St PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	O'Keefe Family (Ints.)		
SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am Joe Grove RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Chris Pearson RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY	Frank Rice RIP		
TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY	Fr Kidane Lebasi RIP		
WED 10TH FEBRUARY <i>St SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Nagalingam Thurairajah RIP	12 noon Funeral - Mary King RIP	
THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY	Fr Jim Duffy RIP		
FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Fr Jim Duffy RIP		
SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am For the People of the Parish 6pm Mgr Mark Langham RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon:	O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.
1st Reading:	Job 7:1-4. 6-7
Response to Psalm:	Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23
Gospel:	Mark 1:29-39
Communion Antiphon:	Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1; Mark 1:40-45 (Gospel)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Maureen Douglas, Josie Westhrop, Peter Knight and Bishop John MacWilliam

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock and James Clark.

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, Paddy Goble and Pam Fitzpatrick.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS 2021

Each year in February or March we have an Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in each of our three parishes. The purpose of the APM is for parishioners to be able to hear about the work of the parish during the previous year. An important element of the APM is the presentation of the annual parish finances, in this case for the year ending on 31st December 2020. The APM also offers the opportunity for parishioners to ask questions of the parish team. Due to the pandemic, this year all three APMs will take place online via *Zoom*. The dates will be as follows:

St John the Evangelist, Mill End – Sunday 21st February 2021 at 4.00pm

Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth – Sunday 28th February 2021 at 3.00pm

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Thursday 4th March 2021 at 7.30pm

If you would like to attend (virtually) the APM for your respective parish, please email me at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk and, nearer the time, I will send you a *Zoom* invite to the meeting. We hope that many parishioners will join us for these important meetings. *Fr Shaun*

KAIROS – CONNECT, BELONG, GROW!

On Tuesday 23rd February 2021 we will be launching our new *Kairos* ministry. *Kairos* - a Greek word used often in the Bible, means *the favoured time ... the opportune time ... indeed, God's time*. *Kairos* will take place once a fortnight, on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and each session will last one hour and 15 minutes. The purpose of *Kairos* will be to help us all to **connect** with our brothers and sisters across the parishes; to increase our sense of **belonging** to a community of faith and help us to **grow** as we explore together the richness of the faith we profess and share. A typical *Kairos* evening will include the following elements: some informal social time in small groups, input on a religious theme or topic, discussion in small groups, time for communal prayer together. Given the online nature of *Kairos*, we are also planning to have (when the restrictions on social gathering have been lifted) a quarterly social evening, where we can come together physically and enjoy being in each other's company over food and drink. If you would like to join us for *Kairos*, please email our *Kairos* Communications Team at kairos@rcdow.org.uk and you will be sent a *Zoom* invite. If you need some technical help with *Zoom*, please let our Communications Team know and they will try their best to help. *Fr Shaun*

ONLINE STATIONS OF THE CROSS – LENT 2021

This year, due to the pandemic, Lenten Stations of the Cross will take place via *Zoom* on three Fridays during Lent (in the weeks when there is no *Kairos* gathering). We will be using photographs of the Stations of the Cross from our three parishes. Using *Zoom* means that we can play some music as part of meditation on the Stations. The Stations will take place as follows:

Friday 5th March – 7.30pm – using the Stations of the Cross from St John's, Mill End

Friday 19th March – 7.30pm – using the Stations of the Cross from Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) – 7.30pm – using the Stations from St John Fisher, Chorleywood.

Please email Fr Shaun at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk if you would like to be sent a *Zoom* invite to the online Stations of the Cross.

JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (JPPC)

The role of our JPPC is to assist Fr Damian and me in developing the long-term strategy for the continuing pastoral and spiritual renewal of our three parishes. Obviously, the COVID19 pandemic has had an impact on the momentum of this work. Therefore, in consultation with the JPPC members, and with their agreement, I have decided to extend the term of office of all of the elected members of the JPPC by one year. Consequently, those due to step down in 2021 will now continue until 2022 and those due to step down in 2022 will now continue until 2023. Therefore, there will be no elections to the JPPC until February/March 2022. I am also very pleased to be able to tell you that John Donohoe has accepted my invitation for him to join the JPPC as one of the four St John Fisher members, in place of Toni D'Urso, who stepped down in 2020. I am very grateful to John for accepting this invitation and I look forward to welcoming him to our next JPPC meeting in March 2021. *Fr Shaun*

FUNERALS

The funeral of Mary King RIP will be on **Wednesday 10th February** at 12 noon at St John's, Mill End, followed by burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery.

The funeral of Helga de-Sa RIP will be on **Friday 12th February** at 11.30am at Breakspear Crematorium.

The funeral of Ellen 'Eileen' Halsey nee Durkan RIP will be on **Friday 19th February** at 11.00am at Our Lady's, followed by burial at North Watford Cemetery.

We commend them to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for their families at this sad and difficult time.

COLIN WEARS RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Heather Wears's husband, Colin Wears. We extend our deepest condolences to Colin's family at this sad and difficult time. The funeral arrangements have not yet been finalised.

GILLIAN LOOSE RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Clare Loose's daughter-in-law, Gillian Loose. We extend our deepest condolences to Gillian's family at this sad and difficult time. The funeral arrangements have not yet been finalised.

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 Shaun and Fr Damian 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 Fr Shaun or Fr Damian to arrange a mutually convenient time.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

We regret to announce the World Day of Prayer planned for the 5th March 2021 at St Thomas', West Hyde has been postponed until the Summer. The committee made this decision as the WDP is about all our faith communities coming together in prayer and song and as we know, with the current restrictions the numbers able to attend public worship are limited and singing is not allowed. We would also be unable to socialise afterwards. Holding the WDP in the summer will be a happy and appropriate way to celebrate our communal return to life. We will let you know more details on the new date and time after Easter. Thank you. *Cristina and Geraldine*.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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

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 or seeking a nursery or reception place in a catholic primary school 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 admissions. For the time being, all parents with a child who will be seeking a place in a Catholic Secondary school in 2022 or a nursery or reception place in a Catholic primary school (other than St John's, Mill End or St Anthony's, Watford which do not require a CCP) 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 admissions in the light of the prevailing restrictions caused by the pandemic. *Fr Shaun*

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

An order for offertory envelopes needs to be placed soon. Due to COVID, most parishioners no longer use their offertory envelopes and have switched to standing orders. If you would still like a box of envelopes, please could you contact Kerry at the parish office before Monday 8th February. Thank you.

DETONATE 2021- MONDAY JULY 26th TO FRIDAY JULY 30th

We go forward in faith. We don't know what Detonate 2021 will look like yet but we have decided to go with these dates. Maybe we will be live at the Russell, maybe we will be partly on line and partly in groups in various church buildings, maybe it will all have to be on line. This is still in the balance. What we DO KNOW is that IT WILL HAPPEN. We do know that there is an overlap at the end of the week with New Wine B but many will be attending online as there aren't many places to attend in person. So we leave it to each family to decide on this. PLEASE PRAY for us as we begin the planning process. We would love to be enlisting help for a live event but it is early days yet re Covid. We anticipate the joy of our churches working together, *The Detonate Team*

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, MILL END AND MAPLE CROSS

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of St John the Evangelist church in 1971. I am delighted to say that Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be coming to St John's to celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving on **Sunday 27th June 2021**. We can be hopeful that by that time the restrictions will have been eased enough for us to be able to celebrate the day in a fuller way than we can right now. But we will have to wait and see. As part of our celebration of this important anniversary year we are moving forward with our plans to create a Lady Chapel in the side chapel area of the church. The statue of Our Lady from the church has now been removed in preparation for the construction of a new painted reredos which will form a new backdrop for the statue in its new space in the Lady Chapel. The old wooden altar, which has been unused since the church was re-ordered, is being refurbished as the Lady Chapel altar, and will sit beneath the statue and the reredos. We hope that this work will be completed in time for our big celebration in June.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

STAYING COVID-SECURE AT ST JOHN FISHER

With the rapid spread of the new variant of the coronavirus and the lockdown now in force, I asked our St John Fisher Covid19 taskforce to review the COVID secure measures we have in place. This is important given the particular circumstances of the St Fisher building and it's much smaller cubic footage, when compared to our sister parishes. As a result of this review, it has been agreed that it is necessary to increase the ventilation throughout the building by keeping the front and back doors and some windows open during the celebration of Mass. This is obviously not ideal during the cold winter months, but it is necessary to help keep the building COVID secure. If you are attending Mass at St John Fisher you are advised to wrap up warmly. I also remind you that there is currently no obligation to attend Sunday Mass, so if you have underlying health conditions or if you particularly feel the cold, you may wish to join in the celebration of Mass from Our Lady's, either by booking a place there or from your home via our livestream. Other mitigations will be put in place to help ensure everyone's safety. The taskforce will keep the situation under regular review. I am very grateful to the taskforce team for the thoughtful and prudent way in which they are dealing with these challenging issues.

Fr Shaun

CONTINUING TO CARE for the CARDINAL HUME CENTRE

Sadly I have to close the garage during Tier 4. As soon as that is relaxed, I will re-open for another complete month. In the meantime, you can do three things!

- (1) Did any of your presents not quite hit the mark!!! Please pass them on to me;
- (2) I am collecting odd bits of gold and silver (pieces of chains, solitary earrings, etc) to sell for scrap value;
- (3) the donation basket is still at the ready.

Please contact me at any time. Thank you, Mary 284975