



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

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 13TH JUNE 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Parables are a genre that seem to be relegated to the gospels; not many people speak in parables today. But for Jesus, this was a routine way of teaching. Jesus's parables have many meanings and people have differing interpretations of them. Some parables in Mark's gospel are enigmatic and we don't find them in any other gospel and, frankly we don't know exactly what Jesus may have meant. The first parable in today's gospel falls into that latter category. The seed growing secretly has been interpreted in a variety of ways. Neither Matthew nor Luke reproduces it in their gospels.

In some ways we are familiar with the gospel image of seed being scattered, such as parable of the sower and the seed, but today's parable tells a different story. God's kingdom is likened to a man scattering seed upon the ground, and the seed grows without the man knowing how. But when the grain is ripe, the man comes to harvest it.

The parable of the mustard seed, which follows immediately, is more familiar to us. Here too God's kingdom is likened to something, but in this case a mustard seed. The parable refers to it as the smallest of all seeds, but it produces the greatest of all shrubs. Perhaps the meaning of this parable is more self-evident than that which preceded it. In any case, neither parable is explained.

We are told that Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, but that he explained them to his disciples privately. We might wonder why Jesus would not explain the parable to the crowds. Our somewhat disturbing answer can be found earlier in the same chapter when Jesus says 'they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven.' It may sound strange to us that Jesus would not want those on the outside to be converted and forgiven. But like other Markan passages, this tells us a great deal about the community for whom Mark wrote, and its sense of being persecuted. The disciples whom Jesus called formed bonds stronger than family. They were chosen to live in relationship with him and one another. Though he taught in enigmatic parables, he explained all to his disciples. Those on the outside understood the words, but not the hidden meaning of the parables.

There is a sense in which we have domesticated Jesus to such a point that sometimes his message, what it meant at the time, is lost to nice explanations and tidy clarifications. But truthfully, Jesus was someone who spoke in riddle-like speech we call parables. Perhaps he did not want his meaning to be grasped by larger audiences. Or perhaps that is merely a reflection of the Markan community that preserved some of these parables. In any case, these enigmatic sayings that Mark preserved needed a solution. They needed to be explained or simply dropped from the story. There are examples of each of these two kinds of solutions in Matthew and Luke. Though it can be difficult, it might not be bad to recognise that Jesus was perceived by some as eccentric. Such an image can challenge the image of Jesus we are so familiar with.

Let's allow Jesus to speak with his own voice in the Scriptures, without wrapping up all the loose ends. His words have power and meaning, especially to a believing audience. Once that power is unleashed it becomes life-giving. But if it remains domesticated it loses its potential efficacy.

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

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE	11.30am	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians
THURSDAY 17TH JUNE	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	via Zoom
SATURDAY 19TH JUNE	11.30am	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 12TH JUNE <i>THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 13TH JUNE <i>ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am John Netto RIP 6pm Nuala & Gerry Corr RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Stephen Birch RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 14TH JUNE	Mrs Harrington RIP		
TUESDAY 15TH JUNE	NO MASS TODAY		
WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE	9.30am Viktor Boehler RIP		
THURSDAY 17TH JUNE	Caitlan Kelly RIP		
FRIDAY 18TH JUNE	11am Funeral - Teresa Price RIP		
SATURDAY 19TH JUNE	For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		
SUNDAY 20TH JUNE <i>TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am Joseph Netto RIP 6pm Alf Loose RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Maureen Edwards RIP	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon:	O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour.
1st Reading:	Ezekiel 17:22-24
Response to Psalm:	It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.
2nd Reading:	2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Gospel:	Mark 4:26-34
Communion Antiphon:	There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Job 3:1. 8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41 (Gospel)

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, 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, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, Paddy Goble, Pam Fitzpatrick and Julian Harris.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022

Registration of children wishing to make their First Holy Communion in 2022 will take place in July 2021. To be eligible children must be in Year 3 or above by September 2021 and attend Mass regularly in one of the three parishes. The expectation is that all children preparing for Holy Communion should already know how to make the sign of the cross and know the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be. These prayers should be taught and prayed in the home regularly. Parents may bring their child for registration on the following dates:

Tuesday 13th July – St John Fisher – 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Wednesday 14th July – St John the Evangelist Parish Centre – 3.15pm to 4.15pm

Wednesday 14th July – Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Hall – 7.00pm to 8.00pm

It is essential that you bring with you to the meeting the child wishing to be prepared for Holy Communion. If your child was baptised somewhere other than Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth; St John Fisher, Chorleywood or St John the Evangelist, Mill End you will need to bring with you the child's baptismal certificate. You are welcome to bring your child to whichever of the registration times is best for you. There is no need to make a particular appointment, please just come along during the appointed times. Do not worry if the place of registration is not your usual church for Sunday Mass attendance.

TERESA PRICE RIP

The funeral of Teresa Price will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Friday 18th June at 11am** followed by burial at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. 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 Teresa's family at this sad and difficult time.

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.

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.

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*

“TEA WITH THE SVP” AND THEIR COVID RECOVERY PROGRAMME – CAN YOU HELP?

As Covid restrictions are relaxed further, the hidden suffering in our communities is likely to become more apparent. To raise funds for their Covid Recovery Programme and its regional Community Support Projects the SVP recently hosted a week of events - “Tea with the SVP” - to coincide with National Tea Day on 21st April. During that week there were thoroughly enjoyable interviews with two well-known Patrons of the SVP – Julie Etchingam (of ITN News, to view click [here](#)) and Frank Cottrell-Boyce (children's author and screenwriter, to view click [here](#)) about their careers and what the SVP means to them. The SVP's nationwide target is £5,000 which will be matched by a generous corporate benefactor. **Please can you help?** If so, please go to www.svp.org.uk and click on the red “Donate” button. Under “Where should it go?”, click on the drop-down menu and select “Covid Recovery Programme”. Thank you for your generous support and may God bless you.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

THE GARDEN CALVARY

You may have noticed over the past year that the garden Calvary is not in the best of condition. After over 100 years of exposure to the elements the wood of the cross is largely rotten. You may have observed that a large section of the cross-beam has broken off completely. The parish Finance, Operations and Premises (FOP) Committee, is currently working on a plan for the renewal of the Calvary. This plan will include the cleaning and restoration of the Corpus (the figure of Christ). The cost of this work will be significant at a time when the parish finances are stretched due to the pandemic. The FOP Committee has agreed that when we have finalized the plans for the restoration of the Calvary and assessed the costs involved, we will appeal to parishioners for specific donations to support the restoration of this iconic, unique and much loved garden Calvary. There will be more details about this in the autumn. *Fr Shaun*

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

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE CHURCH AND THE CREATION OF THE NEW LADY CHAPEL

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the St John's Church on Sunday 27th June 1971. On Sunday 27th June 2021 Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate the 10.30am Mass with us to mark this important moment in the life of the parish. I am delighted to say that the new painted wooden reredos, which will house the statue of Our Lady, and the refurbished wooden altar, which used to be the main altar in the church, are to be installed in the side chapel this coming week, transforming it into a Lady Chapel. The Cardinal will bless the reredos on the Mass on 27th June. The way in which we will be able to celebrate this Mass and any gathering afterwards, are still uncertain as we await the Government's decision on the lifting of the current restrictions. The situation should be much clearer after the Government announcement expected on Monday 14th June. *Fr Shaun*

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.

I am so happy to be able to confirm our lovely news that, following our Not the Christmas Fair last December, where we raised £2,313, and Continuing to Care in April - £1,387, we have been able to double up both amounts on their BIG GIVE pages. The total amount we have donated, therefore, is £7,400. Enough to fill lots of empty tummies or to be put to whatever excellent use the Centre needs most. I would like to thank you all for your huge support in bringing and buying (usually both!) and in particular Marguerite (her magnificent Christmas Cake adventure raised over £700) and also Rosemary and Eddie for their help and care in setting up and keeping the garage open.

Stephen Carrid, their Fundraising Relationship Manager, whom you will remember being at many of our Fairs, has asked me to pass on his huge thanks for our efforts and prayers for the Centre and hopes to see us all again at Christmas. Will it be at Church or in my garage. Haha - who knows. Love and renewed thanks to you all, Mary xx.