



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
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

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

Peter Mackie 07802 229337
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 1ST AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Sourdough, pumpernickel, rye, whole wheat, ancient grain, pitta, white, and many more are the breads from which we can choose in our modern, convenient supermarkets. Variety and selection are the hallmarks of our society. It's sometimes easy to forget how basic bread was to an ancient culture. It certainly wasn't a speciality item that afforded choice and distinction. Bread was the staple of life, consumed daily as an essential source of nutrition.

The day after the 'multiplication of the loaves' the people were still seeking Jesus and found him in Capernaum. He admonishes them to seek not perishable food but the food of everlasting life. They only need to believe in him. The people, having just witnessed the sign of the multiplication of loaves the day before, wonder what further sign Jesus might give them. Irony, which is a hallmark of John's gospel, should not be lost.

The people demand a sign similar to Moses providing manna in the desert. At that time the Hebrew people had left Egypt and were wandering in the desert. They were fed by bread from heaven that appeared each morning. Jesus in turn reminds them that it was not Moses, but the Father who gives 'true bread' from heaven. Jesus' addition of the word 'true' is significant. In a double entendre, Jesus says that the true bread 'comes down from heaven and gives life to the world'. This sets the stage for his claim at the end conclusion of the reading, that Jesus himself is the Bread of Life.

Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus is portrayed as the one who comes down from heaven. He is the one who gives life. This is a remarkable teaching for Jesus refers to himself as having come down from heaven. Essentially, this is a teaching reflecting the prologue of John's gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God' and 'the Word became flesh'. No other gospel makes such a claim. Johannine theology is Christology. The true bread from heaven that gives eternal life is none other than Jesus himself the Word of God made flesh.

As we reflect on the mystery of the incarnation, the coming down from heaven to live among us, the bread of everlasting life, we can ask ourselves: How are our lives different because of this belief?

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

THURSDAY 5TH AUGUST	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	<i>Via Zoom</i>
SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST	2.30pm	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 31ST JULY <i>ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST</i>	9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST <i>18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am For the People of the Parish 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Neville Ransley RIP	9am Private Intention (RP)
MONDAY 2 ND AUGUST	9.30am Harry D'Cruz RIP		
TUESDAY 3 RD AUGUST	11am Funeral Mass - Rosa Fontana RIP		
WEDNESDAY 4 TH AUGUST	9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish		
THURSDAY 5 TH AUGUST	9.30am Augustus Joachim RIP		
FRIDAY 6TH AUGUST <i>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish		
SATURDAY 7 TH AUGUST	NO MASS TODAY		
SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST <i>19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am Wilson Netto RIP 6pm John Thomson RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Eve Clark RIP	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

1st Reading: Exodus 16:2-4. 12-15

Response to Psalm: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:17. 20-24-6

Gospel: John 6:1-15

Communion Antiphon: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Next Sunday's Readings: Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2; John 6:41-51 (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 and Michael Gaukroger.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon and Alfredo Rock.

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, Julian Harris and Robert Ploude.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

On this my last Sunday as your parish priest, I wish to express my deep and sincere thanks to you all for your kind and encouraging words, best wishes and very generous farewell gifts to me as I depart for my sabbatical.

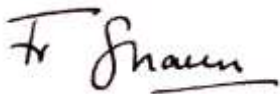
Although there have been many challenges, it has always been a privilege to be your parish priest. We have come such a long way together over these past eight years, and for that I give thanks to God.

In Fr Andrew Gallagher, you will be blessed with a very talented, dedicated, faithful and hard-working parish priest. I know that under his leadership these three communities will continue to go from strength to strength. I know, too, that you will welcome him warmly when he arrives in September and that you will give him your support as he takes up the mantle of leadership of these three parishes.

I encourage you to look after Fr Andrew and Fr Damian. Many of you are aware of the challenges involved in leading a cluster of parishes. They need both your practical support and the support of your prayers as they exercise their ministry amongst you.

For myself, I humbly ask for your prayers during my sabbatical year and I give you the assurance of my prayers for all of you.

With every blessing



ROSA FONTANA RIP

The funeral of Rosa Fontana will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on **Tuesday 3rd August**, followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

SR ANGELA DUFFY RIP

Sr Angela Duffy of the Daughters of Jesus died on Saturday 17th July 2021 at Westgate-on-Sea. She was 102 years old. For many years Sr Angela taught at St Joan of Arc. We commend her into the loving arms of the Lord.

NEWSLETTER - there will be no newsletter during the month of August.

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.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP – SUMMER 2021 UPDATE

Following the recent relaxation of Covid restrictions, we are looking towards a full resumption of scouting activities in September. Suspension of indoor meetings over the last year has allowed for an extensive internal refurbishment of the Scout Headquarters which is ready for a return to, what we hope will be, normal weekly meetings. We are looking for additional volunteers to join our team of adult leaders working with the young people in our three sections: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Female volunteers would be particularly welcome as this would allow us to increase our provision to cater for all young people. **This could be your opportunity to make a difference for the young people of the parishes.** New leaders will have plenty of support from the other leaders within the Group. If you would like to know more about what is involved in a leadership role, please contact our Group Scout Leader - Chris Doran at 6thRickySeaScouts@gmail.com or call 07792 103736.

For places in our Beaver, Cub and Scout sections, please register your interest via our website: www.6thrickyseascouts.co.uk/join

SCHOOLS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for a new challenge? Could you visit schools in your local area to deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work and encourage young people to take action, fundraise and pray with CAFOD? No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided. We are especially in need of volunteers happy to visit schools in Hertfordshire, Ealing, Brent, Hounslow and Camden.

School volunteer coordinator needed (volunteer position)

CAFOD Westminster is looking for a well-organised and friendly person to help coordinate their school visits programme from September. This role would suit someone who is comfortable speaking to other volunteers and schools and also in using spreadsheets and databases.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer roles, please contact Chris Driscoll at westminsterschools@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493162

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*

FOR THE MISSIONS

Please keep saving your stamps for the Missions. For the time being, please keep them at home, do not bring them to the church porch. Thank you, Sheila Harrington.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

OUR LADY'S REREDOS AND ALTAR AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE CHURCH

The new reredos for Our Lady's statue, together with the refurbished altar, has now been fitted in the side chapel, which now becomes the Lady Chapel. Cardinal Nichols was due to bless the reredos at the special Mass on 27th June to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the church. However, due to the extension of the social distancing regulations, this has sadly had to be postponed. Many more people would have wished to attend this celebration than we could legally accommodate in the church. We would also have been unable to have a social gathering afterwards. A celebration of this important anniversary, and the blessing of the reredos, will be rearranged to take place in the autumn. *Fr Shaun*

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE (PSR)

Due to other commitments Laura Turnbull is standing down as the PSR for St John Fisher. I express my sincere thanks to Laura for the significant contribution that she has made to this critically important role. I am delighted to say that Peter Mackie has generously agreed to take over the PSR role. Peter has completed all of his safeguarding training and is now operational in the role. Peter's contact details can be found on the front page of the Newsletter and on the parish website. I am very grateful to Peter for agreeing to take on role of PSR for Chorleywood Parish. *Fr Shaun*

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.

MARY'S GARAGE

Mary's garage has metamorphosed once again!! It has now become a MINI-ART GALLERY. Do come and browse and bring me your unwanted pictures. All proceeds to The Cardinal Hume Centre. Please look at our parish website to see our amazing pictures. Much love to all, Mary 284975 xx

COLLECTING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Dear Parishioners, we have a diminishing number OF MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS. Some have died and some moved away. Traditionally people put their loose change in the boxes and that was counted up each quarter. Since COVID and the lack of loose change most people have been putting a note in an envelope and putting it in my door. We would welcome new supporters. I think Missionaries do not have an easy time although they love what they do. This June quarter we raised £131.57, thank you so much. Contact me for further details if you might be interested. Love to all, Mary 284975.

COVID-19 ROUTE MAP: STEP 4 GUIDANCE

GENERAL

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has issued specific guidance to help parishes with the implementation of Step 4 of the Covid 19 Route Map, which came into effect on Monday 19th July. The key points with regard to the celebration of Masses are as follows:

- There will be no legislation on social distancing in England and churches may thus increase their capacity. Each local community is to examine the local conditions regarding the virus and adopt an attitude of care for those who desire to attend Mass.
- The wearing of face coverings is **strongly recommended** to be worn by those in church.
- Indoor congregational singing will be permitted and face coverings should be worn by members of the congregation whilst singing together, until infection levels reduce.
- Holy water stoups will not be refilled at this time.
- There will be a retiring offertory collection at the Sunday Masses.
- It is recommended that the physical Sign of Peace remain suspended.
- Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind.
- The livestreaming of Masses from Our Lady's will continue.

With regard to the Sunday Obligation the Bishops have said: "It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept,...,by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.'

SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION OF STEP 4 ACROSS OUR THREE PARISHES

Sunday Masses during August

We will maintain the current Sunday Mass schedule (though now without social distancing measures) until September 2021. The reasons for maintaining the current Mass schedule are:

1. Many people will be on holiday in during August and so numbers at Mass will naturally be reduced.
2. Many people may not immediately return to Sunday worship at Mass, following the lifting of restrictions.
3. Fr Damian will be on his own during August and would have to prepare for all of these Masses, even if he is not celebrating them. This is also at a time when there are many weddings and baptisms for him to prepare and conduct, increased hospital chaplaincy rota work, as well as possible funerals.

There is no longer any need to book places for Sunday Mass. The Sunday Mass schedule will be reviewed from when Fr Andrew begins his ministry as Parish Priest in early September 2021.

Face Coverings – Whilst it is no longer mandatory that face coverings be worn in church it remains **strongly recommended** that face coverings be worn in our churches. Please remember that wearing a face covering helps to protect other people! *Wearing a face covering in church should be seen as an act of charity to our brothers and sisters.*

Distribution of Holy Communion – The distribution of Holy Communion has returned to its normal place within Mass.

Singing in Church – Congregational singing in church is now permitted once again (though face coverings should be worn). Hymn books will not be made available during August. This will be reviewed in September. During August there may be the possibility of singing some well-known hymns/parts of the Mass from memory.

Weekday Masses during August

There is now public weekday celebrations of Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am Monday to Saturday. No booking is necessary.

Our Lady's open for private prayer – Our Lady's is now open for private prayer Monday to Saturday from 8.30am to 4.00pm, except for Wednesday during August and when the church is open for Mass.

Weekday Masses from September

As with other parts of society, the pandemic has challenged us to look at the ways in which we do things in the parishes. Bishops and priests of the diocese have discussed that not everything can or should go back to how it was before the pandemic. This is true for the weekday Masses across the three parishes. Before the pandemic, the numbers attending weekday Masses at Chorleywood and Mill End were very low – often as few as four to six people. The aftermath of the pandemic is likely to reinforce this trend in low weekday Mass attendance. Consequently, after consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, it has been decided to not reinstate the Wednesday Mass at Mill End and the Friday Mass at Chorleywood. However, from September 2021, Mill End will have a Monday 9.30am Mass and Chorleywood will have a Tuesday 9.30am Mass. A 9.30am Mass on Wednesday will be celebrated at Rickmansworth, where numbers attending weekday Mass are significantly larger.

COVID-19 ROUTE MAP: STEP 4 GUIDANCE

Stewards and Cleaners


With the lifting of restrictions the requirement for stewarding and special cleaning of churches is removed. During August, as we transition back to a more normal pattern, we plan to maintain one steward at each Mass. We will gradually phase back to our teams of Welcomers in each parish. If anyone who has been serving as a steward would be willing to join our Welcoming teams, please contact the person who has been coordinating the stewarding rota for your parish.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the parishioners who have so generously served across the three parishes as stewards and cleaners. Without their generosity and willingness to help we would not have been able to re-open our churches for public worship. Our three parish communities are deeply indebted to them!

Next Steps

We ask for your patience and your understanding during this time of gradual and careful transition. Your safety remains our highest priority.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Shaun". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name "Shaun".