



St John The Evangelist

Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millend>



Our Lady Help of Christians

5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth>



St John Fisher

Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/chorleywood>

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga.forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
anne@themessagemachine.com

Mill End

Geraldine Page
geraldine.page21@gmail.com

Address for all correspondence:
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU
Telephone: 01923 773387

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI) (YEAR A) – 14th JUNE 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

Our celebration of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi this year seems very poignant. As we give thanks to the Father for the precious gift of the body and blood of his Son, we are conscious that most Catholics in this country are currently unable to physically receive Holy Communion, during this time when the public celebration of Mass is suspended. I am deeply aware of the sense of spiritual loss and longing that so many of you are feeling at this time. We all long for the day when the public celebration of Mass will recommence, whilst at the same time recognising that this may still be some way off and that, even when it resumes, the restrictions placed upon us due to social distancing may make our celebrations of Mass feel very different for some considerable time to come.

Despite the sense of deprivation we currently feel with regard to the physical reception of the Blessed Sacrament, and perhaps even because of it, it is good for us to today, on Corpus Christi, to remind ourselves of why the Eucharist is so important to us.

We who gather around the table of the Eucharist are fed by Christ and become one in him. The Eucharistic feast actually causes the unity, which is why it is scandalous to have disunity at such a meal, as Paul reminds the Corinthians in our Second Reading today. The celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ is much more than the celebration of something to be revered. By necessity the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ causes the unity shared by Christians by their participation in the

Eucharistic feast. That unity was Jesus' own desire expressed in today's Gospel by his prayer to the Father.

Catholicism is a sacramental faith. We are an earthly people, needing to touch, taste, see, smell, and feel. Is it any wonder that the way we connect with the incarnation of God is to consume that Word of God made flesh? Is it any wonder that, in these strange days, so many feel such a sense of loss because they are physically unable to partake of the body and blood of the Lord? The sacramental reality reaches something deep within us. Our faith is not simply a head trip, or the summary of what can be learned in books. Our faith is something we experience with our senses. By consuming this sacramental meal we participate in the life of Christ and his paschal mystery.

The go-ahead has now been given for the re-opening of places of worship for individual prayer from Monday 15th June 2020. Individual prayer within a place of worship is defined as **a person or household entering the venue to pray on their own, and not as part of a group, led prayer or communal act. They should be socially distanced from other individuals or households.**

As you will appreciate, there is a great deal to do in order to prepare for the re-opening of churches for individual prayer. Each parish is required to carry out an extensive risk assessment before re-opening. The parishes of the Watford deanery have agreed that, in order to give us the time we need to carry out the risk assessment and make sure that everything is in place for us to re-open safely, we will re-open our churches from Saturday 20th June 2020. With regard to our three parishes, only Our Lady's, Rickmansworth will be opening for individual prayer. St John Fisher, Chorleywood and St John the Evangelist, Mill End are not usually open for individual prayer and will not be re-opening at this time.

We are proposing to open Our Lady's for individual prayer for three separate one hour periods each week commencing on **Tuesday 23rd June:**

Tuesdays – 10am to 11am

Saturdays - 10am to 11am

Sundays – 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Our ability to re-open with this frequency will be contingent on us having enough stewards and cleaners to cover each session:

Stewards – When the church is open for private prayer it is a requirement that the church is stewarded. We will need three (ideally four) teams of two people to steward each opening period each week, on a rota basis.

Cleaners – At the end of each opening period the church must be given a thorough clean. We will need three (ideally four) teams of two people to undertake this thorough domestic clean after each opening period, again on a rota basis. Cleaning materials, aprons and protective gloves will be provided. If we are to be able to open safely and consistently, we need teams of stewards and cleaners who can commit on a long-term basis to undertake these roles. If we can establish four teams, this would mean each team would only have to fulfil this role about once per month. If we do not have enough stewards and cleaners, then it will mean that we will have to open with less frequency.

All volunteer stewards and cleaners must be deemed healthy and fit for work and must **not** be in the groups classed as clinically vulnerable:

- Over 70 years
- Specific pre-existing health conditions
- Self-isolating or shielding

If you are not in good health, are over 70, have specific pre-existing health conditions, are self-isolating or shielding, **then please do not volunteer to help.**

Although only Our Lady's is re-opening for individual prayer, this is for the benefit of all three parishes, and so we are appealing for volunteers from all three parishes. For us to be able to open safely and consistently we need volunteers who can make a commitment to a regular monthly rota. If your schedule does not allow you to make this kind of regular commitment, then you should not volunteer. A "one-off" offer of help here or there will not allow us to ensure a safe and consistent approach to re-opening.

The provisional times when the other parishes of the deanery will be open for individual prayer are set out further down the newsletter. It would be advisable to check the website/online newsletter of the respective parish **before** travelling there, in case there are local changes.

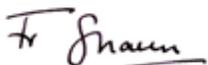
Whilst the re-commencement of public worship (Mass etc.) is probably still some way off, the re-opening of churches for individual prayer is an important step in the right direction. Many people will greatly value the opportunity of being able to enter a church again and spend some time there in quiet prayer and contemplation.

However, we will only be able to re-open for individual prayer safely and consistently with the help of parishioners. If you do not fall into any of the health categories prohibited above, and you can make a regular commitment, we are appealing to you to offer to help as a steward or as a church cleaner. Thank you to all of those who have already volunteered to help. We will be in touch with you very soon.

If you would be willing to help, please email Fr Damian at damianryan@rcdow.org.uk, by the evening of **Thursday 18th June** indicating which day(s) – **from those listed above** – that you would be able to make this commitment. Once we have the teams established we will provide advice and training (via Zoom) on what each role will practically involve.

Like many of you, I look forward to the day when our church doors are wide open again. If you are able, please help us to make this a reality.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

FEELING DISCONNECTED?

Are you feeling disconnected from parish life? Do you miss your community, and priests? We are missing you! Please, join us, and your parish community, in our new **online parish bible study programme and prayer (Lectio Divina) group**.

Online Bible Study programme – Monday evenings at 7.30pm

Each week we take a look at short passage of scripture (currently from the Acts of the Apostles) and delve into its historical and biblical context, how it would have been understood by the Early Church, what it says about God, and what it has to say to us today. No previous experience of bible study is necessary. Fr Shaun will lead this via 'Zoom', following up-to-date security measures. It will last about an hour. Please, contact Fr Shaun as soon as possible if you would like to attend (shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk).

Online Bible Reflection and Prayer – Friday evenings at 7.30pm

In Session Two we will practice the beautiful and very ancient technique of praying with the scriptures known as *Lectio Divina*, using the same passage already looked at in Session one. No previous experience of bible prayer is necessary. Fr Damian will lead this also via 'Zoom', following up-to-date security measures. Similarly, it will last between 45 minutes and an hour. If you are interested, please, contact Fr Damian (damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)

TRY ALPHA ONLINE WITH US!

Alpha is a space where everyone – wherever you are in terms of your beliefs and faith (or not) – can explore the big questions of life, faith and meaning in a relaxed, non-judgemental, and fun way. People can say whatever they want. Alpha online is from the comfort of your own home and takes up less than an hour and half per week! A new Alpha series began on Tuesday 9th June, (8 - 9:15 pm). We use the internet platform "Zoom", It's not too late to join us.

Please, register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alpha-online-at-chess-valley-rc-parishes-tickets-104322962790>

Feel free to invite as many friends as possible, near or far! If you want to know a bit more about Alpha, check out the parish Facebook and Instagram pages where you'll see some great videos from parishioners sharing a bit about their experience. You can also share these with anyone you'd like to invite to Alpha! If you have any questions, please, contact Maria Crossland: mariamcrossland@hotmail.com

ALPHA - INVITATION TO PRAY

Alpha on line launched for our three Parishes on Tuesday 9th June and runs until 18th August. We are inviting all parishioners to join the Alpha Intercessory Prayer Team to either pray from home or to join the online Zoom platform over eleven Tuesdays from 8.00-9.15pm to pray for the guests and team attending Alpha. We also invite you to pray daily for our parish community and its ongoing formation. Maybe you could consider praying the following prayer:

Thank you loving Father for all those you have called to participate in Alpha; we ask your blessing upon all, both team and guests. Without you we can do nothing, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pour out your Holy Spirit and abundant blessings and gifts during this Alpha. May Alpha ignite or re-ignite the flame of faith in all hearts so that we may experience the wonder, joy and hope that being in relationship with you brings. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

Thank you, the Alpha Service Team.

PROVISIONAL OPENING TIMES FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER IN WATFORD DEANERY PARISHES FROM SATURDAY 20th JUNE

Abbots Langley, St Saviour

Tuesday: 9.30am – 12 noon & 4pm – 5.30pm

Wednesday: 9.30am – 12 noon, 4pm – 5.30pm

Thursday: 9.30am – 12 noon

Friday: 9.30am – 12 noon, 4pm – 5.30pm

Saturday: 9.30am – 12 noon

Bushey & Oxhey

Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. John the Evangelist

Tuesday: 10am to 12 noon & 5pm to 7.30pm

Croxley Green, St Bede

Saturday: 5.45pm to 6.45pm

Carpenders Park, St Joseph's,

Friday: 11.30am to 12.30pm

Saturday: 2pm to 3pm

Garston, Our Lady and St Michael

Sunday: 9.30am to 11am

North Watford, St Helen

Every day - 9am to 12noon and 3pm to 5.00pm

Rickmansworth, Our Lady Help of Christians

Tuesday: 10am – 11am

Saturday: 10am – 1am

Sunday: 3pm -4pm

Watford, Holy Rood

Saturday 10am -1pm

Sunday 10am-1pm

Tuesday 10am -12 noon

Thursday 1pm - 3pm

Friday 6pm-8pm

Chorleywood, Chipperfield and Mill End parishes will not be re-opening for individual prayer.

Please be aware that these times are currently provisional. Please check the website/online newsletter of the respective parish before travelling.

DO YOU NEED HELP? CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you to all the parishioners who have given generous offers of help to those in need in our local communities. These offers are being coordinated by our lay Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members. If you are willing to help in any way, please do contact the SLT member for your parish. Even more importantly, if you need any kind of practical help, for instance help with shopping etc or would just appreciate someone calling you for a chat and/or to pray with you on the phone from time to time, please do let us know, via the SLT member for your respective parish:

Our Lady's Rickmansworth – Paul Forrest – 07585 661573 - pga.forrest@btinternet.com

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Anne Lorrimer-Roberts – 07887 682943 - anne@themessagemachine.com

St John the Evangelist, Mill End – Geraldine Page – 07725 748490 - geraldine.page21@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNING - 9.45 -10.45 ON WEDNESDAYS DURING LOCK DOWN

You are warmly invited to Zoom and join us for a friendly get together over coffee/ tea. As you probably know on Zoom only one person at a time can speak. I therefore thought it an idea to have a loose structure to the hour. Please bring something to share maybe a funny/ sad story, a poem, review of a film / book etc. that has touched you or simply a bit about how you are coping with the lock down. There is no obligation to share so please do not hold you back from zooming along. Please contact Anne Jaxa-Chamiec on 07810805900 or at anne.jaxachamiec@btinternet.com for a 'Zoom' invite. Thank you, Anne.

FACEBOOK PAGE

There is a new Facebook page for the three parishes. The name is 'Chess Valley Parishes' – we couldn't fit the full three names into the title! We hope to post weekly videos of scripture readings and reflections, and other things you may find useful. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/Chess-Valley-Parishes-102042071465161/>
Please, follow us to keep connected, and share with friends.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – SUNDAY, 21ST JUNE AT 5PM VIA 'ZOOM'

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 21st June, for a short Praise and Worship gathering at 5pm. 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 will be 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 Saturday 6th June 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.

WE HAVE JOINED INSTAGRAM!

Come follow the parish on our new Instagram page where we want to engage with you as parishioners, as well as those outside our parish! On a weekly basis you will see us posting the weekly readings, video reflections, a Fun Friday mini quiz (because let's face it, we all love a bit of bible trivia!) and posting plenty of other content which we would love to share with you. Our Instagram handle is @chessvalleyparishes so come and follow us (and invite your family and friends to as well) - we look forward to seeing you there, chatting with you in the comments and bringing our community together during this challenging time.

INVITATION TO PRAY

You are warmly invited to join us every Thursday evening to pray together and have a time of fellowship. Whether you are part of the Parish Community or not we would love you to come along to our online prayer group. The evening will consist of a time for singing, reading and quiet reflection, sharing and intercessory prayer. You are welcome to join in as you feel you would like. Prayer meetings will start at 8.00pm every Thursday and finish at 9.30pm

If you would like to join us simply email the following address and we will add you to the invitation.

kenny.family@ntlworld.com. We are using a platform called 'Zoom' which is very 'user friendly' and we can support you with this if necessary. We look forward to hearing from you.

CAFOD – UNITE AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

As we cope with coronavirus in the UK, we think of our sisters and brothers in developing countries who are facing this pandemic with fragile health systems, some of which have almost no intensive care beds or ventilators. Food prices have already risen with borders closing the poorest are losing their jobs and income with wholesale shutdowns. Furthermore, inadequate healthcare, lack of access to washing facilities and limited ability to social distance will result in loss of life on an intolerable scale. The likely impact will be devastating. We are one global family. In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers, gifts and voices are needed now more than ever. Please visit cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to find out ways you can give, act and pray in response to this crisis.

This Sunday's Readings (Corpus Christi)

Deuteronomy. 8:2-3. 14-15; 1 Cor. 10: 16-17; John 6: 51-58 (Gospel)

Next Sunday's Readings (12th Sunday of Ordinary Time)

Jeremiah 20:10-13; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10: 26-33 (Gospel)

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE	Peter Kelly RIP Nuala and Gerald Corr RIP
SUNDAY 14TH JUNE <i>CORPUS CHRISTI</i>	For the People of the Parish Albert Keen RIP
MONDAY 15TH JUNE	Henry Cutting (Intentions)
TUESDAY 16TH JUNE	For the intentions of the Kelly family
WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE	For the intentions of the McQueen family
THURSDAY 18TH JUNE	For the sick and housebound of the parish
FRIDAY 19TH JUNE THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS	For an end to the Coronavirus pandemic
SATURDAY 20TH JUNE THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Nila Hurtado RIP
SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	For the People of the Parish Alf Loose RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: David Cook, 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 and Maureen Douglas

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 and Ann Penn.

MASS ONLINE

Sunday Mass

6.00pm (Sat.)	St Luke, Pinner	www.churchservices.tv/pinner
6.00pm (Sat.)	St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood	www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood
6.30pm (Sat.)	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate
7.45am	St Monica, Palmers Green	www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen
9.00am	St Joseph and English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford	www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford
10.00am	St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood	www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood
10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate
10.30am	Holy Apostles, Pimlico	www.churchservices.tv/pimlico
10.30am	St James, Spanish Place	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_QES_fHotyQ0tA0pH8dTsg
11.00am	St Luke, Pinner	www.churchservices.tv/pinner
11.00am	Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar	www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar
11.30am	St Mary, Hampstead	www.churchservices.tv/hampstead
12 noon	St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields	www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields
12.30pm	Holy Apostles, Pimlico (Spanish Mass)	www.churchservices.tv/pimlico
3.30pm	St Monica, Palmers Green (Polish Mass)	www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen
6.30pm	St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage	www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage

Weekday Mass

Monday to Friday:

7.00am	St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage	www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage
9.15am	St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood	www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood
9.30am	St Monica, Palmers Green	www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen
10.00am	St Luke, Pinner	www.churchservices.tv/pinner
10.00am	Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar	www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar
10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate
12.30pm*	St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields	www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields
6.00pm	St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields	www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields

* *Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only*

Saturday:

10.00am	St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage	www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage
10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate