



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
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Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
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Rickmansworth

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 @ChessValleyRC

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 27TH SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

“Doing the will of the Father” is a recurring theme in the Gospel according to Matthew. It is the gauge of our relationship with Jesus: “For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Matthew 12:50). It is the criterion by which people will be judged worthy of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

By means of this Sunday’s parable in today’s Gospel, Jesus had the chief priests and elders – the leaders of the people – pass judgement on themselves. Interestingly, the point of reference is not Jesus’ preaching, but the preaching of John the Baptist.

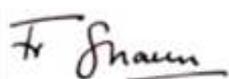
The context of today’s Gospel story is significant. It takes place in Jerusalem, in the final week of Jesus’ earthly life. Earlier in chapter 21, Matthew recounts Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and his cleansing of the Temple. The chief priests and the scribes are indignant when the people acclaim Jesus as “Son of David” – a title with clear messianic overtones. Today’s gospel is part of a tense discussion with the chief priests and elders about Jesus’ authority that begins a few verses earlier. It is here that we find Jesus first bring up their refusal to believe John the Baptist.

At the time John was baptizing, many people from Jerusalem and all over Judaea were flocking to him, being baptised and acknowledging their sins, but the Pharisees and Sadducees were notable exceptions. They wouldn’t recognise the call to righteousness which John was preaching. Tax collectors, scorned agents of the Roman government, and prostitutes, notorious sinners, did recognise it. They were the ones who did the will of the Father and produced good fruit as evidence of their repentance. Our response can be no less.

We must ask ourselves who is calling us to conversion and new life in the Church, in our families, in our neighbourhoods, in our nation and in our world. In what ways are we stretching out a hand to the outcast rather than ministering only to the righteous? In what ways, by God’s grace, are we being sons and daughters of the merciful Lord and followers of Jesus? How does the liturgy call us to be changed? Just as Jesus taught about the last being first and the exalted being humbled, it was this humble submission that opened the way for God to exalt him. Those who are humble enough to repent, those who sooner or later follow God’s path, will be the first to enter the Kingdom of God.

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.

With prayers and warmest wishes



SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Dave Pione 01923 772606
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Chorleywood Parish

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 27TH SEPTEMBER	3.00pm	First Holy Communion Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 4TH OCTOBER	4.00pm	Praise and Worship Gathering	

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 26 TH SEPTEMBER	For Our First Holy Communion Children		
SUNDAY 27 TH SEPTEMBER 26 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am Bea & Joe Dunphy RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the work of the Chess Valley SVP	10.30am Sr Margaret Buckley RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 28 TH SEPTEMBER	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS	Michael Fahey RIP		
WED 30TH SEPTEMBER St JEROME, PRIEST & DOCTOR	NO 9.30AM MASS TODAY 1.00pm Hazel Reilly RIP		
THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER St THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS	Sr Margaret Buckley RIP		
FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS	9.30am Nalene Nixon (Ints.)		
SATURDAY 3 RD OCTOBER	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 4 TH OCTOBER 27 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Seamus Fagan RIP	9am Don Williamson RIP

Entrance Antiphon:	All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.
1st Reading:	Ezekiel 18:25-28
Response to Psalm:	Remember your mercy, Lord
2nd Reading:	Philippians 2:1-11
Gospel:	Matthew 21:28-32
Communion Antiphon:	Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43 (Gospel)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: 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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - MASS ATTENDANCE STICKERS AND CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE (CCP) OF 2022 SECONDARY TRANSFER

With the Sunday Mass Obligation currently suspended and the ability of families to attend Mass in the parish each Sunday being very restricted due to social distancing measures, it is currently not possible to provide Mass attendance cards and stickers to families with a child making secondary transfer in 2022. There currently seems to be a level of uncertainty about if, and on what criteria, priests are going to be asked to complete CCPs for 2022 Secondary admissions. For the time being, all parents with a child who will be seeking a place in a Catholic Secondary school in 2022 should email me at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk, providing the following information:

- Name of the child (first name and surname)
- Parents/Guardians names (first name and surname)
- Address at which you reside
- Telephone contact details

I will retain this information and keep a careful eye on Diocesan guidance with regard to the issuing of CCPs for 2022 transfer in the light of the prevailing restrictions caused by the pandemic. *Fr Shaun*

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.

KATHLEEN GALVIN RIP

It is with sadness that we share with you the news of the death of Kathleen Galvin, who until she moved away some three years ago, was a long time parishioner at St John's, Mill End. Kathleen's funeral will take place on Wednesday 7th October in Newton Abbot. Her burial will take place at Woodcock Hill Cemetery on Friday 9th October at 11.00am. Due to limitations of numbers attending at the graveside, any parishioners wishing to attend should contact Fr Shaun beforehand to express their desire to attend the burial.

DAVID COOK RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of David Cook. David's funeral will take place at St Helen's Catholic Church, North Watford on Wednesday 14th October. We offer our deepest condolences to David's family at this sad and difficult time.

MEMORIAL MASS – HAZEL REILLY RIP

There will be a Memorial Mass for Hazel Reilly at 1.00pm on Wednesday 30th September at Our Lady's, followed by burial of Hazel's ashes at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. Due to social distancing restrictions attendance at the Mass is limited to those directly invited by Hazel's family. However, the Mass will be livestreamed at www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth

THE RECOMMENCEMENT OF WEEKDAY MASS AND VOLUNTEERS

We have now begun to celebrate public Masses at **Our Lady's** on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays, 9.30am**. 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). Thank you.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – Sunday, 4th October at new time of 4.00pm via 'Zoom'

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 4th October, for a short Praise and Worship gathering at **4.00pm**. 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 are 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) before Sunday 4th October, 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

CONFIRMATION 2020 – MASSES AND ONLINE REHEARSAL

There are three celebrations for the sacrament of Confirmation this year. The dates and times are: **Friday 9th October, 7.30pm; Friday 16th October, 7.30pm; Friday 23rd 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. 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 if you have not received a link to a zoom meeting about an **online rehearsal on Friday 2nd October, 7.30pm**.

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

This weekend, 26th/27th 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.

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: 5pm – 6pm; Wednesday 7th October: 6pm – 7pm; Saturday 10th October: 11am 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*.

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.

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.

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 to see how work has been carrying on. Maybe even buy your Christmas cards early this year at www.svp.org.uk/shop. There will be a Mass for the work of Chess Valley SVP on **Sunday 27th September at 6.00pm**.

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**).

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.