



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:**

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**Assistant Priest:**

Fr Damian Ryan  
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**Parish Administrator:**

Kerry Van Rensburg  
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**Rickmansworth**

Paul Forrest  
[pga.forrest@btinternet.com](mailto:pga.forrest@btinternet.com)

**Chorleywood**

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
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**Mill End**

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 @ChessValleyRC

### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

#### SUNDAY THOUGHT

After many weeks we have come to the conclusion of the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark. What a whirlwind it has been. From the opening sentence announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, son of God, to John the Baptist, the calling of the disciples, casting out demons, healing the sick, including Simon's mother-in-law, preaching in synagogues, and now concluding with the healing of someone with a skin disease, the story has been like riding a roller coaster. We reach new heights and move swiftly from episode to episode.

Though our English Bibles refer to the person cured as a 'leper', the term means anyone with a skin disease. An entire chapter in the book of Leviticus is dedicated to diagnosing and treating skin diseases, which are broadly categorised in the ancient world as 'leprosy'. The chapter discusses how a person with the disease is to behave, namely, by crying 'unclean' before approaching others, and living apart from the community for as long as the infection lasts.

So, the healing performed by Jesus is not merely a healing of a skin disease, though it certainly is that. By telling the man to show himself to the priest, Jesus is, in effect, setting up the situation so that the man will be brought back into the community. Once the priest declares the infection gone, the afflicted person may return as a fully-fledged member of the people, without having to cry 'unclean, unclean' as they go about their business. It's for this reason, among others, that scholars and preachers say that Jesus' ministry was about inclusion. He ministered to those on the margins, even outside of the community, like this person with a skin disease, and Jesus made them whole. Once whole, the excluded persons could be welcomed back.

Interestingly, even though Jesus has warned the man sternly and ordered him to tell no one apart from the priest, the cured man publicised the matter widely! And this publicity affected Jesus' ministry so that he was no longer able to enter towns openly. It's as though Jesus was being stalked by the ancient equivalent of the paparazzi. He was not left alone in the deserted places outside of the villages.

By the end of the first chapter of St Mark the stage has been set. What will happen to this wonder-worker? Will his fame spread beyond the backwaters of Galilee? Who else on the margins or outskirts of society will we embrace? What kind of whirlwind will he be?

Sometimes the news is so good we can't keep it to ourselves. This might happen when someone is getting married, or having a baby, or is out of hospital after a long illness. Our joy cannot be contained and so it was with the man afflicted with a skin disease. He told everyone that Jesus had cured him! The news spread throughout the region, and Jesus was left to live with the consequences. Why was the cured man so joyful? Not only because the affliction was cured, but because now he was able to be restored to the community.

Whom do we see excluded today? What is today's equivalent of an ancient skin condition? Are there groups or individuals who are effectively preceded with shouts of 'unclean'? Jesus' desire isn't merely to heal the man's skin disease, but to restore him to the community. In effect, the healing of the leper was as much for the community as it was for the leper. The community had rejected this person and would not accept him with that condition. If we want to be like Jesus we can find those on the margins and bring them into the fold. We may not have the power to heal physical ailments, but we can certainly reach out to the marginalised and draw them close.

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

**Rickmansworth Parish**

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572  
[rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841  
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**Mill End Parish**

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Chorleywood Parish**

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Diocesan Safeguarding**

**Coordinator** 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:  
[rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk)

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:  
[rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk)

Margaret Simon - Youth  
Ministry Leadership Team:  
[rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk)

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>THUR 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	via <i>Zoom</i>
<b>FRI 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	11.00am	Funeral - Ellen 'Eileen' Halsey nee Durkan RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SUN 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	4.00pm	APM - St John the Evangelist, Mill End	via <i>Zoom</i>

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 13 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
<b>SUNDAY</b> 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>10am</b> Paul Allen RIP & Family <b>6pm</b> Anna Khurwal RIP (Anniv.)	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
<b>MONDAY</b> 15 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	Joyce Dowling RIP (Anniv.)		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	Fr Bernard McCumiskey RIP		
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	<b>9.30am</b> For the People of the Parish <b>8pm</b> For the People of the Parish	<b>8pm</b> For the People of the Parish	<b>9.30am</b> For the People of the Parish
<b>THURSDAY</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	Don Williamson RIP		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>11am</b> Funeral - Ellen 'Eileen' Halsey nee Durkan RIP		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 20 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	Kevin Briody RIP		
<b>SUNDAY</b> 21 <sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	<b>10am</b> Michael Townend RIP <b>6pm</b> Sheila Sharp RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Brendan Hurnin RIP	<b>9am</b> Julian Harris (Ints.)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

**Response to Psalm:** You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

**Gospel:** Mark 1:40-45

**Communion Antiphon:** They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (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, Pam Fitzpatrick and Julian Harris.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS 2021

Each year in February or March we have an Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in each of our three parishes. The purpose of the APM is for parishioners to be able to hear about the work of the parish during the previous year. An important element of the APM is the presentation of the annual parish finances, in this case for the year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The APM also offers the opportunity for parishioners to ask questions of the parish team. Due to the pandemic, this year all three APMs will take place online via *Zoom*. The dates will be as follows:

**St John the Evangelist, Mill End – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 4.00pm**

**Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 3.00pm**

**St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm**

If you would like to attend (virtually) the APM for your respective parish, please email me at [shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk) and, nearer the time, I will send you a Zoom invite to the meeting. We hope that many parishioners will join us for these important meetings. *Fr Shaun*

### **KAIROS – CONNECT, BELONG, GROW!**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:kairos@rcdow.org.uk) and you will be sent a Zoom invite. The closing date for registrations is **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February**. 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 5<sup>th</sup> March – 7.30pm** – using the Stations of the Cross from St John's, Mill End

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – 7.30pm** – using the Stations of the Cross from Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

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

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

### **ASH WEDNESDAY – WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 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.

### **STEWARDS AND CLEANERS - NEW ROTAS**

The new Sunday and weekday Mass rotas has now been sent out for all stewards and cleaners for the period February-May 2021. Please could you all check that you have received this. It may have gone into your **junk mail** so check this carefully too. If you have not received it please contact me ASAP on [sharonblayney9@gmail.com](mailto:sharonblayney9@gmail.com). This ministry is open to all parishioners. If you would like to help steward or clean the church (Sundays/Wednesday/Fridays) during the Covid restrictions then please contact me on the above address. With many thanks for all your help. *Sharon Blayney/Jane Redman*

### **FUNERALS**

The funeral of Nora Ambrogi RIP will be on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February** at 1.45pm at Chilterns Crematorium.

The funeral of Ellen 'Eileen' Halsey nee Durkan RIP will be on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February** at 11.00am at Our Lady's, 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.

### **CAFOD**

Abdella lives in Afar, Ethiopia – one of the hottest places on earth. Like hundreds of people in the area, he spends most of the day walking to get water for his family to drink. He knows that if there was water near his home, his family wouldn't have to worry any more about getting enough to stay alive. Walk for Water is a Lent challenge: 10,000 steps a day - done your way. Every day. For 40 days. See the link to sign up: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water> 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, **16<sup>th</sup> February**, at 7.30pm, for up to an hour. To join in, please e-mail Fabian direct on [fhiscock@cafod.org.uk](mailto:fhiscock@cafod.org.uk), and he'll respond with the link when CAFOD have set it up.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### 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](mailto: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*

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

We regret to announce the World Day of Prayer planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, MILL END AND MAPLE CROSS

2021 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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

### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

An order for planned giving envelopes for 2021/22 needs to be placed very soon. If you would like a box of envelopes for next year, please could you contact Kerry at the parish office before **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**.

A number of parishioners who use planned giving envelopes but are currently unable to attend Sunday Mass have contacted us regarding their planned giving and the offering that they make to their parish using them. For any parishioner who is in this situation and wishes to make a Sunday offering, we invite you to either drop your envelopes, together with your donation, at the parish office at the Presbytery at Our Lady's (but only if passing through Rickmansworth – please continue to follow Government guidelines with regard to essential travel) or to post a cheque made payable to St John Fisher, Chorleywood, together with at least one planned giving envelope, to the Parish Office. Alternatively, you could make a donation via an electronic payment to St John Fisher parish using the following details:

**Account Name:** WRCDT Chorleywood

**Sort Code:** 40-05-20

**Account Number:** 21095552

Please annotate the payment as: **Sunday Offering**. Thank you for your continued and valued support.

### 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*