



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:

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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Earlier in the Gospel according to Matthew, when Jesus taught the Our Father, he emphasised forgiveness, saying: “if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your failings either.” These are strong words, which imply that our forgiveness is dependent on our willingness to forgive others.

Today’s parable of the unmerciful servant illustrates this point with a story of someone who refused to forgive, and his forgiveness was taken away. Clearly this is an analogy in which the master represents God, and the servants represent people like us, who are supposed to treat each other the way God treats us – with forgiveness. The First Reading puts it well: “If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?” God has forgiven us so much, and God is willing to go on forgiving us - but if we will not forgive others we are throwing God’s gift of forgiveness back in his face. The refusal to forgive is itself a sin that needs forgiveness. When we refuse to forgive, we cut ourselves off from God’s forgiveness.

When we are hurt by someone, we may need a little time to take stock of our feelings, but ultimately it is most helpful to take a position of humility – a position that refuses to judge, refuses to adopt a self-righteous attitude, and refuses to hold a grudge. A grudge is like toxic waste; it hurts the one who holds it. So how many times should we forgive the person who wrongs us? When Jesus says seventy-seven times, he really means stop counting. Forgive as many times as it takes.

This weekend we re-commence the celebration of Mass at St John Fisher, Chorleywood and St John the Evangelist, Mill End. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the task-forces of these two parishes (Chorleywood: Alan and Carolyn Opie, Anne Lorrimer-Roberts and Maggie Stacey) (Mill End: Bo Bambridge, Geraldine Page, Sandra Miller and Maria Crossland) for the immense amount of work that they have all put into preparing for this day and making sure that we can re-open these churches, in a sustainable and COVID secure way.

I look forward very much to celebrating Mass this weekend in both of these parishes.

With every prayer and blessing

Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 13TH SEPTEMBER	3.00pm 4.30pm	First Holy Communion Mass Praise and Worship Gathering	Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 14TH SEPTEMBER	11.30am	Chrism Mass	Westminster Cathedral
WED 16TH SEPTEMBER	11.30am	Funeral - Thomas McAteer RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 18TH SEPTEMBER		Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 19TH SEPTEMBER	10.00am	First 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
SATURDAY 12 TH SEPTEMBER	For Our First Holy Communion Children		
SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am Lucy McDermott RIP 6pm Bridget & James O'Brien RIP	10.30am Sr Margaret Buckley RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER <i>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</i>	Eddie McLaughlin RIP		
TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER <i>OUR LADY OF SORROWS</i>	Shauna & Paddy (Ints.)		
WED. 16TH SEPTEMBER <i>SS CORNELIUS, POPE & CYPRIAN, BISHOP</i>	Patjoe & Pamela (Ints.)		
	11.30am Funeral - Thomas McAteer RIP		
THURSDAY 17 TH SEPTEMBER	In Thanksgiving		
FRIDAY 18 TH SEPTEMBER	Kathy Lajus RIP		
SATURDAY 19 TH SEPTEMBER	For Our First Holy Communion Children		
SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am Eily Dunlea RIP 6pm For Fr Alexander Balzanella on the occasion of his ordination to the priesthood	10.30am Bridget Furey RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7

Response to Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20-24.27, Matthew 20:1-16 (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

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).

WEEKDAY MASSES AT OUR LADY'S

We hope in late September/early October to be able to re-introduce the public celebration of Mass at Our Lady's on two weekdays mornings each week. It's our hope to have a public celebration of the Mass on a Wednesday morning and a Friday morning – both at 9.30am. In order to be able to do this safely, we will need two stewards for each Mass, each – serving on a rota basis. If you are under 70 and have no underlying health conditions, and would be willing to be a part of the team of Stewards covering weekday Masses on either a Wednesday or a Friday, please email Fr Damian or me as soon as possible. The sooner we have a sustainable rota in place, the sooner we will be able to introduce these Masses. Mass will, of course, continue to be livestreamed every day.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – Sunday 13th September at new time of 4.30pm via 'Zoom'

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 13th September, for a short Praise and Worship gathering at 4.30pm. We will be using Zoom to sing a few uplifting hymns, listen to a short prayer and a reading or reflection, as well as catch up with fellow Parishioners. Please do not worry if you have not used Zoom before, it is very simple to set up, and pick up and we will be happy to walk you through the process ahead of time and on the day. If you would like to attend, please email Katy Pione (cepione@hotmail.co.uk) by Saturday 12th September, so she can send you a link with the meeting invitation on it, as well as the song words. Please feel free to invite anyone who might like to attend! Look forward to seeing you then.

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

On the weekends of 12th/13, 19th/20th and 26th/27th September, we will be celebrating 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.

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).

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.

THOMAS McATEER RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Thomas McAteer. Thomas's funeral will take place at Our Lady's, on Wednesday 16th September at 11.30am, 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. However, people are free to participate via livestream at the following link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>. We offer our deepest condolences to Thomas's family at this sad and difficult time.

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 22nd September. We offer our deepest condolences to Christopher's family at this sad and difficult time.

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 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. Fr Shaun will be available to sign CCPs at the following times in the parish hall:

Monday 5th October: 5.00pm – 6.00pm

Wednesday 7th October: 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Saturday 10th 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 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. *Fr Shaun.*

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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

CHRISM MASS – MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020

One of the many regular annual events prevented by the pandemic was the Chrism Mass at Westminster Cathedral, normally celebrated on the Tuesday of Holy Week. This Mass, at which the holy oils are blessed by the Cardinal, has now been rescheduled for Monday 14th September at 11.30am. As Dean of Watford, Fr Shaun will be concelebrating at this Mass. Parishioners are warmly invited to share in this beautiful celebration via livestreaming at <https://www.churchservices.tv/westminster>.

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 DRAW (AUGUST)

Congratulations to Chris Doran £33, Pauline Starck £24.75, Sean Godfrey £16.50 and Colette Williamson £8.25

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

MUSIC AT ST JOHN FISHER

Since 2006 the music at St John Fisher has been very ably led by Patricia O'Sullivan, as both organist and choir director. Patricia has decided that it is now the right time for her to move away and pursue other avenues. Patricia has given so generously to the parish through her ministry of music leadership and made an impact upon the musical life of the parish which will be a lasting legacy. Under Patricia's leadership the standard of music at St John Fisher has been exceptionally high at all times, but I think especially of the wonderful celebrations of Christmas and Holy Week, where Patricia's leadership, talent, enthusiasm and energy enabled such powerful and beautiful musical contributions to the praise and worship of God. Patricia will be much missed by the choir and her many friends in the parish. I am sure that you will all want to join with me in thanking Patricia for the very important contribution that she has made to the parish, especially through the development of its musical tradition. We wish Patricia every happiness and blessing as she moves on to explore new avenues.

Fr Shaun

THE BOOKING OF MASSES

We are looking forward to reopening for Mass this Sunday. 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.