



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

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899
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:

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 4TH JULY 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

We are always surprised – sometimes even shocked – when someone acts out of character. A shy, quiet person might speak out forcefully, publically against an in justice. A reserved, serious person might some night be the life and soul of a party. Persons acting out of character shake up our expectations that limit our responses to others. Shockingly, in this Sunday’s gospel Jesus encounters resistance and rejection ‘in his own country among his own relations and in his own house.’ This was because Jesus’ words and deeds went beyond his neighbours’ understanding of who he was (“the carpenter”). Jesus was acting way out of character for them.

The limited expectations of those in Jesus’ “own country” blocked their ability to see in faith who Jesus really was. In response to Jesus’ teaching and wisdom, mighty deeds and healings, ‘they would not accept him’. Their limited expectations limited Jesus’ own ability to show a new in-breaking of God among them. The gospel challenges us to examine the limits of our own expectations about who Jesus is and what he can do for us. It challenges us to examine our own expectations of others and allow them space to be who God is helping them become.

God continually offers us what we need for salvation, but we often resist it. Our receptivity is key for learning God’s word and receiving the salvation God offers. The rejected prophet has no power to influence the behaviour of the people, as we see in the case of Amos, in the First Reading this Sunday. Likewise, Jesus is unable to work miracles for those who do not believe in him. God always offers everything we need to come to salvation; it is for us to recognise and receive it. Our receptivity of God’s presence and gifts is an act of faith, and this is decisive for whether we receive God’s ultimate gift of eternal life. On the other hand, our rebellion, obstinacy, lack of faith (revealed in the gospel as rejection) keep us from recognising God’s presence and works in our midst, keep us from recognising Jesus.

The shock of the gospel is the weight that our faith or lack of faith has. God never pushes salvation on us; it is a faithful gift, but one freely given and only asking of us a free response. Jesus “could work no miracle” in his hometown because of the townspeople’s lack of faith. Shockingly, God never quits on us or abandons us, it is we who choose to resist or have faith. It is we who choose ... is Jesus able to perform any mighty deed in our life ... or not?

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

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| THURSDAY 8TH JULY | 8.00pm - 9.30pm | Online Prayer Group | via <i>Zoom</i> |
| SUNDAY 11TH JULY | 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 3 RD JULY | NO MASS TODAY | | |
| SUNDAY 4TH JULY <i>14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i> | 10am Special Intention 6pm Joan McManus RIP | 10.30am For the People of the Parish | 9am For the People of the Parish |
| MONDAY 5 ^H JULY | Mary Kelliher RIP | | |
| TUESDAY 6 TH JULY | For the sick and housebound of the parish | | |
| WEDNESDAY 7 TH JULY | 9.30am Verna Kendrick RIP | | |
| THURSDAY 8 TH JULY | For the sick and housebound of the parish | | |
| FRIDAY 9 TH JULY | 9.30am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP | | |
| SATURDAY 10 TH JULY | For the sick and housebound of the parish | | |
| SUNDAY 11TH APRIL <i>15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i> | 10am Hubert Castelino RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish | 10.30am For the People of the Parish | 9am For the People of the Parish |

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| Entrance Antiphon: | Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice. |
| 1st Reading: | Ezekiel 2:2-5 |
| Response to Psalm: | Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy. |
| 2nd Reading: | 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 |
| Gospel: | Mark 6:1-6 |
| Communion Antiphon: | Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him. |
| Next Sunday's Readings: | Amos 7:12-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13 (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, 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

FR SHAUN'S FAREWELL MASSES

Fr Shaun will celebrate a Farewell Mass in each parish before he departs for his sabbatical on 1st August. These Masses will be celebrated as follows:

St John the Evangelist, Mill End – Friday 23rd July at 7.30pm

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Thursday 29th July at 7.30pm

Our Lady Help of Christians – Friday 30th July at 7.30pm

We will not likely know until 12th July whether these Masses can be celebrated without social distancing measures being in place. We are hopeful that the 1-metre-plus restrictions will be lifted from 19th July, so that the Farewell Masses can go ahead without any restriction on the numbers able to attend. We will share more information about this after the Government update expected on 12th July.

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.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

If you would like to donate towards the Peter's Pence collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world, please visit <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en/dona.html> The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please give generously.

SEA SUNDAY

Next week is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. For an appeal talk from Bishop Paul Mason, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday To donate and for more information, please visit: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

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.

A NOTE FROM CHESS VALLEY SVP

With the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions SVP members can offer to do home visits (or telephone befriending if preferred) to those who feel they would benefit from such a visit, following all the recommended guidelines. If you are someone, or know someone, who would appreciate a visit please email chessvalleysvp@gmail.com and an SVP member will contact you. If you are a parishioner requesting a visit on behalf of someone else please ensure that you have their permission to do so.

“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 Etchingham (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 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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

URGENT REQUEST FOR STEWARDS AND CLEANERS

Who would have thought that we would need to have stewards and cleaners in place for as long as this so that we can all celebrate Mass together in church. However, with the present restriction in place for a few more weeks, stewarding and cleaning will need to continue for just a short while longer. We are therefore appealing for more help for both weekday (Wednesday and Friday) and Sunday Masses (10am and 6pm). We don't anticipate this needing to continue for too much longer now, but really need a few more people to help lighten the load on our present volunteers. Without stewards and cleaners, there will be no public Mass. So if you are willing to step up and volunteer to help for any of the above Masses please could you contact us on sharonblayney9@gmail.com A big thankyou to all those who already help in this way. You are a great example of living out our motto of 'encountering Jesus, serving others'. So with this in mind let's make one last big effort and "every day, as long as this 'today' lasts, let's keep encouraging one another"(Heb 3:13). We look forward to hearing from you and thank you. *Sharon Blayney and Jane Redman*

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

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.

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.