



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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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 9th AUGUST 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

When we read today's Gospel, we tend to focus on the fact that Jesus walked on the water, which is understandable. But before we jump to that, let's not forget to notice why Jesus wasn't in the boat in the first place. He went off to be alone and to pray. If Jesus needed to pray, how much more do we!

Jesus seemed to expect Peter to walk on water – and he did for a second. Apparently, walking on water doesn't require divinity! In fact, Jesus said we could do the things he did (John 14:12). But Peter started to sink because he was afraid. Fear is the opposite of faith. Prayer builds faith and reduces fear by increasing our trust in God. The more we pray, the less we fear. Peter is an example of our imperfect faith (he even denied he knew Jesus), but he's also an example for us to follow. When he was sinking, he put his trust in Jesus and called out to him. When we put our trust in Jesus to save us, he holds us up, and he sustains us through our most difficult times.

One of the early symbols for the Church was a boat. The Church was seen as a small boat tossed around in an unfriendly sea (a world that persecuted Christians). But the presence of Jesus in the boat calms the storm, and

pulls us up when we call and put our trust in him. Fear can seize us without warning, but we will be better prepared for it if we follow Jesus' example of making time for prayer.

I hope that all of you may have an opportunity for some time of rest and refreshment during August, even if it has to be a "staycation" or some local relaxation with family and friends. We know that the autumn will hold challenges for all of us. It seems likely that coronavirus is going to be a challenging reality in our lives for some considerable time to come and this will inevitably have many different impacts on the way we do things in our parishes. Once again, I ask for your patience and consideration. Be assured that our first priority will always be your safety.

With every prayer and blessing

Fr Shaun Church
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST ST DOMINIC	For vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
SUNDAY 9ND AUGUST 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am: The People of the Parish 6.00pm: Joyce & Patrick Dowling RIP
MONDAY 10TH AUGUST ST LAWRENCE	For the people of Lebanon
TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST ST CLARE	Henry Cutting (Intentions)
WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST	Robert Gibson RIP (Anniversary)
THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST	For the sick and housebound of the parish
FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE	For those persecuted for their faith
SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST	For those working on a coronavirus vaccine
SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10.00am: For the People of the Parish 6.00pm: For the People of the Parish

This Sunday's Readings

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew: 14:22-33 (Gospel)

Next Sunday's Readings (The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

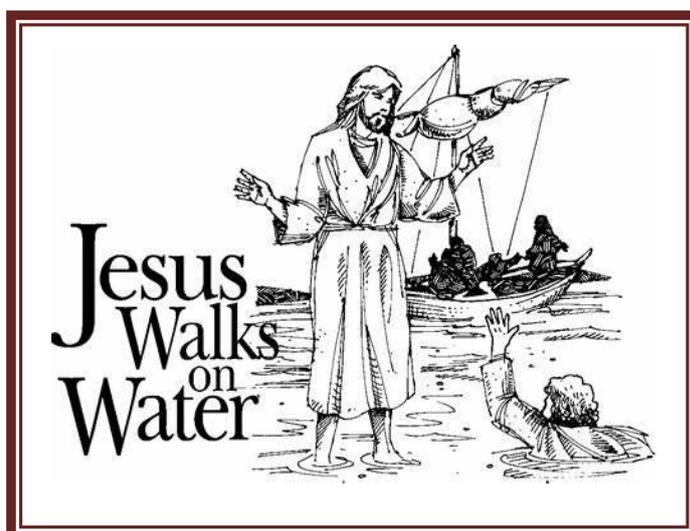
Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6.10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Luke 1:39-56 (Gospel)

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



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

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 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.

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.

