



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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THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (YEAR A) – 16th AUGUST 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, usually celebrated on 15th August but this year transferred to the Sunday, provides a balancing point between the Annunciation of 25th March and the Birth of Jesus on December 25th. Here Mary is honoured both as Theotokos (God-bearer) and first and best example of the glory of resurrection for human beings. At the end of her earthly life, Mary is taken into heaven that we might know what awaits us after this life.

Mary's great song, the Magnificat, is a fitting reading for today. Hannah had offered a similar prayer for the birth of her son, Samuel (1 Samuel 2: 1-10) – a hymn of joy and thanksgiving in which God's reversal of fortune for rich and poor, oppressed and powerful, is as evident as it is in Mary's song. In both cases the birth of the child heralded a world transformed. Status, power, humility, and poverty were the measure of God's grace and cause for "proclaiming the greatness of the Lord."

The eloquence of such poems grows from Mary and Hannah's experiences as women in a society in which women could not own property and were rarely, if ever, allowed access to power in the public sphere. In their mouths, the celebration of God filling the empty, raising up the oppressed, and lifting up the lowly was and is poignant because they were among the lowly whom God

would raise. Mary's delighted cry that "all generations will call [her] blessed" speaks to her hope in the grace and power of God for those who can rely on nothing else.

The Solemnity of the Assumption is the celebration of God's promise and fulfilment. God chose Mary – young, female, powerless – as the first human to experience resurrection of the body and to lead the way for all of us.

The installation of the livestreaming equipment at Our Lady's is due to begin at the end of this week. I express my sincere thanks to everyone who has already made a donation towards the cost of the installation of the livestreaming facility. Your generosity is very much appreciated. If you haven't yet made a donation in support of this project, and would like to, you will find details about how to do so further down this Newsletter. I am delighted that the ability to livestream from Our Lady's will be available to us from the beginning of September (possibly even a little earlier). We should be able to update you about that next weekend.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun Church
 Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST	Teresa O'Sullivan RIP (Anniversary)
SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST <i>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	10.00am: John Hoy RIP (Anniversary) 6.00pm: For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 17TH AUGUST	For all those receiving exam results at this time
TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST	For vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST	Henry Cutting (Intentions)
THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST ST BERNARD	Jessie Pione RIP (Anniversary)
FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST ST PIUS X	For those researching a coronavirus vaccine
SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST	For the sick and housebound of the parish
SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am: For the People of the Parish 6.00pm: For the People of the Parish

This Sunday's Readings

Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6.10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Luke 1:39-56 (Gospel)

Next Sunday's Readings (21st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

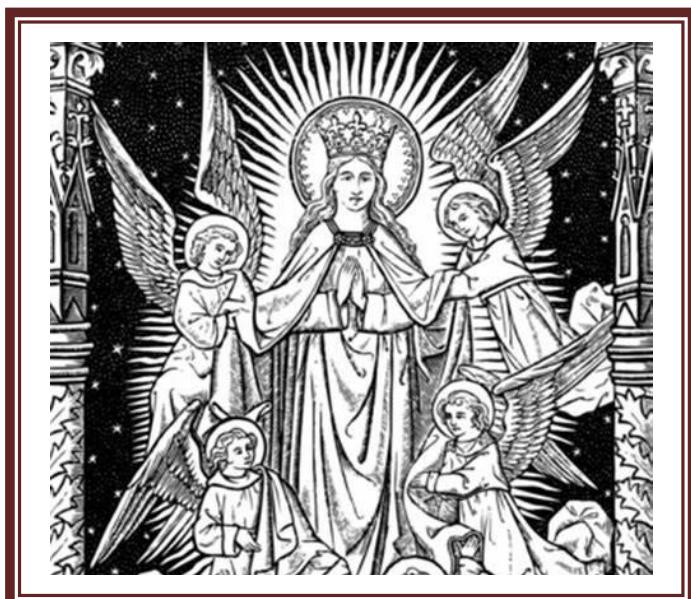
Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20 (Gospel)

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, Maureen Douglas and Josie Westrop.

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



FACE COVERINGS AT MASS

It is now mandatory to wear a face covering in places of worship. If you are attending Mass we kindly ask you to please bring a face covering with you.

THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating one Sunday Masses at Our Lady's at 10am 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. If you successfully book a pew we ask that, out of courtesy to others, you do not book again until late in the week. If places are available at either Mass from Thursday onwards you are welcome to book again, even if you have attended in the past few 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.

LIVESTREAMING APPEAL

The Finance Operations and Premises Committees of the three parishes have agreed that we will proceed with the installation of the professional livestreaming at Our Lady's. The cost of the installation of the equipment is just under £6,000. With the income of all three parishes currently very restricted, we are inviting parishioners who wish to, and are able to, to make a contribution to the costs of the installation. You can do this by making a BACS payment to your respective parish:

Rickmansworth Sort Code: **40 05 20** Bank Account No: **81263587** Acc. Name: WRCDT Rickmansworth
Chorleywood: Sort Code: **40 05 20** Bank Account No: **21095552** Acc. Name: WRCDT Chorleywood
Mill End: Sort Code: **40 05 20** Bank Account No: **61308386** Acc. Name: WRCDT Mill End (& Maple Cross)

Please identify your donation as **LIVESTREAM**

You can also now donate towards the livestreaming costs via **Virgin Money Giving**. You will find a link to Virgin Money Giving and the specific Livestreaming Appeal on the **Donate to your Parish** tab of your respective parish website. Thank you to all those who have already made a donation. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

DELAYED EASTER OFFERING

The offering at the Easter Day Masses is your personal gift to your priests. This year there was no public celebration of Mass at Easter and so this collection wasn't able to be taken. The Easter and Christmas offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Shaun and Fr Damian. These monies are paid into the respective three parishes' accounts and are then paid to the priests as a monthly salary or stipend. If you would wish to make a delayed Easter offering at this time, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details, which you will find in the item above. Please mark your gift as **EASTER OFFERING**.

You can also now make an Easter Offering via **Virgin Money Giving**. You will find a link to Virgin Money Giving and the specific link to the Delayed Easter Offering on the **Donate to your Parish** tab of your respective parish website. Thank you to everyone who has already made an Easter offering. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY AND ONLINE BIBLE REFLECTION AND PRAYER

The second series of Online Bible Study and Bible Prayer has now concluded. In the autumn we hope to launch a new online programme, with fortnightly sessions. Watch this space for more details in September.

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

SUNDAY PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERINGS

Just a quick note to advise the Praise and Worship gatherings (on Zoom) will start back up again in September. When we do start back up, it would be a great support to have some volunteers who would be willing to help by reading. If you would be interested, please email me (cepione@hotmail.co.uk). Look forward to seeing you all again then! Katy

OUR LADY'S 200 CLUB

Congratulations to our winners:

April Draw – Collette Bridge Madden (£33), Heather Kean (£24.75), Sean Godfrey (£16.50) and Christopher Knight (£8.25)

May Draw Martin Brady (£33), Anita Khurwal (£24.75), Mark Kirwan (£16.50) and Josie Westrop (£8.25)

June Draw Christopher Knight (£33), Theresa Jubber (£24.75), Colette Williamson (£16.50) and Pauline Starck (£8.25)

July Draw Josie Westrop (£33), Michael Bridge Madden (£24.75), Liz Waddington (£16.50) and Anne Dodson (£8.25)

VACANCY – MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER - CHURCHES IN CROXLEY GREEN

Churches in Croxley Green CIO are looking to appoint a Mental Health Practitioner to work for approximately 5 hours a week, alongside the **Parish Nurse**, local ministers and existing health professionals to bring holistic care to the people of Croxley Green. This unique role for a Mental Health Nurse or similar Para-medical practitioner will integrate concern for both the spiritual and mental well-being of the people of Croxley Green. It will complement but not replace the work of local mental health providers. Further information and a recruitment pack can be found on the Croxley Parish Nurse website: <https://www.croxleyparishnurse.org/>

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.

INVITATION TO PRAY

You are warmly invited to join us every Thursday evening to pray together and have a time of fellowship. Whether

ST JOHN FISHER NEWS

Preparations are well underway for reopening St John Fisher for the celebration of Mass from Sunday 13th September. Initially we plan to hold one Mass each week at 9.00am on Sundays. The layout of the Church has been reviewed and furniture moved to adhere to the required 2m social distancing measures. We already have a good number of volunteers for stewarding - thank you - but if you are able to support in this area please email Anne Lorimer-Roberts at anne@themessagemachine.com.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST NEWS

The celebration of Sunday Mass at St John the Evangelist will recommence on Sunday 13th September. Initially we plan to hold one Mass each week at 10.30am. A risk assessment of the church has been carried out and between now and 13th September we will be working to make sure that all our arrangements adhere to 2m social distancing measures and other COVID-safe requirements. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with stewarding. If you would like to help in this area please email Geraldine Page at geraldine.page21@gmail.com.

