



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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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 2ND AUGUST 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

The feeding of the multitudes is the only miracle of Jesus that is recorded in all four accounts of the Gospel, so it must have been extremely important to the first Christians. Jesus' acts of feeding have been seen as pivotal works that reminded believers how God had provided bread for the people in the wilderness (Exodus 16), and it also foreshadowed the heavenly banquet in Jesus' description of the Kingdom (Matthew 22). The feeding of the multitudes also became a symbol for the Eucharist in the early Church, and paintings of baskets of bread and fish are common in the catacombs where the early Christians buried their loved ones, because the Eucharist was understood as the "food of eternal life"

In this miracle, Jesus was teaching his followers a lesson that he explained further in his Bread of Life discourse (John 6). The point is that God has provided us with what we need most – Jesus himself is the bread of life. The Old Testament readings emphasize that the things we eat and drink, and the things we spend our money on, can never really satisfy us. But God, in his compassion for us, offers what we really need – his love and forgiveness – all without price. We just have to accept it from him. This comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh (John 1:14). So how do we accept God's gift of love and forgiveness? The Lord "*is close to all who call him*", says the psalmist in today's responsorial psalm. The most important way we call on him is by participating in the Eucharist, where we become like the five thousand families that Jesus fed.

A consequence of months of lockdown is that you have been deprived of the opportunity to receive the Lord in Holy Communion. Now that the public celebration of Mass has resumed some of you have been able to receive the Eucharist again and I know that this has been a great joy to those of you who have. I am conscious though, that many of you have not yet had the opportunity to do so. I hope that in the coming weeks and months more and more of you will be able to attend Mass and receive the Lord, and all that he wants to share with you, in Holy Communion. God cares for us with a love that will never end and when we are fed by Christ, then nothing can separate us from his love.

I'm delighted to report that the work of the St John Fisher and St John the Evangelist taskforces progressing very well. There is still much to do but we are well on course to re-open both of these churches for the celebration of a Sunday Mass each week, commencing on Sunday 13th September. I am very grateful to the taskforces for all that they have done and are continuing to do to make sure that our churches are COVID safe environments.

Last Sunday afternoon there was a joint meeting of the Finance, Operations and Premises (FOP) Committees of the three parishes to discuss the proposal that we invest in installing professional livestreaming at Our Lady's, with the costs being shared on a *per capita* basis between the three parishes. I am delighted to be able to share with you the news that the three FOP committees have agreed to this proposal. It is our hope that the livestreaming equipment will be installed for the beginning of September.


As you will appreciate, the costs of installing livestreaming equipment and buying into a professional livestreaming service are significant. The installation costs of the system £5,804 including VAT and the per annum livestreaming fees are around £1,600 (including VAT). The FOP committee members of the three parishes, although very much in

favour of us proceeding with a livestreaming service, are also very conscious that at this time our parish finances are under considerable pressure. We are currently almost entirely dependent on parishioners who support the parishes via standing order contributions.

Consequently, the three FOPs have asked that we initiate a three-parish fundraising appeal to try to cover some of the costs of the installation of the livestreaming equipment. We are therefore inviting parishioners who wish to do so, and only those who are able to, to make a donation towards this project. I know that the livestreaming of Mass has been a lifeline for many of you. As it is likely to be some considerable time before social distancing requirements are removed, going forward we hope that many of you would value the opportunity of being able to share in the celebration of Mass via livestreaming from within our own family of parishes for those times when you are not able to attend in person. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the installation of the livestreaming equipment, you will find details of how to do this further down this newsletter.

It is my view that the ability of livestream Masses from Our Lady's will have long-term benefits for all of our parishioners – for times when due to sickness or bad weather people are unable to attend Mass and for distant family members wishing to share in important celebrations such as baptisms, first communions, confirmations, weddings and funerals. This is an exciting development with a great deal of potential.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun Church
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST ST ALPHONSUS LIGOURI	For NHS frontline and staff and care workers
SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am: Malcolm Stacey RIP (Anniversary) 6.00pm: For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 3RD AUGUST	Henry Cutting (Intentions)
TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST ST JOHN VIANNEY	Monica Williamson (Intentions)
WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST	Sister Muriel Geisler RIP
THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	Joshua Peters RIP
FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST	For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST ST DOMINIC	For vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am: For the People of the Parish 6.00pm: For the People of the Parish

FACE COVERINGS AT MASS

The government has announced that from Saturday 8th August it will be mandatory to wear a face covering in places of worship. If you are attending Mass from next weekend onwards 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 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.

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
Chorleywood:	Sort Code: 40 05 20	Bank Account No: 21095552
Mill End:	Sort Code: 40 05 20	Bank Account No: 61308386

Please identify your donation as **LIVESTREAM**

From next weekend we have to have a in place a new means in place by which parishioners can donate to the parish via **Virgin Money Giving** if this is more convenient for you. Thank you.

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**. Thank you.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY AND ONLINE BIBLE REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Season Two of our Online Bible Study and Bible Reflection and Prayer concludes this week. We are studying, reflecting on and praying with the Book of Psalms. Why not come and join us!

Online Bible Study programme – Monday evening at 7.30pm

This week we will study one of praise 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.. 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

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 the bible study. No previous experience of bible prayer is necessary. Fr Damian will lead this also via 'Zoom. 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

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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**.

This Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 55: 1-3; Romans 8:35.37-39; Matthew 14: 13-21 (Gospel)

Next Sunday's Readings (19th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 19:9. 11-13; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew: 14:22-33 (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 Westhrop.

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