



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

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
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Assistant Priest:

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Parish Administrator:

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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
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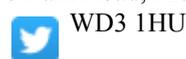
Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

Geraldine Page
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Address for all correspondence:
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WD3 1HU

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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Mill End Parish

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Chorleywood Parish

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
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Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 24TH JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Cycle B means our Sunday Gospel readings at Mass come primarily from the Gospel of Mark, even though last Sunday we heard from the Gospel of John about the call of the first disciples, Andrew and an unnamed disciple. This Sunday we have a different version, Mark's version, of the call of the first disciples. Though Andrew is still part of the story, we do not have the 'unnamed disciple' from the Gospel of John.

There are some significant differences between last Sunday's account and this one we hear today. For one, in last Sunday's gospel Andrew and his companion were initially followers of John the Baptist. After John the Baptist pointed out Jesus, they began to follow him. In Mark's account Jesus is walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee when he calls the brothers Simon and Andrew. They abandon their nets and follow him. He then calls the brothers James and John, sons of Zebedee. All four become Jesus' followers that day, whereas Zebedee is left holding the net!

The sons of Zebedee are critical figures in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke as opposed to the Gospel of John. In fact, we only hear of the 'sons of Zebedee' in the epilogue of John's gospel (Chapter 21) and even there we are not told their names. They are merely the sons of Zebedee. But the image St Mark paints for us is different. He gives us their names and depicts them as giving themselves in complete dedication to following Jesus. All is abandoned in their pursuit of him.

In this story we also hear something of the preaching of Jesus, which to a certain degree echoed that of John the Baptist. Jesus's preaching will be developed and expanded throughout the Gospel of Mark, but at this early stage it is centred around the twofold command, "Repent and believe".

Mark's account is certainly idealised for dramatic effect; we only need to look at the Gospel of John to see another version of Andrew and Peter being called by Jesus. But what is Mark telling us by narrating the story the way he does? Certainly, that these first disciples left everything in a single-minded pursuit of Jesus. As such, they represent the ideal. And perhaps this is another lesson of Mark's account. Our beginnings can be filled with such idealism, promise, and pure-hearted devotion. Only later will 'reality' begin to sink in and our failings and shortcomings become apparent, as they no doubt will with the disciples.

Today we hear the story of how the disciples started out strong, abandoning everything to follow Jesus. We know that Simon Peter will eventually confess Jesus as the Christ. And later, Peter will deny three times that he even knows him. The relationship that starts out with such promise, even reaching soaring heights, can truly crash and burn. This happened with his disciples; it can happen with us. But Peter was forgiven and brought back into the fold. Our living relationship with Christ is not a one-time exhilarating moment, but, like all relationships, it is a lifelong give and take, wax and wane, love and be loved.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

THUR 28TH JANUARY	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Baptism Course (via Zoom)	
THUR 28TH JANUARY	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 23 RD JANUARY	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 24 TH JANUARY <i>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am Thomas White RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.)	9am Moyra O'Donnell RIP
MONDAY 25TH JANUARY <i>THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE</i>	Austin J Sweeney RIP		
TUES 26TH JANUARY <i>SS TIMOTHY & TITUS, BISHOPS</i>	Mgr Mark Langham RIP		
WEDNESDAY 27 TH JANUARY	9.30am Fr Jim Duffy RIP		
THURS 28TH JANUARY <i>ST THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST & DOCTOR</i>	Phyllis & Derek Humphries RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 29 TH JANUARY	9.30am Pat Mantle RIP		
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

Entrance Antiphon:	O Sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.
1st Reading:	Jonah 3:1-5,10
Response to Psalm:	Lord, make me know your ways.
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel:	Mark 1:14-20
Communion Antiphon:	Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28 (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

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*

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*

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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

The next Baptism Preparation Course will be held over two sessions via Zoom on Thursday 28th January (8pm to 9pm) and Thursday 4th February (8pm to 9pm). If you would like to attend, and have fulfilled the stipulated requirements and paperwork, then please contact Fr Damian and he will send the Zoom invite for the course.

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!

A BRIEFING ON CAFOD'S WORK

Many of us have something of a soft spot for CAFOD, and for the work they do overseas for some of the poorest and most disadvantaged people on Earth. But they've developed a lot in recent years, and not many of us have a clear and up to date understanding of what they actually do nowadays, or all the ways in which we can help. It's much more than just making a donation at Fast Days twice a year. Our deanery CAFOD volunteer coordinator Fabian Hiscock will give a short briefing, open to parishioners as well as current CAFOD volunteers across the deanery, using Zoom. It will be on **Shrove Tuesday, 16th February**, at 7.30pm, for up to an hour. To join in, please e-mail Fabian direct on fhiscock@cafod.org.uk, and he'll respond with the link when CAFOD have set it up.

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