



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

Livestreaming: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga.forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
anne@themessagemachine.com

Mill End

Geraldine Page
geraldine.page21@gmail.com

Address for all correspondence:

5 Park Road, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU

Telephone: 01923 773387



@ChessValleyRC

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572
rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 31TH JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Having called his first four disciples, we hear in this Sunday's Gospel how Jesus goes to the village of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee, where he begins to teach in the synagogue. He is confronted by evil, a man with an unclean spirit. There is a foreshadowing here as we know that in the end, Jesus will lose his life in a confrontation with evil. What the reader knew at the beginning of Mark's gospel, namely, that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, the man with the unclean spirit shouts out 'I know who you are: the Holy One of God'. No human being, only the spirits call Jesus this during his earthly ministry. The only human being to call Jesus 'the Son of God' will be the centurion, and only after he has witnessed Jesus die on the cross (Mark 15:39). Jesus' mission necessarily involves a confrontation with evil, suffering, and death, only after which his true identity as 'Son of God' can be proclaimed by a human being.

As we have it in this story, Jesus commands the evil spirit to come out of the man; it obeys, though not without dramatic theatrics. The assembled people were understandably amazed. Not surprisingly, Jesus' reputation. As we will learn later in the gospel, Jesus' wonder-working will be tempered with suffering and ultimately death. We have here not the lilies-of-the-field Jesus but the Jesus who encounters, battles, and is victorious over evil.

The term 'authority' is used twice in today's gospel. Jesus' teaching is not like the others, for he teaches with authority. As if to demonstrate the authority Jesus wields, even the unclean spirit obeys him. If any wondered about his teaching authority, they needed to look no further than the man from whom the unclean spirit was expelled.

Perhaps we do not like to hear it, but the Christian life (and, in fact, any life) is riddled with encounters with evil. We learn in today's gospel that Jesus is more powerful than that. Jesus has authority and by that authority he can dispel what is oppositional and troublesome. Once we become followers of Jesus we will still encounter challenges and hostility. Some might wish to think that becoming Christian inoculates one from having those encounters. But the gospel (and our own lived experience) tells a different story.

Even though we continue to face such encounters, we are comforted in knowing that Jesus has authority over all. A preacher once phrased it this way: 'Rest assured in your baptism'. By that he meant that our baptism configures us to Christ, who will be with us. Of course, this doesn't mean that we disregard precautions, or that we walk in a state of naiveté. Remember that Jesus himself was killed. It does mean that we have an ally, the author of life. Once we know this, we can rest assured. Even death itself is not the final word.

ASH WEDNESDAY – WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2021

Masses for Ash Wednesday will take place across the three parishes as follows:

Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – 9.30am and 8.00pm

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – 9.30am

St John's, Mill End – 8.00pm

Due to the continuing need for social distancing in our churches, it will be necessary to book places for these Masses in advance, using the online booking system on the **EVENTS** tab of the respective parish website. Booking for the Masses of Ash Wednesday will open on Monday 1st February.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

THUR 4TH FEBRUARY	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Baptism Course (via Zoom)	
THUR 4TH FEBRUARY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group (via Zoom)	

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 30 TH JANUARY	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 31 ST JANUARY <i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am Danny Sullivan & Family (Ints.) 6pm Janos Fejer RIP	10.30am Edda Ali RIP	9am Joan & Philip Smyth RIP
MONDAY 1 ST FEBRUARY	Kay Wharton RIP		
TUESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY <i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	Anne Fitzgerald RIP		
WED 3RD FEBRUARY <i>SS LAURENCE, DUNSTAN & THEODORE</i>	9.30am Peter Behan RIP		
THURSDAY 4 TH FEBRUARY	Caitlin O'Keefe Roe RIP		
FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY <i>ST AGATHA, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Frazer Bradshaw RIP (Anniv.)		
SAT 6TH FEBRUARY <i>ST PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	O'Keefe Family (Ints.)		
SUNDAY 7 TH FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am Joe Grove RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Response to Psalm: Oh that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Communion Antiphon: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Next Sunday's Readings: Job 7:1-4. 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23; Mark 1:29-39 (Gospel)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Maureen Douglas, Josie Westhrop, Peter Knight and Bishop John MacWilliam

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock 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

KAIROS – CONNECT, BELONG, GROW!

On Tuesday 23rd February 2021 we will be launching our new *Kairos* ministry. *Kairos* - a Greek word used often in the Bible, means *the favoured time ... the opportune time ... indeed, God's time*. *Kairos* will take place once a fortnight, on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and each session will last one hour and 15 minutes. The purpose of *Kairos* will be to help us all to **connect** with our brothers and sisters across the parishes; to increase our sense of **belonging** to a community of faith and help us to **grow** as we explore together the richness of the faith we profess and share. A typical *Kairos* evening will include the following elements: some informal social time in small groups, input on a religious theme or topic, discussion in small groups, time for communal prayer together. Given the online nature of *Kairos*, we are also planning to have (when the restrictions on social gathering have been lifted) a quarterly social evening, where we can come together physically and enjoy being in each other's company over food and drink. If you would like to join us for *Kairos*, please email our *Kairos* Communications Team at kairos@rcdow.org.uk and you will be sent a Zoom invite. If you need some technical help with Zoom, please let our Communications Team know and they will try their best to help. *Fr Shaun*

ONLINE STATIONS OF THE CROSS – LENT 2021

This year, due to the pandemic, Lenten Stations of the Cross will take place via *Zoom* on three Fridays during Lent (in the weeks when there is no *Kairos* gathering). We will be using photographs of the Stations of the Cross from our three parishes. Using *Zoom* means that we can play some music as part of meditation on the Stations. The Stations will take place as follows:

Friday 5th March – 7.30pm – using the Stations of the Cross from St John's, Mill End

Friday 19th March – 7.30pm – using the Stations of the Cross from Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) – 7.30pm – using the Stations from St John Fisher, Chorleywood.

Please email Fr Shaun at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk if you would like to be sent a Zoom invite to the online Stations of the Cross.

JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (JPPC)

The role of our JPPC is to assist Fr Damian and me in developing the long-term strategy for the continuing pastoral and spiritual renewal of our three parishes. Obviously, the COVID19 pandemic has had an impact on the momentum of this work. Therefore, in consultation with the JPPC members, and with their agreement, I have decided to extend the term of office of all of the elected members of the JPPC by one year. Consequently, those due to step down in 2021 will now continue until 2022 and those due to step down in 2022 will now continue until 2023. Therefore, there will be no elections to the JPPC until February/March 2022. I am also very pleased to be able to tell you that John Donohoe has accepted my invitation for him to join the JPPC as one of the four St John Fisher members, in place of Toni D'Urso, who stepped down in 2020. I am very grateful to John for accepting this invitation and I look forward to welcoming him to our next JPPC meeting in March 2021. *Fr Shaun*

RECORDING OF THE FUNERAL MASS OF FR JIM DUFFY (RIP)

A recording of the funeral Mass of Fr Jim Duffy (RIP) on Monday 18th January 1.00pm, is available on the following link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth/archive/recordings/N1aSjfm2w7QrpdW>

Simply copy and paste the link, scroll down to 'Watch videos', and click on the Funeral Mass. You will be taken to the recording, where you can download it and keep it for your own records. The recording is available for 90 days.

MESSAGE FROM FR GRAHAM GILLMAN

Having reached my 75 year of age I am finally fully retiring and moving back to my roots and have now moved to Birkdale in Southport where my family comes from. I want to thank all the parishioners of the three parishes for the welcome and kindness shown to me over the 18 years that I have lived in Rickmansworth. I have always loved sharing my love of scripture and hope that I have helped you to understand the Gospel by bringing it alive in my sermons. In your kindness I hope you will keep me and Fr Shaun, Fr Damian and all priests in your prayers. *Fr Graham*

FUNERALS

The funeral of Anna Hendy RIP will be on **Wednesday 3rd February** at 10.45am at Breakspear Crematorium.

The funeral of Mary King RIP will be on **Wednesday 10th February** at 12 noon at St John's, Mill End, followed by burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery.

The funeral of Helga de-Sa RIP will be on **Friday 12th February** at 11.30am at Breakspear Crematorium.

The funeral of Ellen 'Eileen' Halsey nee Durkan RIP will be on **Friday 19th February** at 11.00am followed by burial at North Watford Cemetery.

We commend them to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for their families at this sad and difficult time.

GILLIAN LOOSE RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Clare Loose's daughter-in-law, Gillian Loose. We extend our deepest condolences to Gillian's family at this sad and difficult time. The arrangements for Gillian's funeral have not yet been finalised.

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@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 admissions in the light of the prevailing restrictions caused by the pandemic. *Fr Shaun*

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

An order for offertory envelopes needs to be placed soon. Due to COVID, most parishioners no longer use their offertory envelopes and have switched to standing orders. If you would still like a box of envelopes, please could you contact Kerry at the parish office before Monday 8th February. Thank you

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

We regret to announce the World Day of Prayer planned for the 5th March 2021 at St Thomas', West Hyde has been postponed until the Summer. The committee made this decision as the WDP is about all our faith communities coming together in prayer and song and as we know, with the current restrictions the numbers able to attend public worship are limited and singing is not allowed. We would also be unable to socialise afterwards. Holding the WDP in the summer will be a happy and appropriate way to celebrate our communal return to life. We will let you know more details on the new date and time after Easter. Thank you. Cristina and Geraldine.

ALPHA ONLINE 2021

We have had a very blessed and successful experience of moving Alpha online this past 9 months, seeing God touching peoples lives in amazing ways, even on Zoom! Despite the lockdowns, our parishes' mission hasn't changed, we're still called to bring the good news of Jesus to those around us. So, in 2021 we want to release as many people as possible to run Alpha Online in individual small groups for their friends, family, neighbours and whoever else they know. This model of running individual Alpha small groups online makes organising and hosting Alpha Online much easier than having one large gathering on Zoom, which then has to be administered centrally and is much more taxing on the technology. It also releases Alpha small group hosts and helpers to be more creative in shaping their small group by inviting whoever they want to be guests in their own small group. Our vision is to have multiple Alpha Online groups running across the next year. Imagine all the people we could reach with lots of groups running in 2021! If you've experienced Alpha this past couple of years as a guest and God has impacted your life through it, we're calling on you in particular to step up and run a group for your friends and family. Training and support will be available to help you throughout and we aim to host trainings just before Easter, with a view to groups launching in late April/early May. However, the beauty of Alpha Online is that you can run it whenever you like! If you loved Alpha and you want to play your part in bringing the good news of Jesus to the people you know and love, run Alpha Online in 2021. To find out more email Mike Roche at mrmichaelroche78@gmail.com or give him a call on 07505307323. Of course, if any parishioners have still not tried Alpha but would like to give it a go as part of a New Year's resolution for 2021 please do contact Mike for more information as well. God bless you!

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, MILL END AND MAPLE CROSS

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of St John the Evangelist church in 1971. I am delighted to say that Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be coming to St John's to celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving on **Sunday 27th June 2021**. We can be hopeful that by that time the restrictions will have been eased enough for us to be able to celebrate the day in a fuller way than we can right now. But we will have to wait and see. As part of our celebration of this important anniversary year we are moving forward with our plans to create a Lady Chapel in the side chapel area of the church. The statue of Our Lady from the church has now been removed in preparation for the construction of a new painted reredos which will form a new backdrop for the statue in its new space in the Lady Chapel. The old wooden altar, which has been unused since the church was re-ordered, is being refurbished as the Lady Chapel altar, and will sit beneath the statue and the reredos. We hope that this work will be completed in time for our big celebration in June.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

STAYING COVID-SECURE AT ST JOHN FISHER

With the rapid spread of the new variant of the coronavirus and the lockdown now in force, I asked our St John Fisher Covid19 taskforce to review the COVID secure measures we have in place. This is important given the particular circumstances of the St Fisher building and it's much smaller cubic footage, when compared to our sister parishes. As a result of this review, it has been agreed that it is necessary to increase the ventilation throughout the building by keeping the front and back doors and some windows open during the celebration of Mass. This is obviously not ideal during the cold winter months, but it is necessary to help keep the building COVID secure. If you are attending Mass at St John Fisher you are advised to wrap up warmly. I also remind you that there is currently no obligation to attend Sunday Mass, so if you have underlying health conditions or if you particularly feel the cold, you may wish to join in the celebration of Mass from Our Lady's, either by booking a place there or from your home via our livestream. Other mitigations will be put in place to help ensure everyone's safety. The taskforce will keep the situation under regular review. I am very grateful to the taskforce team for the thoughtful and prudent way in which they are dealing with these challenging issues. *Fr Shaun*

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. Thank you, Mary 284975