



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

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 11TH OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

As told by Jesus, the parables were stories that often left his listeners “hanging”, having to ponder the meaning for themselves and sometimes the parable was followed by an interpretation. The parable in this Sunday’s Gospel both interprets and leaves us hanging.

The dominating image in today’s parable is the wedding feast. The Greek noun *gamos* (marriage) occurs eight times, although unfortunately, this is not evident in the English translation. In the Old Testament, God’s covenant with Israel is often described as a marriage relationship (Isaiah 54:6, 62:5; Hosea 2: 16-22). The New Testament continues this image, often speaking of Jesus as the bridegroom.

Today’s parable points to the new reality that has come about through the presence, teaching, and ministry of Jesus. The promises of old are fulfilled: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17), the bridegroom is among us. Emmanuel, God, is with us. “The wedding is ready.”

Jesus says that many are invited to God’s banquet, “but few are chosen.” The twist of today’s Gospel is that God invites all – salvation is extended to everyone. The choosing is not what God does from among all those invited; the choosing is what we do in response to God’s invitation. The response is a clear choice to do all we need to do in our daily lives to witness to the presence of the kingdom of God.

We respond each day in many ways to God’s invitation to come to the banquet. How we respond to the multiple situations and people in our ordinary lives all mark how we respond to the invitation God gives each of us to come to the divine feast where the “rich food” and “fine wines” (first reading) are more than we can imagine. Let us come to the feast!

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.

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 Damian and I 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 either Fr Damian or me to arrange a mutually convenient time.

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**).

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

WED 14TH OCTOBER	11.00am	Funeral - Terry McGrady RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 16TH OCTOBER	7.30pm	Confirmation 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 10 TH OCTOBER	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 11 TH OCTOBER 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am Maria Augusta Candeias RIP 6pm Colin Lawrence RIP	10.30am Rosemarie Carter RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 12 TH OCTOBER	Eileen Pilby RIP		
TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER <i>ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR</i>	Cathy Purtill RIP (Anniv.)		
WEDNESDAY 14 TH OCTOBER	NO 9.30AM MASS 11.00am Terry McGrady RIP		
THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER <i>ST TERESA OF JESUS, VIRGIN & DOCTOR</i>	Fr Frederick Jackson RIP		
FRIDAY 16 TH OCTOBER	9.30am Liam Carney RIP		
SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER <i>ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP & MARTYR</i>	Fr Danny Horan RIP		
SUNDAY 18 TH OCTOBER 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am William Osgood RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Dennis & Shirley Ramsden RIP	10.30am Mary Gardner RIP	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

Response to Psalm: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Communion Antiphon: The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 45:1. 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, Matthew 22:15-21 (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

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month of the Holy Souls, when we pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed, especially remembering our departed family members, loved ones and friends. At most weekday Masses throughout November (excepting anniversary Masses) the Mass intention will be for the Holy Souls. As usual, we encourage you to write a list with the names of your departed loved ones to be included in this general intention. Due to the pandemic, this year we invite you to download and print the Holy Souls sheet from the special **Holy Souls** page on each parish website. Once completed, please email it to rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk. We will then print your list and add it the Holy Souls box which will stand in front of the Our Lady's altar throughout November. If you would like to make an offering in connection with your Holy Souls list, you can use the **Donate to your Parish** tab where you can make a bank transfer directly to the parish. Please reference your offering as **Holy Souls**.

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*

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS - THE BIBLE COURSE - ZOOM

Prior to lockdown, some of you started discipleship groups on the topic of the 'The Bible Course' which we have been unable to complete. As we approach the end of the 'The Year of the Word' and lead into Advent, we would like to invite everyone to participate in this course via Zoom. This 8 week course covers the bible storyline and through discussion and reflection helps us to understand how God speaks to us and the relevance of the bible in our world today. Running on Mondays from 26 October at 7.30pm, please register your interest via the e-mail below and a zoom link will be sent out nearer the time. All are warmly welcome and we look forward to seeing you soon. Contact: sharon.blayne@btinternet.com

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 are currently being finalized. 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.

CONFIRMATION 2020 MASSES

Confirmation Masses will be on **Friday 16th October, 7.30pm** and **Friday 23rd October, 7.30pm**. Please pray for our confirmandi. If you would like to join us for Mass via livestreaming, please use the following link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

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.

JOHN (TERRY) McGRADY RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Terry McGrady. Terry's funeral will take place at Our Lady's, on Wednesday 14th October at 11.00am, followed by cremation at Chilterns Crematorium. 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 Terry's family at this sad and difficult time.

IRENE CORLESS RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Irene Corless. Irene's funeral will take place at Our Lady's, on Friday 23rd October at 11.30am, followed by burial at Northwood 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 Irene's family at this sad and difficult time.

JOAN HARBIRD RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Joan Harbird. Details of Joan's funeral arrangements will be announced in due course. We offer our deepest condolences to Joan's family at this sad and difficult time.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

CAFOD'S HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY Friday 9th October

We are all feeling the impact of COVID 19 and CAFOD are inviting us to come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world who are also facing the coronavirus crisis, to survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give. You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10: Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. Many thanks

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

APPEAL FOR HELP - MORE VOLUNTEER STEWARDS AND CLEANERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MASSES

We are making an urgent appeal for more volunteer stewards and cleaners to join the rota for Sunday Masses. With the re-opening of St John Fisher and St John the Evangelist parishes our pool of volunteers has been much reduced. We cannot allow the burden to fall upon the shoulders of just a few. If more volunteers do not come forward it may jeopardize our ability to have public celebrations of Mass every Sunday. If you have no underlying health conditions and would be willing to volunteer as a steward or a cleaner (or both) then please contact Sharon Blayney at sharon.blayney@btinternet.com as soon as possible. Thank you. *Fr Shaun*

VISIT BY THE CARDINAL

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked if he might come and celebrate the 10.00am Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 25th October 2020. We look forward very much to welcoming the Cardinal that day. Unfortunately, due to the present circumstances, there will be no form of social gathering after the Mass, nor will it even be possible for the Cardinal to greet people after Mass. The arrangements regarding online booking of places for this Mass remains the same as usual.

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.*

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 mid October for those who prefer to pay their annual subscription (£60) by cheque.

FOR THE MISSIONS

Please keep saving your stamps for the Missions. For the time being, please keep them at home, do not bring them to the church porch. Thank you, *Sheila Harrington*.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

HEATING THE CHURCH

With the onset of autumn and colder days, our expectation is that our churches will soon be heated. Every parish currently has to make thoughtful decisions about how to heat their churches whilst at the same time ensuring good ventilation as a part of our COVID secure measures. However, we have a particular problem at St John's, Mill End, in that our heating system is a fan-blower system which recirculates the heated air throughout the church. We have, therefore, been advised by the Diocese to heat the church prior to opening the church and then turn the heating off once people begin to arrive. This will mean that the church will be not be "toastily" warm during Mass, though hopefully it will retain some of the heat. As the days get colder, we encourage you to come to Mass prepared – i.e. lots of warm layers. If you are someone who feels the cold very strongly, you might wish to book a place at Mass at Our Lady's, rather than at St John's, at least when the winter is at its coldest.

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.*

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

THE BOOKING OF MASSES

Currently we are celebrating a Sunday Mass at 9.00am each week. Places are limited and so you are invited to book online via the **EVENTS** page on the parish website from the Monday of each week. *Please read the instructions on the booking page carefully and provide all the information requested.*

NOT THE SJF CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Hello everybody, sadly, we will not be able to have all the fun of our usual Charity Fair at St John Fisher. However..... Marguerite will still hold a sale of her wonderful Christmas and other fruit and sponge cakes from her home and I will be selling my usual potted hyacinths and daffodils and we will also be having a raffle and a donation basket, all from my garage. Everything will be available to collect or deliver locally in the first week of December. Please watch this space, more info to follow. Also any suggestions welcomed. All proceeds will be going to the **Cardinal Hume** Centre for the homeless in Westminster. Thanks and love, Mary 284975.

RED APF/MISSIO BOXES

Thank you so much to all the box holders who have responded to my plea to ignore the boxes for now and to send me cheques or cash to cover the last two quarters. I am thankful to report this has resulted in a collection for September of £212.65 and that has just been sent. More love to all, Mary.