



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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Assistant Priest:

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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

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Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
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Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (YEAR B) - 27TH DECEMBER 2020

CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

In any year but this one, Christmas is one of the busiest travel times of the year. Airports move millions of travellers, roads and motorways move countless millions more. Buses and trains are crowded. It seems like everyone is on the move to get home, to get somewhere, to get to family or friends, to join in a celebration larger than themselves – all of which makes the restrictions placed upon our movement by the Tier 4 restrictions even more heart-achingly poignant.

Long ago people were also on the move. Mary and Joseph travelled from Nazareth to “the city of David”, to Bethlehem. They were going “home,” too. Mary and Joseph were returning to the city of their lineage. The child Mary is carrying in her womb was no ordinary child. He is a King – not an earthly king like David, but a King-Saviour.

St Luke rather quickly passes over the fact that “there was no room for them in the inn” and that Jesus was “laid ... in a manger.” This Saviour-King was hardly born in luxury and comfort. Our Christmas cribs statues paint the shepherds in nice clothes and beautiful colours, but in reality they were a scruffy bunch assigned to the night watch because they were “outcasts.” So who were the first witnesses of this King-Saviour? These shepherds, these folks who have no “home” but now find a home in singing out, with the angels, “Glory to God in the highest.”

We celebrate Christmas at the time of year when darkness is longest. Jesus comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting and deep joy of Christmas is that the Light shines wherever this King-Saviour is acknowledged and adored. Now we are the shepherds surrounded by God’s glory, whose very lives must sing “Glory to God in the highest.” Now we are to find our home in this King-Saviour.

In a manger, in a town far away, among shepherds, and in the dark of night, Jesus was born. Our salvation dawned in the messiness, poverty and weakness of ordinary human life. This hardly seems like a very auspicious beginning to the dawn of salvation! Yet, we have hope not because we are perfect or because our world is perfect, but because Jesus was born into the house and family of humanity. His birth gives us a new home and calls us to come home. His birth dispels darkness and raises us up to new heights within the Light of life. This is the cosmic movement for us that brought this birth about: we dispel darkness and bring light now by how we live. We come home.

Our daily lives must reflect this mystery: we ourselves must enter into the dark reaches of people and places and bring light and hope and peace. God’s glory is proclaimed not simply by words but by our mighty deeds of salvation. We only need to reach out to others who seek this King-Saviour. We must lead others to sing the same “Glory to God in the highest” that helped the shepherds of long ago know they had come home. We must know our home is in this King-Saviour.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 26TH DECEMBER <i>St STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</i> <i>LIVESTREAM ONLY</i>	Laurence Rooney RIP (Anniv.)		
SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	10am Patrick Rooney RIP 6pm Patricia Davitt & Family (Ints).	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am For the People of the Parish
MON 28TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</i> <i>LIVESTREAM ONLY</i>	Olu Fasanya RIP		
TUES 29TH DECEMBER <i>St THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP</i> <i>LIVESTREAM ONLY</i>	Ann Rushworth RIP		
WED 30TH DECEMBER <i>6TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	10am James Egan RIP		
THURS 31ST DECEMBER <i>7TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i> <i>LIVESTREAM ONLY</i>	Fr Christopher RIP		
FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY <i>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</i> <i>ONLINE BOOKING ONLY</i>	10am Roberts Family (Ints).		
SAT 2ND JANUARY <i>SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS</i> <i>LIVESTREAM ONLY</i>	Kenny D'Cruz RIP (Anniv.)		
SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY	10am Richard Hays RIP 6pm Special Intention	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am Patrick Dowling RIP (Anniv.)
MONDAY 4TH JANUARY	John McCarthy RIP		
TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY	Samuel Egan (Ints.)		
WED 6TH JANUARY <i>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i>	10.00am Michael Jubber RIP (Anniv.)		
THURSDAY 7TH JANUARY	Shane Egan (Ints.)		
FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY	11.00am Funeral - Patrick Mantle RIP		
SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY	Michael Egan (Ints.)		
SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	10am Michael Caplice & Family (Ints.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am James Flynn RIP (Anniv.)

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS – OUR LADY'S

There will be a 10.00am Mass at Our Lady's on New Year's Day to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God and to ask for God's blessing on 2021. Admission to this Mass will be by online booking only. If you wish to attend please book places via the EVENTS tab of the Rickmansworth parish website. The Mass will be livestreamed.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The offerings at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses is your personal gift to your priests. The Christmas and Easter offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Shaun and Fr Damian. These monies are paid into the respective three parishes' accounts and are then paid to the priests as a monthly salary or stipend. If you wish to make a Christmas offering, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details. Please mark your gift as CHRISTMAS OFFERING. You can also now make a Christmas Offering via Virgin Money Giving, please leave a message to show this donation is for your Christmas Offering. You will find the parish bank details and a link to the Virgin Money Giving site on the **Donate to your Parish** tab of your respective parish website. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Christmas Offering. Thank you.

THANK YOU

The Parish Team would like to thank parishioners for their cards, gifts and good wishes this Christmas. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very much appreciated.

NEWSLETTER

Please note that there will be no Newsletter next weekend.

PATRICK MANTLE RIP

The funeral of Patrick Mantle will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Friday 8th January 2021, followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

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.

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

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 or seeking a nursery or reception place in a catholic primary school 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 admissions. For the time being, all parents with a child who will be seeking a place in a Catholic Secondary school in 2022 or a nursery or reception place in a Catholic primary school (other than St John's, Mill End or St Anthony's, Watford which do not require a CCP) 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 admissions in the light of the prevailing restrictions caused by the pandemic. *Fr Shaun*

Entrance Antiphon: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Response to Psalm: He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Communion Antiphon: Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Next Sunday's Readings: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2. 8-12; Ephesians 1:3-6. 15-18; John 1:1-18 (Gospel)

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (WESTMINSTER) - CRIB OFFERING

Each year many parishes very kindly donate their Crib Offering to support the work of the Catholic Children's Society. This enables us to provide vital support for disadvantaged children and families. The need for this work is more acute than ever and many families are facing real hardship and an uncertain future due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We are determined to be there for families in their time of need and we know many parishioners are keen to help. We have therefore set up a dedicated page for anyone who would like to make a Crib Offering. We would be extremely grateful for any donation you are able to make and will ensure this goes directly towards supporting local families in need. To make a donation please go to <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib/> and add 'Crib' in the optional message box. Thank you for helping disadvantaged children and families this Christmas.

VINNIE PACKS

The St Vincent de Paul Society have assembled nearly 12,000 packs for the homeless and have distributed them throughout England and Wales. Each Vinnie Pack contains a thermal hat, thermal gloves two pairs of thermal socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, wet wipes, Pavement magazine, pen and information sheet and 5,000 of the packs have a reusable face mask included. The contents of each Vinnie Pack cost around £3.50 and donations to sponsor packs would be most welcome. Donations can be transferred to SVP Vinnie Packs, a/c 46088237 sort code 60-60-04 or cheques made out to SVP can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ. Any assistance is really appreciated.

COVID19 VACCINES

In September 2020 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales issued a statement COVID-19 and Vaccination (24th September 2020). In the light of the recent breakthrough in vaccine development the Bishop's Conference has now issued a follow up statement. The development of a vaccine against COVID-19 presents an important breakthrough in protecting others as well as oneself from the virus; a virus which has not only caused a global pandemic and led to a huge loss of life but has also placed a great burden on healthcare workers and systems. Each of us has a duty to protect others from infection with its danger of serious illness, and for some, death. A vaccine is the most effective way to achieve this unless one decides to self-isolate. At present, debate concerns the use of the vaccines developed by Pfizer & BioNTech, Moderna, and Astra Zeneca. Some have questioned the use of the Astra Zeneca vaccine since it has been developed from cell-lines originating from the cells of an aborted foetus in 1983. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy of Life have expressed the view that one may in good conscience and for a grave reason receive a vaccine sourced in this way, provided that there is a sufficient moral distance between the present administration of the vaccine and the original wrongful action. **In the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bishops' Conference has judged that this grave reason exists and that one does not sin by receiving the vaccine.** Both the Pfizer & BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have a different source since they are mRNA-based vaccines. On 2 December 2020, the Pfizer & BioNTech vaccine was approved for use in the UK. Each Catholic must educate his or her conscience on this matter and decide what to do, also bearing in mind that a vaccine must be safe, effective, and universally available, especially to the poor of the world. Catholics may in good conscience receive any of these vaccines for the good of others and themselves. In good conscience, one may refuse a particular vaccine but continues to have a duty to protect others from infection.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Josie Westhrop (£32); Anita Khurwal (£24), Pamela Starck (£16) and Patricia Kelly (£8).

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

CONTINUING TO CARE for the CARDINAL HUME CENTRE

Sadly I have to close the garage during Tier 4. As soon as that is relaxed, I will re-open for another complete month. In the meantime, you can do three things!

- (1) Did any of your presents not quite hit the mark!!! Please pass them on to me;
- (2) I am collecting odd bits of gold and silver (pieces of chains, solitary earrings, etc) to sell for scrap value;
- (3) the donation basket is still at the ready.

Please contact me at any time. Wishing you all a blessed New Year. Mary 284975

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, Maureen Douglas, Josie Westhrop, Gillian Loose and Peter Knight.

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.