



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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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 18TH OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Initially, today's First Reading may take us by surprise. Cyrus? The Lord's anointed? Cyrus was the Persian king who conquered Babylon during the exile, thus winning freedom for the Jewish people. Isaiah speaks of him as the Lord's "anointed" (literally, messiah), the agent God used on behalf of his chosen people even though Cyrus did not "know" God – that is, was not in a covenant relationship with him as a member of the chosen people.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah recount the Jews' return to Jerusalem and rebuilding of the Temple and city, showing how the people appropriately "repaid" both God and government their respective dues. There was no doubt, however, that God was God and that no other ruler was more supreme.

In today's Gospel reading, the conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders continues. Today the Pharisees are in the spotlight. Enlisting the aid of the Herodians, who were supporters of the ruling dynasty of Herod the Great and thus loyal to Rome, the Pharisees are trying to put allegiance to the government in conflict with the covenant ("lawful") fidelity to God. In effect, the Pharisees are playing both sides in order to trap Jesus. In response, Jesus affirms the just claim of both, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."

What belongs to God is, of course, everything and everyone. How fittingly today's Responsorial Psalm acclaims "Give the Lord glory and power ... the gods of the heathens are naught ... God is king." Let us pray, this day, for a heightened awareness that all belongs to God. Let us give the tribute that is rightly due.

WEEKDAY MASS AND VOLUNTEERS

We are now celebrating public Masses at **Our Lady's** on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays, 9.30am**. There is no online booking, but attendance is 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 21ST OCTOBER	2.00pm	Funeral - Joan Harbird RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
THURS 22ND OCTOBER	11.30am	Funeral - Mary Casey RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 23RD OCTOBER	11.30am 7.30pm	Funeral - Irene Corless RIP Confirmation Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 25TH OCTOBER	4.00pm	Praise & Worship Gathering	

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER <i>St IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP & MARTYR</i>	Fr Danny Horan RIP		
SUNDAY 18TH 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
MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER	Terry McGrady RIP		
TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER	Joan Harbird RIP		
WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER	No 9.30AM MASS 2.00pm Joan Harbird RIP		
THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER	No 9.30AM MASS 11.30am Mary Casey RIP		
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER	No 9.30AM MASS 11.30am Irene Corless RIP		
SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER	John Thomson RIP		
SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am Joe & Jacqueline Grove RIP 6pm Norah MacWilliam RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Audrey Lewin RIP	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

Response to Psalm: Give the Lord glory and power.

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Communion Antiphon: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10, Matthew 22:34-40 (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 **26th 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.blaney@btinternet.com

PRaise AND WORSHIP GATHERING – Sunday 25th October at new time of 4pm via 'Zoom'

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 25th October, for a short Praise and Worship gathering at 4pm. 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 25th 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.

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 MASS

The final Confirmation Mass will be on **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>

JOAN HARBIRD RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Joan Harbird. Joan's funeral will take place at Our Lady's, on Wednesday 21st October at 2.00pm, followed by committal at Breakspear 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 Joan's family at this sad and difficult time.

MARY CASEY RIP

It is with much sadness that we share the news of the death of Mary Casey. Mary's funeral will take place at Our Lady's, on Thursday 22nd October at 11.30am, followed by burial at North Watford 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 Mary'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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

PENPALS

Hello, we at St Joan's know how difficult lockdown has been for so many people over the last few months and recognise how many of the restrictions can be very isolating. We would love the opportunity to support you or someone you may know who you think would like to have a pen pal. Although it is not the same as face to face we think it is something that many may like to participate in. It is also a great chance to get back to some hand written exchanges and allow us to take a break from the immediate nature which comes with emails. This is a great chance for the different generations to stand together and support one another in these very difficult times, and hold true to our belief that we must "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Keep safe! If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested please contact St Joan of Arc and ask to speak to Miss Gaughan 01923 773881, or you can email directly tgaughan@joa.herts.sch.uk

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.

200 CLUB - September draw

Congratulations to Annie Kent £33, Richard Dumughn £24.75, Peter Waters £16.50, John Steele £8.25

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 as 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

I am pleased to say we are up and running!! For *Christmas Cakes*, ring Marguerite Watkins 282780, large £16, small £11, for collection or delivery, mainly first week in December. Other delicious cakes, £4, will be available to purchase. For my potted hyacinths, daffodils etc, and the raffle and *The Silent Auction* and some bric a brac, please phone 284975 for an appointment to come in person or how to purchase long distance!!! All things are possible!

Thank you and love, Mary Latimer