



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:

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rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga_forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

Geraldine Page
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Address for all correspondence:
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Telephone: 01923 773387



@ChessValleyRC

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572
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Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
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Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
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Chorleywood Parish

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899
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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Fr Damian Ryan - Confirmation:
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) - 2ND MAY 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

The image of the vine and branches used in today's gospel can be understood in a number of ways. For one, Jesus says that the branches that do bear fruit are pruned to bear more. We can reflect on that to wonder why these fruit-bearing branches need to be pruned at all! Isn't it enough to cut the branches that do not bear fruit? No, for the vine grower, merely producing fruit is not enough. He knows that the branch can produce more. And anyone with gardening experience would agree.

And so we at times have the experience of being pruned. We can wonder why. Things seem to be going well. Life is in order. Good things are happening. And yet, we are pruned. We die to parts of ourselves regularly. And this dying is essential if we are to produce more fruit. The vine grower, the Father, knows what he is doing. Our task is simply to remain on the vine, and to produce fruit. Our being pruned is a natural and healthy, though perhaps painful, experience that is necessary for us to grow into the people we are to become. This process of being pruned, of dying to self, is essential for the Christian life, and it is directed, even carried out by the Father. It is the paschal mystery. The result of which is producing fruit.

MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – THURSDAY 13TH MAY 2021

Although Holy Days of Obligation are currently suspended, we will celebrate a public Mass in each parish for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord:

Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth – 9.30am

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – 9.30am

St John the Evangelist, Mill End – 8.00pm

Admission will be by online booking using the *Events* tab on the respective parish website. Booking will open on Monday 3rd May 2021.

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

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY	11.00am	Funeral - Elizabeth Latham Ince RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
THURSDAY 6TH MAY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	via <i>Zoom</i>

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 1ST MAY	10.30am First Communion Mass 2pm First Communion Mass		
SUNDAY 2ND MAY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	10am Mary Ann Kennedy RIP 6pm Augustus Joachim RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Ryan Carter (Ints.)	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 3RD MAY <i>SS PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES</i>	Tom O'Driscoll RIP		
TUESDAY 4TH MAY <i>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</i>	Special Intention		
WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY	11am Funeral - Elizabeth Latham Ince RIP		
THURSDAY 6TH MAY	Eve Clark (Ints.)		
FRIDAY 7TH MAY	9.30am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP		
SATURDAY 8TH MAY	10.30am First Communion Mass 2pm First Communion Mass		
SUNDAY 9ND MAY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	10am Fr Jim Duffy RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Florence McAleavy RIP	9am Michael Fields RIP

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Response to Psalm: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Communion Antiphon: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

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

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock, James Clark, Eve & Tom 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

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

On Saturday 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd May, we will be celebrating First Communion Masses. Due to social distancing restrictions it will not be possible for anyone to attend, unless they have been directly invited by the First Communion families. However, people are free to participate via livestream at the following link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth> Please pray for our First Communion children and their families at this special time

ELIZABETH LATHAM INCE RIP

The funeral of Elizabeth Latham Ince will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Wednesday 5th May at 11.00am** followed by committal at Chiltern Crematorium. Due to social-distancing restrictions, funerals are currently restricted to a maximum of 30 mourners so it will not be possible for parishioners to attend, unless they have been directly invited by the family. However, people are free to participate via livestream at the following link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth> We offer our deepest condolences to Elizabeth's family at this sad and difficult time.

BAPTISMS

For those seeking to register their child/children for baptism, please, email Fr Damian. For those who have completed baptism preparation, and who are waiting for the next available dates, please contact Kerry Van Rensburg.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE – TUESDAY 4TH MAY

Tuesday 4th May is the Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. There are some helpful prayer resources available on the Bishops' Conference website

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/safeguarding/day-of-prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse/day-of-prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse-2021/> which we encourage you to draw upon for your prayer and reflection on this day.

PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND - THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation, [visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations)

GIFT AID

Thank you to everyone who has Gift-Aided their offering. Gift Aid adds 25p to the value of every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your offering please contact Fr Shaun, Fr Damian or Kerry. ***Please let us know if your tax circumstances have changed (2020/21 tax year) so that we do not ask for a tax refund if you haven't paid the associated tax.*** We will also need to know if you have changed your address recently.

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*

THE WATFORD AND ST ALBANS AMNESTY GROUPS INVITE YOU TO JOIN US ON MONDAY 24 MAY AT 7PM FOR AN ONLINE PANEL EVENT CALLED: ARE REFUGEE FAMILIES WELCOME?

You can hear about life for refugee families in Hertfordshire, ask questions and take action in support of refugee rights. Speakers from the Refugee Council and Herts Welcomes Refugees will share personal perspectives and give the national context.

If you'd like to come, please register a free place here at <https://amnestyrefugeepanel.eventbrite.co.uk> and please do share this information with your friends and contacts, or on social media. All are welcome! We'll also show a film montage of people from different groups from across Hertfordshire sharing what family means to them. If you'd like to contribute a 10 second clip to the montage, contact watfordamnestygroup@gmail.com and we'll send you more information.

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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

MARY'S MEALS

Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us. This May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal in 19 countries every school day. We also pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through His providence it will always flourish, enabling us to reach more hungry children. Thank you for remembering Mary's Meals in your prayers. God bless you all <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay>

SVP TWINNAGE LENT 2021 APPEAL - Sudan & South Sudan: the pandemic's impact

In recent years the SVP has helped millions of displaced and starving people in Sudan and South Sudan through baby feeding stations, provision of clean water, medical care and vocational training. Because of the pandemic, annual donations to help provide this assistance have fallen from around **£250,000** to **£85,000**. As a consequence some services will have to be cut in 2021. Adding to this, continuing political instability in both countries is leading to more and more people being displaced without recourse to help other than from the international community. To donate, please visit <https://www.svp.org.uk/twinnage> and click on "Sudan and South Sudan appeal" Thank you for your generosity - every little helps. God bless you and your family, *Chess Valley SVP*.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

DONA - CONTACTLESS GIVING

Please look out for our new donation device (DONA) – it's a simple and easy way to make a donation. Choose an amount and then tap your debit/credit card. We are very grateful to all our regular donors who support the parish financially by standing orders or weekly envelopes, however our loose plate collections have greatly diminished as fewer people carry cash now. Please remember to use hand sanitizer before and/or after using the device which will be stationed in the church porch. Thank you.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

RED MISSIO BOXES

Could you please contact me and I will arrange to collect your box and get it back to you. My email address is on the front of the newsletter or you can ring me on 07725 748490. If you would prefer I didn't collect your box at this time you can send a cheque, payable to Missio-Mill Hill, and send to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers overseas and all missionaries who share God's love - they tell us the love and strength they receive from us keeps them going. Many thanks, Geraldine

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

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: WRC DT Chorleywood

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Account Number: 21095552

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

CARDINAL HUME CENTRE

Mary's garage is now closed but I can still receive donations for a little longer. Very many thanks to all of you who supported us in so many ways: for the donations of goods and cash; for the browsers and buyers. Particular thanks to Rosemary for her continual help in pricing and re-arranging our displays to their best advantage. We have made £770 since Christmas and will let you have the final total next weekend. Renewed thanks and love from Mary x 284975

CHRISTIAN AID - thank you for your basket orders

That order has now gone to the Nursery. We would urge you to make donations if you can. We can receive cheques made payable to Christian Aid or cash, or you can donate directly to Christian Aid. Their need is so great. Contact Eddie, Maureen, Juliet or Mary. Thank you very much.