



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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) - 9TH MAY 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

When we are young we learn a list of ‘do’s’ and ‘don’ts’. Don’t cross the street without looking both ways. Do show respect for your elders. Don’t misbehave. Do treat people the way you would like them to treat you. The list is seemingly endless. There is a comfort that comes from following rules, but there also comes a time when we grow out of childhood, internalise the purpose of the rules, and live as adults.

Even the Old Testament had a list, which today we refer to as the Ten Commandments. It is literally a checklist as to how to be good and honourable in God’s sight. But Jesus gives us a command in today’s gospel that supersedes all others. It is simply this: ‘love one another.’ By this command Jesus invites us to an adult spirituality, no longer being satisfied by keeping a list. There is no checkbox for ‘love’. Love does not count the cost or put a limit on what price is too high. Love can always do more. Love is based on a personal relationship with another that is not transactional but self-giving. As Jesus says in the gospel, his love for his friends reaches the point of laying down his own life for them. There is no boundary to what love calls us to do. And for that reason we might prefer a list of do’s and don’ts. But that is not what we receive from Jesus. We receive from him a command simple but demanding: ‘love one another’.

The Christian life, modelled on Jesus, is about a freedom to love to the point of laying down one’s life for the other. A relationship with Jesus necessarily involves a relationship with his friends. And these friends are called to love not only Jesus and the father but, perhaps more importantly, one another. How much simpler the spiritual life would be if we only had to focus on loving God. But to be a friend of Jesus means we must love his other friends as well. This kind of love is not simply a checklist of good deeds, but a dying to self that puts the other first. This love is sacrificial and demands we put our own wants, needs, and desires aside to serve and love the other. The Christian life is one that demands a certain kind of heroism of daily self-sacrifice. This is the paschal mystery given to us by Jesus himself. For when we give ourselves to the point of no return, God is there to raise us up to new life.

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.

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
Fr Damian Ryan - Confirmation:
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk
Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

THURSDAY 13TH MAY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	via <i>Zoom</i>
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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 8 TH MAY	10.30am First Communion Mass 2pm First Communion Mass		
SUNDAY 9TH 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
MONDAY 10 TH MAY	Special Intention		
TUESDAY 11 TH MAY	Viktor Boehler RIP (Anniv.)		
WEDNESDAY 12 TH MAY	9.30am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP		
THURSDAY 13TH MAY <i>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am For the People of the Parish	8.00pm For the People of the Parish	9.30am For the People of the Parish
FRIDAY 14TH MAY <i>ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE</i>	9.30am Andrew Dumughn RIP (Anniv.)		
SATURDAY 15 TH MAY	10.30am First Communion Mass 2pm First Communion Mass		
SUNDAY 16ND MAY <i>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	10am Julia Griffin RIP 6pm Tommy Webb RIP	10.30am Mavis Livingston RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

Response to Psalm: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Communion Antiphon: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 1:15-17. 20-26; 1 John 4:11-16; John 17:11-19

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 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

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.

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.

CAFOD

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give. Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

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 7.00PM 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.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

VACCINATION CONFIDENCE WEBINAR

A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organised for the Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

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>

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

DONA - CONTACTLESS GIVING

Please look out for our 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: 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.

CARDINAL HUME CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS

We have cared to good effect and the garage is now closed. Our scrap silver and gold raised the astonishing sum of £410 and that is included in the garage bring and buy since Christmas of £1,315 (not bad!!). We hope to double that by paying it in to a Big Give page on June 8th. I am still happy to take donations up to June 7th. Rosemary and I sorted all the goods we had left. We saved some for November's SJF CHRISTMAS FAIR and donated all the rest to the Watford New Hope Trust. VERY MANY THANKS to each and every one who has helped in so many ways, Rosemary, Eddie in particular and all of our kind donors and buyers, to support this most worthwhile Charity. No more news until after June 8th, when I will bring you the final totals. Love from Mary 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.