



St John The Evangelist  
Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG



Our Lady Help of Christians  
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU



St John Fisher  
Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH

<https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

## ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church  
[shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan  
[damianryan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest  
[pga.forrest@btinternet.com](mailto:pga.forrest@btinternet.com)

#### Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
[anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)

#### Mill End

Geraldine Page  
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WD3 1HU  
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 @ChessValleyRC

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

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#### Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Chorleywood Parish

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Diocesan Safeguarding  
Coordinator 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:  
[rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk)

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:  
[rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk)

Margaret Simon - Youth  
Ministry Leadership Team:  
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## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

### SUNDAY THOUGHT

“I want to be gone and be with Christ,” says St Paul in the Second Reading for this Sunday. What do these words say to us about the depth, the faith, the prayer of the man who uttered them? Paul is not speaking out of depression, even though he is imprisoned at the time he writes this. His words come from a deep desire within his heart and a strong conviction of faith. “Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more.”

As a Pharisee, Paul would have believed in the resurrection of the dead even prior to his conversion to Christ. But it is not just resurrected life that Paul longs for; it is to be with Christ in the fullness of his glory. Not only had Christ appeared to him at his conversion, but Paul had even glimpsed the glory of paradise in some type of mystical prayer experience, as described in 2 Corinthians 12:1-4.

Paul’s personal experience of Christ rooted him firmly in Christ. “I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him.” One could even say that Paul lived and breathed Christ: I live, no longer, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).

What a model for us to ponder! To be sure, Paul’s personal experience of Jesus was gift and grace. But it is also true that we can open ourselves to grace in various ways – by being faithful to prayer, reading scripture, fasting, meditating on the sacred, and other acts of devotion. Let us try to cultivate such practices in our daily lives so that we too may be open to the graces, the nearness of Christ.

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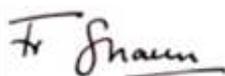
With clear signs of acceleration in the number of COVID19 cases in the country, all of us have to be extra vigilant about how we follow Government guidance in order to keep ourselves and each other as safe as possible. Thanks to the hard work of our three parish task-forces our churches are as COVID secure environments as is possible to make them. However, whenever we attend Mass it is important that we all follow the procedures which are there to keep us safe: careful social distancing as directed by our stewards, using hand sanitizer when entering and leaving church, wearing a face covering in church (unless exempt), observing the ‘Rule of Six’ when leaving Mass. We all have a responsibility to look after each other by carefully observing the rules around COVID19.

#### The recommencement of Weekday Mass and volunteers

Great news! Enough volunteer stewards came forward to enable us to have **Mass at Our Lady's on Wednesdays and Fridays, 9.30am**, starting this **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**. There will be **no online booking**, but attendance will be on a **first-come first-serve basis**. Be aware that if there are funerals or memorial services on Wednesdays and Fridays, public Mass will be cancelled. However, information about cancellations will be given as soon as possible.

Guidelines on volunteers have now changed: **people aged over 70 are now allowed to volunteer**, as long as you have no underlying health conditions. To ensure weekday Masses are sustainable in the long-term, if you are willing and able to help steward on a three-week rota basis, can you contact Fr Damian, please ([damianryan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)). Thank you.

With prayers and warmest wishes



## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	3.00pm	First Holy Communion Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>		Burial of Ashes - Roy Langdale RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	10.00am	First Communion Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SUN 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	3.00pm	First Holy Communion Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER	For Our First Holy Communion Children		
<b>SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> <b>25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>10am</b> Eily Dunlea RIP <b>6pm</b> For Fr Alexander Balzanella on the occasion of his ordination to the priesthood	<b>10.30am</b> Bridget Furey RIP (Anniv.)	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> <i>St MATTHEW, APOSTLE</i>	Beta Netto RIP		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 22 <sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
<b>WED 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> <i>St PIUS OF PIETRELCINA</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Sr Margaret Buckley RIP		
<b>THURS 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> <i>OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM</i>	Tessie (Theresa) de Giorgio-Miller RIP		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 25 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Roy Langdale RIP		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 26 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER	For Our First Holy Communion Children		
<b>SUNDAY</b> 27 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER <b>26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>10am</b> Bea & Joe Dunphy RIP (Anniv.) <b>6pm</b> For the work of the Chess Valley SVP	<b>10.30am</b> Sr Margaret Buckley RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parish

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 55:6-9
<b>Response to Psalm:</b>	The Lord is close to all who call him.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Philippians 1:20-24.27
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 20:1-16
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.
<b>Next Sunday's Readings:</b>	Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32 (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, Josie Westhrop, and Gillian Loose.

**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, Ann Penn, and Paddy Goble.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Although it isn't currently possible for the priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the confessional, both Fr Shaun and Fr Damian are available for the celebration of the sacrament by individual appointment. The celebration would take place, outside of Mass time, either in the garden (weather permitting) or in an empty church. Any parishioners wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation should contact Fr Shaun or Fr Damian to arrange a mutually convenient time.

### THE ORDINATION OF ALEX BALZANELLA TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September Alex Balzanella will be ordained to the priesthood at Westminster Cathedral. You will remember that Alex was on placement with us last September as a deacon. Please keep Alex in your prayers on this special weekend for him. For those reading this on Friday or early Saturday morning, the Mass of Ordination will be livestreamed from Westminster Cathedral from 10.30am on Saturday morning. The livestream can be accessed via the Diocese of Westminster website. Fr Alex will be returning to Rome this autumn to complete his studies, before returning to the Diocese to take up his first appointment in the autumn of 2021.

### LIVESTREAM MASSES

If you are unable to come to Mass for health reasons, or because you could not book a place, please, join us for Mass by livestreaming. It is very simple to do. Simply go to <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>, and you can join us for the public Sunday Masses at Our Lady's (10am and 6pm), and all the private weekday Masses (9.30am, Monday – Saturday).

### CONFIRMATION 2020 – MASSES AND ONLINE REHEARSAL

There are three celebrations for the sacrament of Confirmation this year. The dates and times are:

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 7.30pm**

If you are a parent or confirmandi, and haven't received this information, and specified your preferences for dates, please, email Caitlin ([rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk)). Please, be aware that her responses have been known to go to people's spam/junk. Similarly, please, email Fr Damian ([damianryan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)) if you have not received a link to a zoom meeting about an online rehearsal on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 7.30pm**.

### CONFIRMATION 2021

Information about registering interest for the sacrament of Confirmation in 2021, for those in Year 9 and above, will be given this November. We hope to start the Confirmation sessions in January 2021 – possibly to be online. However, more information will be given in due course. Confirmation Masses are usually at the end of May/June.

### FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

On the weekends of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> September, we will be continuing the celebration of the First Communion Masses delayed from May 2020. Due to social distancing restrictions it will not be possible for anyone to attend, unless they have been directly invited by the First Communion families. However, people are free to participate via livestream at the following link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>. Please pray for our First Communion children and their families at this special time.

### SEPTEMBER IS SVP AWARENESS MONTH

Even though the community lunch has not been taking place and we haven't been able to do our usual visits, the SVP is still very active. We conduct our meetings on Zoom and telephone those who we normally visit. We still support the Catholic Worker Farm by delivering items they need. Take a look at the SVP website [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk) to see how work has been carrying on. Maybe even buy your Christmas cards early this year at [www.svp.org.uk/shop](http://www.svp.org.uk/shop). There will be a Mass for the work of Chess Valley SVP on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm**.

### ANNUAL SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE COUNT

Beginning this weekend and for the following three weekends, we will be taking the annual Sunday Mass attendance count as requested by the Diocese. This will obviously be very different from previous years, given the unique circumstances we currently find ourselves in. The count will be taken using the online booking system in place in each parish. These statistics will give an indication of those physically attending Mass on these weekends across the Diocese.

### CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22 – UPDATED INFORMATION

The assessment of whether a CCP can be issued will be made in the following way:

**Secondary Transfer:** Only the Sundays from the **beginning of October 2019 until and including Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Fr Shaun will be available to sign CCPs at the following times in the parish hall:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October: 5.00pm – 6.00pm**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October: 6.00pm – 7.00pm**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October: 11.00am to 12 noon**

You will need to book a specific (5 minute) appointment time by calling Kerry, our Parish Administrator, on 01923 773387 Ext 2, between 9.30am and 3.00pm Monday to Friday. Only one parent (no children) should attend the appointment. Please arrive 5 minutes before your appointment time and remember to bring your sticker card with you.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021

Due to the pandemic, the preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for 2021 will not commence until **January 2021**. Registration will take place in November 2020. Details of the programme have yet to be finalized, but is almost certain that the format will be remote sessions (via Zoom) for the children and parent(s) together. More details will be available at the time of registration in November.

### SR MARGARET BUCKELY RIP

It is with sadness we share with you the news of the death of Sr Margaret Buckley at the end of August. Until the sisters moved away, Sr Margaret had been one of the community of the Daughters of Jesus resident at Blakenhall Convent in Nightingale Road. We pray for the repose of her soul and offer our condolences to her community, family and friends.

### CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Christopher Knight. Christopher's funeral will take place at Chilterns Crematorium on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. We offer our deepest condolences to Christopher's family at this sad and difficult time.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating Sunday Masses at Our Lady's at 10.00am 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. 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.

### 200 CLUB

The 200 Club begins again in October and if you are interested in joining (or cancelling your membership) please contact Kerry on 01923 773387 for further details. The membership fee is due by the end of September for those who prefer to pay their annual subscription (£60) by cheque.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating a Sunday Mass at 10.30am each week. Places are limited and so you are invited to book online via the **EVENTS** page of St John's website from the Monday of each week. 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 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. 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.

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating a Sunday Mass at 9.00am each week. There are just a few things we need to draw your attention to:

- As numbers will be limited, we will be operating an online booking system. This will go live on a Monday on the Parish Website. If you are attending as part of a family group or social "bubble" please ensure to make clear on your booking as that will allow us to allocate seating appropriately and maximise the numbers that can attend.
- Please be aware that, in order to maintain a 2m social distance, it will not be possible to kneel during Mass.
- 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.**
- **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.

### APF/MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS.

Hi, hope you have all kept well. We were not able to have our June collection and it is now time for the September one. Our **missions must need our money now more than ever**, they are probably very worried. None of us have been using much cash. May I make a suggestion? Only if you can! Could you please calculate how much your normal collection for two months would be and write out a cheque made payable to APF MISSIO and either put it in my letter box, 18 Turney's Orchard or phone me, 284975 and I will collect it. Sending you love and hope we will all meet again soon, Mary.

### MACMILLAN EVENT

Belinda Lyons-Thompson was going to have an event on 25<sup>th</sup> September but this is now no longer possible due to Covid restrictions. If anybody would like to support her, from a distance, her address is 113 Quickly Lane. All contributions gratefully accepted, no amount too small (or too large!). Thank you.