



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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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 19th JULY 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

What is heaven like? Wouldn't we all like to know! So, it's not surprising that people asked Jesus this question. But instead of telling them about harps, clouds, and pearly gates, he told them about seeds. It's true that the Kingdom of Heaven is the hope of eternal life, but according to Jesus, the Kingdom of Heaven is not only something in our future. It's here already, planted like a seed in the hearts of those who believe, and in the Church. It may be hidden, like seed under the soil or yeast folded into dough, but it is here, nevertheless. And Jesus promised that what is now concealed will someday be revealed.

The time we live in is a waiting between Jesus' first coming and his return. But during that time, those who follow Jesus are expected to do some things. We continue the work of Jesus by spreading the seeds of the Kingdom. When we love our neighbour, when we find feed the hungry, when we talk about our faith with others, we are planting seeds.

But there is one thing we are not to do, and that is judge others. That means that we are not allowed to try to determine who are the "wheat" and who are the "weeds" (darnel). As the First Reading for today says, we are to treat

others with leniency and kindness. The psalm reminds us to forgive. In fact, forgiving others is another way to plant the seeds of the Kingdom. Judgement is God's job, and even he is not doing it because there is still time for conversion – as long as one is alive, there is still time to turn to God. What we are required to do is to keep spreading those seeds.

Last Sunday, for the first time in four months, we were able to celebrate a public Mass at Our Lady's. It was a real joy to see nearly 40 parishioners sharing with us in the celebration of Mass and able to receive Holy Communion after such an extended period without being able to do so.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who has worked so closely with Fr Damian and me to get us to this stage. I am particularly grateful to the members of the Senior Leadership Team for their important guidance, advice and hard work. I express my thanks, too, to Mike Quinn who has done so much work behind the scenes to help ensure that Our Lady's is a COVID-19 safe environment. Nor can I fail to mention the generosity of all of those parishioners who have volunteered to serve as stewards and cleaners – without their commitment we wouldn't be able to open the church at all.

We have been continuing to build and consolidate our teams of volunteer stewards and cleaners, and I am delighted to say that **from Sunday 26th July (inclusive)** we are able to add a **Sunday 6.00pm Mass** to our

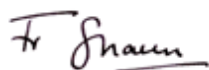
Mass schedule at Our Lady's. Later this week there will be online options to book either for the Sunday 10.00am Mass or for the Sunday 6.00pm Mass. As I have previously explained, taskforces for St John Fisher, Chorleywood and St John's, Mil End are looking into the feasibility of re-opening those churches for Mass from mid-September. Details of how to book online for Mass are available further down the Newsletter.

To ensure everyone's safety, the number able to attend Mass is limited, in line with social distancing requirements. We, therefore, ask for your continued patience if you are not able to secure a place at Mass as quickly as you had hoped. We are asking those who have been successful not to try to book again for about four weeks, so that others may have the opportunity of physically attending Mass.

Later this month I will be meeting with the Finance Operations and Premises Committees of the three parishes to discuss the possibility of installing a professional live-streaming service at Our Lady's, with the costs being shared fairly between three parishes. The costs involved are significant and there are other factors which will need to be carefully considered. I will let you know the outcome of these discussions as soon as a decision has been made.

Please continue to pray for Fr Damian and me and all working with us as, step by step, we move to re-open our churches for the celebration of Mass. The issues are often complex and need careful consideration and planning. Please remember too that our first priority in all of this is the safety of everyone who enters our churches.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 18TH JULY ST BENEDICT	Lloyd Barry (Intentions)
SUNDAY 19TH JULY 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Claude Leibovici-Zang RIP For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 20TH JULY	Andrew Dumughn RIP
TUESDAY 21ST JULY	Fr Frederick Jackson RIP
WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY ST MARY MAGDALENE	Barrie Pride RIP
THURSDAY 23RD JULY ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN	For the sick and housebound of the parish
FRIDAY 24TH JULY	For those researching a coronavirus vaccine
SATURDAY 25TH JULY ST JAMES, APOSTLE	John Finnegan RIP
SUNDAY 26TH JULY 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am: Kevin Bowes RIP 6.00pm: For the People of the Parish

THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating one Sunday Mass at Our Lady's at 10am and **from 26th July** – one Sunday 6.00pm Mass. 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

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 15th 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 15th 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 29th 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).

Online Bible Reflection and Prayer – Friday evenings at 7.30pm (commencing Friday 3rd 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 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

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – SUNDAY, 19TH JULY AT 5PM VIA 'ZOOM'

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 19th 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) before Saturday 4th 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. The deadline for this year's campaign is **1st August**.

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED WITH IMPORTANT PARISH UPDATES AND INFORMATION

We have been sending emails to all parishioners who have given us their contact details, to communicate important updates and information, such as how to book a place for Mass. If you have not been receiving these and would like to receive them, can you please email Fr Damian, asking to be put on the email list: damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

ST JOHN FISHER – PARISH CORE GROUP

Toni D'Urso has decided, for personal reasons, to step down from the Parish Core Group for St John Fisher. I wish to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to Toni for the very important contribution she has made to the work of Parish Core Group and the Joint Parish Pastoral Council over the past year and half.

Fr Shaun

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.

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. 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

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or use CAFOD's Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: cafod.org.uk/summerofhope

This Sunday's Readings

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

Next Sunday's Readings (17th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 3:5. 7-12; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 13: 44-52 (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