



### 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

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### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

#### A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

The Parable in today's Gospel reading is perhaps best known as the parable of the sower. In this parable, the sower represents Jesus, who spreads the message of the Kingdom of God like seeds. The Kingdom itself is planted like a seed in the world and in the hearts of those who are willing to accept it. The different types of soil represent different responses to Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom. Jesus is encouraging his audience to be the rich soil – to take his words to heart and let them take root in their lives.

Today there are obstacles to accepting Jesus' teaching, just as there was when Jesus told this parable. There is outright rejection of a message that seems too demanding (the unyielding path in the parable). There is brief enthusiasm followed by a kind of spiritual short attention span - always looking for the next new thing (the shallow soil), and there are temptations and troubles that bring doubt and straying (the thorns). But in spite of our repeated wandering, Jesus continually invites us back, calling us to open our ears to hear God's Word. And when we respond, we become the rich soil that produces fruit – the product of a life of faith.

St Paul elaborated on what a life of faith produces, the fruit of the Spirit, in Galatians 5:22-23. When the seeds of the Kingdom are planted in a person's

heart, the Holy Spirit causes this "fruit" to grow: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the character traits of a person who accepts the Word of God, which lead that person to participate in works of mercy, peace and justice, not to mention the work of spreading more seeds.

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For the first time since the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, we are this weekend able to celebrate a Sunday Mass with a congregation. This wonderful news is, of course, tempered by the reality that not everyone will be able to attend it. Given the serious nature of the COVID19 threat that is still very much with us, it is right and prudent that we take small steps into the "new normal" of the celebration of Masses in a socially-distancing world.

I am very grateful to everyone working with us to open Our Lady's at this time and to those who are undertaking the necessary risk assessments and preparations at St John Fisher, Chorleywood and St John the Evangelist's, Mill End in line with our clear aspiration to open these churches for the celebration of Mass from mid-September 2020, provided that this can be achieved safely and consistently.

This weekend we will have just a 10.00am Mass at Our Lady's. As we grow our number of volunteer stewards and cleaners, we plan to increase the number of Sunday celebrations of Mass. I thank all those of you who have already offered to serve as stewards and cleaners. More are needed! If you are under 70 and have no underlying health conditions we invite you to offer to serve as a steward or a cleaner. You would be part of a rota and only

be asked to serve once every three weeks.

It will likely be many weeks before everyone who wishes to attend Mass is able to do so. Putting your safety first means that we will be limited in the numbers we can fit into the church at any one Mass. Neither will it be possible to just turn up in the hope of finding a seat. For everyone's safety we will be operating an online booking system (you will find details of this further down the newsletter). This is far from ideal but it seems better than having to turn people away at the door because the church is already full.

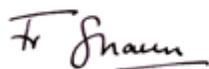
As I have mentioned previously, while no decision has yet been made, we are giving very serious consideration to investing in professional live-streaming of Mass from Our Lady's, so that those not lucky enough to have been able to book a place on any particular Sunday would at least be able to participate remotely in our celebration of Mass and feel part of the community.

This weekend marks a significant step on our journey out of lockdown and in that there is much to give thanks for. Yet, we are all too aware that, in the absence of an effective vaccine will be likely to be living in the shadow of COVID19 for some significant time to come. Please be assured that we will be doing everything we can to keep you safe when you come to church, but please remember that you too have a part to play by following the guidelines and behaving sensibly when around other people outside of household or bubble.

I know that some of you will be frustrated by the seemingly slow pace at which we are moving with the reopening of our churches. Again I wish to assure you that this is because we place the highest importance upon the safety of every single person who walks through the doors our churches.

I humbly ask for your patience and for your prayers for Fr Fr Damian, me and all those working with us in this challenging endeavour.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun  
Parish Priest

#### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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<b>SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> ST BENEDICT, ABBOT	For those living the Monastic way of life
<b>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <i>15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	For the People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	The Cutting Family (Intentions)
<b>TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	Kevin Boes RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> ST BONAVENTURE	Fr Damian Ryan (Intentions)
<b>THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	Alfredo Rock (Intentions)
<b>FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	Fr Shaun Church (Intentions)
<b>SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	Llyod Barry (Intentions)
<b>SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <i>16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	Claude Leibovici-Zang RIP For the People of the Parish

## THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating one Sunday Mass at Our Lady's at 10am. 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. If you successfully book a pew we ask that, out of courtesy to others, you do not book again for at least three weeks. If you know of a parishioner who does not have internet access but wishes to attend a Mass, please do let us know so that we can arrange this. So that the stewards can seat you safely we ask that you please arrive **no earlier than 20 minutes and no later than 5 minutes before the time the Mass is due to start.** **Government Advisory:** Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID19, including people aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household. Shielded patients are currently advised not to meet more than one person from outside of their own household, and therefore not currently advised to attend places of worship.

## CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22 – UPDATED INFORMATION

With the exceptional circumstances in which we now find ourselves, I have decided that no further stickers will be given out for those applying for a place in a Catholic School for the academic year 2021/22. The assessment of whether a CCP can be issued will now be made in the following ways:

**Secondary Transfer:** Only the Sundays from the **beginning of October 2019 until and including Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020** will be assessed. Further, given the unprecedented nature of the situation, I will be reducing the requirement from 70% attendance to 65% attendance. This will mean that you will need **16** out of a possible **24** stickers in order for a CCP to be issued. In September 2020, I will set out the arrangements for the signing of CCPs in October 2020.

**Nursery/Reception** (*this does not include St John's school, Mill End, where a CCP is no longer a requirement*): Only the Sundays from the **beginning of December 2019 until and including Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020** will be assessed. Again, the requirement of 70% attendance will be reduced to 65% attendance. This will mean that you will need **10** out of a possible **15** stickers in order for a CCP to be issued. In November 2020, I will set out arrangements for the signing of CCPs in November 2020.

*Fr Shaun*

## ONLINE BIBLE STUDY AND ONLINE BIBLE REFLECTION AND PRAYER

A new series of Online Bible Study and Bible Reflection and Prayer is now underway. We are studying, reflecting on and praying with the Book of Psalms. Why not come and join us!

### Online Bible Study programme – Monday evenings at 7.30pm (commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June)

Each week we will study one of the Psalms and delve into its historical and biblical context, what it says about God, and what it has to say to us today about worship and life.. Fr Shaun will lead this via 'Zoom', following up-to-date security measures. It will last about an hour. Please, contact Fr Shaun if you would like to attend ([shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk)).

### Online Bible Reflection and Prayer – Friday evenings at 7.30pm (commencing Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July)

Each week on Fridays we will practice the beautiful and very ancient technique of praying with the scriptures known as *Lectio Divina*, using the same psalm 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

## ALPHA - INVITATION TO PRAY

Alpha on line launched for our three Parishes on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June and runs until 18<sup>th</sup> 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*

## PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – SUNDAY, 5TH JULY AT 5PM VIA 'ZOOM'

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 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](mailto:cepione@hotmail.co.uk)) before Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 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.

## SVP TWINNAGE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN – GIVE THE GIFT OF A CHILD'S EDUCATION

Chess Valley SVP wishes to promote the SVP's annual campaign for the **Vidya Jyothi Education Scheme**. Meaning "Knowledge and Light", the VJES enables children from poor families in India of all faiths and none to attend school and get an education to provide a vital pathway out of poverty for them and their families. By sponsoring a primary school student you will help to cover their school fees, uniforms, books, transport and food. Anyone can donate – SVP conferences and members, parishioners, friends, family etc. You can sponsor one student for one year with a **one-off payment of £15**. Further information about the scheme is on <https://www.svp.org.uk/twinnage-and-overseas-aid/student-sponsorship/vidya-jyothi>. For queries contact [info@svp.org.uk](mailto:info@svp.org.uk). The deadline for this year's campaign is **1<sup>st</sup> August**.

### **PARISH CLERGY – DAYS OFF**

For the foreseeable future Fr Shaun's day off will be **Friday** rather than Thursday. Fr Damian's day off will continue to be a Wednesday.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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: [anne.jaxachamiec@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.jaxachamiec@btinternet.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

### **This Sunday's Readings**

Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8: 18-23; Matthew 13: 1-23 (Gospel)

### **Next Sunday's Readings (16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Wisdom 12:13. 16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43 (Gospel)

### **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