



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

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Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:

SEVENTEETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 25TH JULY 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Beginning today, the church gives us five Sunday gospel readings from John. Throughout these five weeks our gospel reading will be taken from John, Chapter 6, wherein we have the multiplication of the loaves followed by Jesus's walking on the water, and the bread of life discourse. The theology and symbolism in John 6 is profound and has inspired centuries of contemplation and rich exegesis. The story of the multiplication of loaves is told in each of the four gospels, the only 'miracle story' shared by each.

Last Sunday we heard Mark's setup to the feeding of the five thousand but this week we hear John's version. The two accounts have many similarities: two hundred denarii, five loaves and two fish, the crowd numbering five thousand men, and twelve baskets of leftovers, to name a few. But there are some differences as well.

John's theology is ultimately Christology. John has an intense focus on Jesus. In Mark's account the disciples come to Jesus with their concern about moving the people along before they have to feed them. In John, Jesus takes the initiative in asking Philip about feeding the people. And there is something equivalent to an editorial note saying that Jesus asked this question only to test him. Again, John's gospel shows Jesus clearly in charge, clearly taking the lead, clearly in the driver's seat. Even when he asks a question it is merely to test someone.

The Eucharistic overtones so prominent in Mark are also present in John but in a different way. Rather than for key verbs used by Mark, John uses a Greek word for the 'scraps' (klasmata) that were collected and gathered into the baskets. This Greek term is used by the Didache (an early church book written in the first century, part of which are akin to a catechism) to speak of Eucharist.

Finally, upon witnessing this sign (the multiplication of the loaves) the crowd explicitly recognises Jesus as a prophet. No doubt the story of Elisha (our first reading today) was in mind. Jesus realised that the crowd wanted to make him a king, so he makes a speedy solo exit.

The multiplication of the loaves, with its Eucharistic overtones, its prominence on Jesus and his fulfilling human needs, and the growing recognition by the crowds that he must be a prophet demonstrate how pivotal this episode was and continues to be.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

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|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| SATURDAY 24TH JULY | 11.30am & 2.00pm | Baptisms | Our Lady Help of Christians |
| THURSDAY 29TH JULY | 8.00pm - 9.30pm | Online Prayer Group | <i>Via Zoom</i> |
| SATURDAY 31ST 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 24TH JULY | 9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish | | |
| SUNDAY 25TH JULY <i>17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i> | 10am John Finnegan RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Yvonne Lavelle (Ints.) | 10.30am Gillian Lockhart (Ints.) | 9am For the People of the Parish |
| MONDAY 26TH JULY <i>SS JOACHIM & ANNE</i> | 9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish | | |
| TUESDAY 27TH JULY | 9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish | | |
| WEDNESDAY 28TH JULY | 9.30am Jaco & Alet Engelbrecht RIP | | |
| THURSDAY 29TH JULY <i>ST MARTHA</i> | 9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish | 11.30am Funeral - Eve Clark RIP | Farewell Mass for Fr Shaun 7.30pm In Thanksgiving |
| FRIDAY 30TH JULY | 9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish Farewell Mass for Fr Shaun 7.30pm In Thanksgiving | | |
| SAT 1ST AUGUST <i>ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST</i> | 9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish | | |
| SUNDAY 2ND 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 For the People of the Parish |

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

1st Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Response to Psalm: You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: *John* 6:1-15

Communion Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 16:2-4. 12-15; Ephesians 4:17. 20-24-6; John 6:1-15 (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.

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 July and 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 late July and throughout 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 July and 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

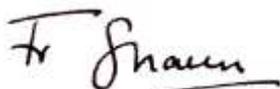
With the lifting of restrictions the requirement for stewarding and special cleaning of churches is removed. During August, as we transition back to a more normal pattern, we plan to maintain one steward at each Mass. We will gradually phase back to our teams of Welcomers in each parish. If anyone who 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

The Senior Leadership Team, together with the COVID taskforce in each parish, are working out the specific arrangements for each of our churches. We ask for your patience and your understanding during this time of gradual and careful transition. Your safety remains our highest priority.

Thank you



NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

FAREWELL MASSES

With the lifting of restrictions, it will be possible for me to celebrate a Farewell Mass in each parish without any limits on the numbers allowed to attend and without any need to book a place in advance. I will be celebrating the Farewell Masses as follows:

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

Our Lady's Rickmansworth – Friday 30th July – 7.30pm

Please feel free to attend whichever of these Masses is most convenient for you. *Fr Shaun.*

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.

EVE CLARK RIP

The body of Eve Clark will be received at St John the Evangelist, Mill End at 4.30pm on Wednesday 28th July and the Funeral Mass will be celebrated there at 11.30am on Thursday 29th July, followed by burial at Woodcock Hill. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

LEE McATEER RIP

The funeral of Lee McAteer will take place at Breakspear Crematorium on Tuesday 27th July. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his 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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

RECEPTION FOR FR SHAUN

Parishioners are invited to come and say goodbye to Fr Shaun in Our Lady's Hall after the 7.30pm Mass on Friday 30th July. Finger food and drinks will be served. Welcome to the first social in the new dawn.

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*

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 bring 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.