



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:

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THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15TH NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

The 'talent' in today's Gospel was a huge sum of money. The numbers one, two and five can be misleading, as if the risk was not that great, but even one talent was more like a mortgage than petty cash. These servants were being asked to invest more money than they would see in a lifetime. Therefore, we might sympathize with the fear of losing a sum so large that it could never be paid back. But the point of the parable is that failure to invest is worse than risking the investment.

Like many of Jesus' parables, the analogy is transparent. The master represents God, and the servants represent different types of responses to God. Specifically, in this parable, the three servants respond differently to the resources that their master (God) gave them. Notice that they are not all given the same resources. Presumably, they were given resources according to their ability, which means that we don't all get the same gifts from God, but we are given what is appropriate to our personalities and our individual vocations, or as St Paul said "different gifts, one Spirit" (1Corinthians 12:4) But God gives gifts to be used, not to be kept for ourselves. So (like the master in the parable) God would have us try and fail, and keep trying, rather than give up and "bury" our gifts.

If we are sincerely trying to use our gifts, God is not disappointed with failure. That's because as long as we don't give up, failure is learning. Failure will be forgiven, but the refusal to use a gift is a refusal of the gift – which is also a rejection of God, the giver of the gift.

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie
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Carol Bartlett
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Mill End Parish

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YOUTH MINISTRY

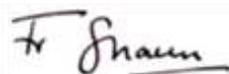
Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk

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

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

I am sure that we will all have breathed a huge sigh of relief this past week with the encouraging news about the development of what appears to be an effective vaccine for the coronavirus. Although there is still a considerable way to go, we can at least begin to look forward to 2021 with some hope in our hearts, as we see a bit of light at the end of this dark tunnel in which we have been living so much of our lives in 2020. Of course, we have to be realistic in recognising that life isn't going to simply go back to how it was in 2019 before we ever heard of COVID 19. We will be living with COVID 19 and its after effects upon our lives and our society for the foreseeable future. Still, we can rightly give thanks to God that, through the skill and hard work of so many scientists, we can look forward to brighter days. For now, of course, we must remain vigilant, especially during this second (and hopeful short) lockdown. With my SLT, I am continuing to plan and prepare for the celebration of Christmas Masses across our three parishes - should government regulations allow them to go ahead. As I have said before, we all need to begin to shape our expectations about what Christmas Mass will look and feel like this year. It will be very different as we will certainly be greatly restricted in what we can do due to all the measures we have to put in place to ensure that our churches are COVID-secure environments. Nevertheless, we will do all that we can to ensure that our celebrations are as joyful and special as the restrictions will allow.

With assurance of my prayers for you all



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 15TH NOVEMBER	4.00pm	Praise and Worship Gathering	
MON 16TH NOVEMBER	7.30pm	Online Bible Study - The Bible Course	
WED 18TH NOVEMBER	10.00am - 11.00am	Individual Prayer - Church	Our Lady Help of Christians
THUR 19TH NOVEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	
FRI 20TH NOVEMBER	10.00am - 11.00am	Individual Prayer - Church	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 21ST NOVEMBER	10.00am - 11.00am	Individual Prayer - Church	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER	Robert Gibson RIP Holy Souls
SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10am Ann Mulholland RIP (Anniv.) Private Intention
MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON, BISHOP	James Clark (Ints.) Holy Souls
TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER	Shane Jobe RIP (Anniv.) Holy Souls
WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER	Mary Robinson RIP (Anniv.)
THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER	Adam Budzynski RIP (Anniv.) Holy Souls
FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER	Holy Souls
SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Joan O'Flynn (Ints.) Holy Souls
SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	10am Chris Howlett RIP Maureen Sweeney RIP

Entrance Antiphon:	The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.
1st Reading:	Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31
Response to Psalm:	O blessed are those who fear the Lord.
2nd Reading:	1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Gospel:	Matthew 25:14-30
Communion Antiphon:	To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28, Matthew 25:31-46 (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, Joan Hart and James Clark.

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, Paddy Goble and Pam Fitzpatrick.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

IICSA REPORT

On Tuesday of this past week the Report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) within the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales was published. Cardinal Vincent Nichols' statement upon the publication of the report can be viewed at <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/message-from-cardinal-and-statement-following-the-publication-of-the-iicsa-report/> Let us continue to pray earnestly for all survivors of child sexual abuse, especially where that abuse has been perpetrated within the Catholic Church. Let us also pray that all of us within the Church may renew our efforts to develop and foster a robust and healthy culture for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults within our parishes. *Fr Shaun*

MASS INTENTIONS

With the onset of another period of lockdown, the number of Masses celebrated has been reduced to one Mass livestreamed from Our Lady's each day. A consequence of this is that we will unfortunately not be able to fulfil all of the Mass intentions on the days previously advised. Each priest is allowed to offer only one intention per Mass. On days when both Fr Damian and I are celebrating Mass together (every day except Wednesdays and Fridays) we will each offer Mass for a different intention. During November we have a commitment to offer Mass for the Holy Souls, so it might take us a while to catch-up with delayed intentions. As a result it is possible that Mass intentions may not always be able to be offered on the date previously advised. Please keep an eye on the Mass Intentions schedule on the online Newsletter to see when Masses are being offered. We apologise for any inconvenience caused but hope that you will understand the challenges we face in the current lockdown period. *Fr Shaun*

TIMES FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Although we are currently not able to have public acts of worship (other than funerals) in church, we are permitted to open the church for times of individual prayer. Our Lady's will be open from 10.00am to 11.00am each Wednesday, Friday and Saturday during this lockdown period (except on days when there is a funeral taking place). During these times for individual prayer the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar. I express my thanks to those parishioners who have volunteered to act as stewards during these times. Without their generous commitment to service these opportunities for individual prayer in church would not be possible.

INVITATION TO PRAY

You are warmly invited to join us every Thursday evening to pray together and have a time of fellowship. Whether you are part of the Parish Community or not we would love you to come along to our online prayer group. The evening will consist of a time for singing, reading and quiet reflection, sharing and intercessory prayer. You are welcome to join in as you feel you would like. Prayer meetings will start at 8.00pm every Thursday and finish at 9.30pm. If you would like to join us simply email the following address and we will add you to the invitation —barbarajohnson48@gmail.com We are using a platform called 'Zoom' which is very 'user friendly' and we can support you with this if necessary. We look forward to hearing from you.

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**.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2021

Registration is now open for the 2021 First Communion programme. Full details of eligibility, how to register and how the programme will be delivered can be found on the three parish websites on the **First Communion 2021** page. If you have a child eligible for First Communion in 2021 please carefully read the relevant information on the website, complete the downloadable Registration Form and email it to us at rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk by no later than **30th November 2020**. Please be aware that, due to the global pandemic, the 2021 First Communion Programme will be delivered entirely online via **ZOOM**.

CONFIRMATION 2021

For those in the parishes in Year 9 and above wishing to apply to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in 2021, please, go to the following link on the parish websites: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/confirmation-2021-draft/> The deadline for applying is **Monday 30th November**. All the details needed to apply are on the webpage. There will be a parent and candidate induction on **Monday 25th January 2021**. The programme will be online using the platform 'Zoom'. The first formal session will be **Monday 1st February 2021**. The date/s for the Confirmation Mass/es will be given when we know if/when the Bishop is able to come. If you have any questions, please, contact the Youth Ministry Leadership Team (YMLT): rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

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. Any parishioners wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation should contact either Fr Damian or me to arrange a mutually convenient time.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – 4.00pm on Sunday, 15th November via ‘Zoom’

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 15th November, 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 15th November, 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.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE (CCP) - Nursery/Reception - Academic Year 2021/22

The assessment of whether a CCP for a Nursery/Reception place at a Catholic Primary School for the academic year 2021/22 can be issued will be made in the following way: Only the Sundays from the beginning of December 2019 until and including Sunday 15th March 2020 will be assessed. 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. If you are only applying for place at St John's School, Mill End and/or St Anthony's School, Watford, you do not need a CCP, as these schools have removed the need for a CCP from their admissions criteria. Fr Shaun will be available to sign CCPs on **Saturday 28th November** from 11.00am to 11.30am. 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. Please wear a face covering. Thank you.

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@redow.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*

WATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL – EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

The Chaplaincy Team at Watford General Hospital are looking for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to support Catholic patients in Watford General Hospital by bringing Holy Communion during the weekends. Can you serve the Lord in this way? You must be under 60 years old and in good health. The Chaplaincy team will provide you with full training and support. Time commitment for this ministry would be between one and two hours per visit. Please prayerfully consider this invitation to a very special ministry and speak with Fr Shaun or Fr Damian who will contact the Catholic chaplain at the hospital with your details. All applicants must have the approval and support of their parish priests to be considered for this ministry.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in our parish is of the highest priority. For many years Dave Pione has conscientiously fulfilled the role of Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) for Our Lady's. Dave has now stepped down from this role and on behalf of the whole parish, I wish to express to Dave our sincere thanks for the diligence and care with which he has so generously fulfilled the critically important role of PSR for Our Lady's. I am delighted to be able to share with you the news that Carol Bartlett and Caroline Mathie have jointly agreed take over this role from Dave. They have now completed their safeguarding training with the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and are now operating as our PSRs. I express my thanks to both of them for agreeing to take up the role of PSR at Our Lady's. Details of how to contact Carol or Caroline on parish safeguarding issues can now be found on the front of the Newsletter and on the Safeguarding page of the parish website. *Fr Shaun*

GIFT AID

We would like to thank all our parishioners who have signed up to Gift Aid. With your help and generosity we have received £13,785.61 from the government for the tax year 2019/2020. It is never too late to join. If you are a tax payer and currently make your donations either by Standing Order or weekly donation envelopes please complete a Gift Aid declaration which is available from the parish office. You can also backdate your Gift Aid by completing the relevant section on the form.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

NOT THE SJF CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR - in aid of the Cardinal Hume Centre for the Homeless

We are coming along so well, thank you all. In view of the lockdown, please may I remind you to phone me for everything garage related: to buy raffle tickets and for virtual FaceTime tours of the Silent Auction, the remaining plants and the bric-a-brac. To order Marguerite's delicious and excellent value cakes at £4 each and Focaccia bread at £2 per sheet, please phone her on 282780. With thanks to all for your support. Mary 284975.