



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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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – 23rd AUGUST 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

It seems strange that Jesus would tell his disciples not to reveal that he was the Christ (the Messiah). After all, isn't that the point? But the problem was that many people of the time had different ideas about what the Messiah was supposed to be. So Jesus spent a lot of time trying to persuade people to rethink the whole concept of Messiah. Most people thought (or feared) that the Messiah was going to be a warrior who would restore the dynasty of King David over Israel.

Jesus had to redefine Messiah for them in light of the prophecies of Isaiah chapter 53, concerning the one who suffers for others. Jesus would achieve victory through suffering. Until people understood that, he could not risk a misunderstanding. Peter had a partial understanding, though not through his own insight. It was revealed to him by God. And so in this passage we see the twofold foundation of the Church: Scripture (revelation from God) and Tradition (personified in the Apostles and especially Peter).

Most Catholics are familiar with this Gospel passage as the moment when Jesus makes Peter the first leader of the Apostles, giving him authority, which is symbolized by the image of the keys. But there is something else equally important here. Jesus made a promise to Peter and the other Apostles that the Church will be built on a rock and the gates of the underworld will not hold out

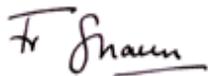
against it. The 'gates of the underworld' is a metaphor for death and so these gates represent the imprisoning power of death: Jesus is saying that death will not be able to imprison and hold the Church of the living God. Death will be unable to swallow up the new community which Jesus is building. It will never be destroyed. The Church will never cease being the Church, and so the authority given to Peter and the Apostles came with a promise that we can trust them and their successors to help us understand who Jesus is, and how to live as his missionary disciples.

As I write this, on Thursday, the work of installing the livestreaming equipment at Our Lady's has begun. This is a relatively complex procedure as the system has to be connected to the internet router in the presbytery via wiring. We will begin livestreaming Mass as soon as the system is working and has been integrated with our website, so that parishioners have easy access to it. I am delighted to say that we are very close to our target of raising the £6,000 cost of the installation of the livestreaming equipment. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of those who have so generously contributed to this project. If you haven't yet contributed, but would like to, it's not too late. Details of how to do so are further down this newsletter. Any funds we raise over and above the cost of the initial installation will be specifically allocated towards the monthly streaming costs associated with the livestreaming contract.

From conversations I have had over the past few weeks, I know that many parishioners across the three parishes are very enthusiastic about our ability to be able to livestream Mass. Whilst there are no shortage of churches offering a livestream service, there is a great deal of merit in us having this facility in our parishes. The social

distancing restrictions associated with COVID19 are likely to be a reality in our lives for some time to come and even with the reopening of St John Fisher and St John the Evangelist on 13th September, it will still not be possible for every parishioner to attend Mass every week. We are a community of three parishes and I believe that this livestreaming service will play an important part in keeping us united in the challenging months ahead.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun Church
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK	
SATURDAY 22 ND AUGUST	For the sick and housebound of the parish
SUNDAY 23 RD AUGUST 21 ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am: People of the Parish 6.00pm: Jessie Pione RIP (Anniversary)
MONDAY 24 TH AUGUST ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE	Edda Ali RIP (Anniversary)
TUESDAY 25 TH AUGUST	Isabel Goley RIP
WEDNESDAY 26 TH AUGUST	Roy Langdale RIP
THURSDAY 27 TH AUGUST ST MONICA	Edda Ali RIP (Anniversary)
FRIDAY 28 TH AUGUST ST AUGUSTINE	Henry Cutting (Intentions)
SATURDAY 29 TH AUGUST	Magdalene Waller RIP
SUNDAY 30 TH AUGUST 22 ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am: Sadie Loughlin RIP (Anniversary) 6.00pm: Morreno Torrini RIP

This Sunday's Readings

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

Next Sunday's Readings (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:21-27

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, Gill Loose, and Josie Westthrop.

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

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. **It is now mandatory to wear a face covering in places of worship.** We kindly ask you to please bring a face covering with you.

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.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Rites of Initiation of Adults, usually celebrated at the Easter Vigil will be celebrated on Friday 18th September. Please pray for those preparing for Baptism, Reception into the Church and Confirmation: Georgina Board (Baptism and Confirmation); Caroline Doran (Reception and Confirmation), Yasmin Lakin (Confirmation) and Nitza Chikerema (Confirmation).

ROY LANGDALE RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Roy Langdale. Roy's funeral will take place at Our Lady's on Tuesday 1st September at 11.00am, followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. Under current Government restrictions funeral are limited to a maximum of 30 people and so places will be very limited. It is planned that the Mass be livestreamed. If you wish to attend Roy's funeral (and you have not been directly invited by Roy's family), please email Fr Damian at damianryan@rcdow.org.uk so that he can advise whether any places are available. We offer our deepest condolences to Roy's family at this sad and very difficult time.

MAGDALENE WALLER RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Magdalene Waller. Magdalene's funeral will take place at Our Lady's, on 11th September at 11.00am, followed by burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. Due to social distancing restrictions it will not be possible for parishioners to attend, unless they have been directly invited by the family. It is planned that the Mass be livestreamed. We offer our deepest condolences to Magdalene's family at this sad and difficult time.

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 Westhrop (£8.25)

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

July Draw Josie Westhrop (£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 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

REOPENING OF THE CHURCH FOR MASS

Preparations are going well for reopening. The hand sanitiser dispenser has been installed and we have purchased paper towel dispensers and bins for the kitchen and toilets. We are preparing the signs we need and the stewards' instructions have been written. The risk assessment will be completed this week. There are still a few tasks outstanding but we're working through them and everything should be finished in good time for our first celebration of Mass at **9am on Sunday 13 September**. 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.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We extend the warmest birthday greetings to Pat Finucane, who celebrates her 97th birthday on Saturday 29th August. We wish Pat a happy and joyful day!

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST NEWS

RE-OPENING OF THE CHURCH FOR MASS

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.