



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 Andrew Gallagher  
[andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan  
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#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
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#### Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest  
[pga.forrest@btinternet.com](mailto:pga.forrest@btinternet.com)

#### Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
[anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)

#### Mill End

Geraldine Page  
[geraldine.page21@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.page21@gmail.com)

Address for all correspondence:

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Telephone: 01923 773387

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572  
[rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841  
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#### Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:  
[rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk)

Fr Damian Ryan - Confirmation:  
[damianryan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)

Margaret Simon - Youth  
Ministry Leadership Team:

## TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### Who do people say I am?

Today's Gospel passage turns to the question that permeates the whole Gospel of Mark: *who is Jesus?* But this time Jesus himself poses it to his disciples, helping them to gradually address the question of his identity. Before asking the Twelve directly, Jesus wants to hear what the people think about him. He asks: "*Who do men say that I am?*" It comes to light that Jesus is considered by the people as a great prophet. But, in reality, he is not interested in the opinions and gossip of the people. He also does not agree that his disciples should answer the questions with pre-packaged formulas, quoting well-known individuals from Sacred Scripture, because a faith that is reduced to formulas is a short-sighted faith.

The Lord wants his disciples of yesterday and today to establish a personal relationship with him, and to embrace him at the centre of their life. For this reason he spurs them to face themselves honestly, and he asks: "*But who do you say that I am?*". Today, Jesus addresses this very direct and confidential question to each of us: "*You, who do you say that I am? All of you, who do you say that I am? Who am I for you?*". Each person is called to respond, in his or her heart, allowing each one to be illuminated by the light that the Father gives us in order to know his Son Jesus. And it can also happen to us, as it did to Peter, that we passionately affirm: "*You are the Christ*". However, when Jesus tells us clearly what he told the disciples, that his mission is fulfilled not on the wide road to success, but on the arduous path of the suffering, humiliated, rejected and crucified Servant, then it can also happen that we, like Peter, might protest and rebel because this contrasts with our worldly expectations. In those moments, we too deserve Jesus' healthy rebuke: "*Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men*".

Brothers and sisters, the profession of faith in Jesus Christ cannot stop at words, but calls to be authenticated by practical choices and gestures, by a life characterized by God's love; it calls for a great life, a life with an abundance of love for neighbour. Jesus tells us that to follow him, to be his disciples, we must deny ourselves, that is, the demands of our own selfish pride, and take up our own cross.

*Extract from the Angelus address of Pope Francis, Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018.*

### PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Catholic Parishes of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Mill End  
aspire to share the Good News of God's saving love.

We are vibrant, welcoming communities, united in worshipping God  
and serving our neighbours.

We invite every person to join us in growing together  
in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,  
experienced and lived through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	12.00pm	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THUR 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group	<i>Via Zoom</i>
<b>FRI 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	10.00am	Burial of Ashes - David Cook RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 11 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Anne McNamara (Ints,)		
<b>SUNDAY</b> 12 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER <i>24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>10am</b> Helen De Lacey RIP <b>6pm</b> Bridget, James & Jim O'Brien RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Cathleen Gallagher (Ints.)	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parish
<b>MON 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> <i>ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP &amp; DOCTOR</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Special Intention		
<b>TUES 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> <i>EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Fr Colin Whatling RIP		
<b>WED 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> <i>OUR LADY OF SORROWS</i>	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick & housebound of the parish		
<b>THUR 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> <i>SS CORNELIUS, POPE &amp; CYPRIAN, BISHOP</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Verna Kendrick RIP		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> David Cook RIP		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Fr Stephen Delany RIP		
<b>SUNDAY</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER <i>25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>10am</b> For the People of the Parish <b>6pm</b> Bridie Carey RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Chris Paddon RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parish

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 50:5-9

**Response to Psalm:** I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** St James 2:14-18

**Gospel:** Mark 8:27-35

**Communion Antiphon:** How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Wisdom 2:12. 17-20; St James 3:16 - 4:3; Mark 9:30-37 (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

### REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022

Registration of children wishing to make their First Holy Communion in 2022 remains open. To be eligible children must be in Year 3 or above 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 14<sup>th</sup> September – St John Fisher –7.00pm to 8.00pm**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September – St John the Evangelist Parish Centre – 3.15pm to 4.15pm**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September – 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.

### CONFIRMATION

For those parishioners in Year 9 and above interested in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in 2022, parents and young people are invited to an information session on 10<sup>th</sup> October (time TBC) at Our Lady's hall.

### DAVID COOK RIP

The ashes of David Cook will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 9.30am Mass on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

### KAIROS

Kairos is the parish online ministry where all people are invited to connect, belong, and grow in faith. A trained and dedicated team will welcome you, provide stimulating input, facilitate open and honest discussion in small groups, and guide simple but powerful prayer. It is every fortnight from 5<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> December. Registration is open now, so please, register ASAP to guarantee your place. To register, please, email: [kairos@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kairos@rcdow.org.uk)

### ALPHA

Alpha face to face begins again on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 7.30pm - 9.15pm and runs every week until 8<sup>th</sup> December at Our Lady's hall. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life's big questions and the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment. Each session includes snacks and hot/cold drinks, an engaging video designed to generate conversation, and a discussion time where you can say whatever you like or nothing at all. Sessions include topics such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why did Jesus die?' and 'How can I have Faith?'

Registrations are now open so please do contact us online using the following email address: [chessvalleyalpha@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:chessvalleyalpha@rcdow.org.uk) to register your interest or you are welcome to phone Maria Crossland on 07915 536240. As before, places are being prioritised for those who have not previously tried Alpha, so please share the details and invite others to attend. If you are interested in attending Alpha but this isn't the right timing for you please do contact us as Alpha is an ongoing ministry within the Chess Valley Group of Parishes and we can hold your details for forthcoming Alphas. In the future we will also continue to offer online Alpha and Alpha for those who would prefer a daytime option so let us know your preference.

For those of you with young children we are pleased to inform you that we can put you in touch with a qualified childcare worker who is DBS checked and offers a babysitting service at the rate of £10.00 per hour. Please pass this invitation on to someone you know who might like to explore the meaning of life and have fun whilst doing so!

### ALPHA - INVITATION TO PRAY

This year Alpha launches on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, however Prayer Ministry starts on 29<sup>th</sup> September. We are inviting all parishioners to join some of the Alpha team at Our Lady Help of Christians church for one or more alternate Wednesdays from 7.30-8.30pm to pray for the guests and team attending Alpha. In addition to this we would also love to invite you to pray daily for our parish community and its ongoing formation. Maybe you could consider praying the following prayer:

*Thank you loving Father for all those you have called to participate in Alpha; we ask your blessing upon all, both team and guests. Without you we can do nothing you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pour out your Holy Spirit and abundant blessings and gifts during this Alpha. May Alpha ignite or re-ignite the flame of faith in all hearts so that we may experience the wonder, joy and hope that being in relationship with you brings.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit... Amen*

### ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC SCHOOL - Open Evening 7<sup>th</sup> October & Open Morning 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

We are very pleased to announce that we will be able to hold our Open Evening and Open Morning for prospective students and parents who are looking for Year 7 places in September 2022. The dates and times are as follows:

Open Evening to take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 6.00pm until 9.00pm

Open Morning to take place on the following morning, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 9.00am until 11.30am

Details of our Open Events together with our Admission Policy and Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can also be found on our school website. NB: Should regulations surrounding Covid 19 alter, then details of any possible cancellations, or change to an online event, will be detailed there for parents to view.

## 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. The parish Finance, Operations and Premises (FOP) Committee, is currently working on a plan for the renewal of the Calvary. 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 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 soon.

### 200 CLUB

The 200 Club begins again in October and if you are interested in joining (or cancelling your membership) please contact Kerry on 01923 773387 for further details. The membership fee is due by the end of September for those who prefer to pay their annual subscription (£60) by cheque.

### 200 CLUB - AUGUST DRAW

Congratulations to Josie Westhrop £33; Mary Thomson £24.75, Clare Loose £16.50 and Angela Steele £8.25.

### FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions, the box is now in the church porch. Please keep them coming!  
*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 27<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the church. However, due to the extension of the social distancing regulations, this has sadly had to be postponed. A celebration of this important anniversary, and the blessing of the reredos, will be rearranged to take place soon.

## 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 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.

### MISSIO/APF REF BOX HOLDERS

Hello everybody, September again and time for this collection. Please could you put your boxes or envelopes into my cupboard or letterbox in the next two weeks. I can arrange collection if that would be better. Our Missionaries must be in great need. Love to all. Mary 284975.

### 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

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

We will maintain the current Sunday Mass schedule (though now without social distancing measures) **for another few weeks as the Senior Leadership Team review attendance and are able to plan the schedule for the months ahead.**

**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 until a further review takes place in September. Until this point we will begin singing some well-known hymns/parts of the Mass from memory.**

#### Weekday Masses

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 **8am to 4.00pm.**

#### 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. **In the coming weeks the Senior Leadership Team will reflect on which weekday Masses will resume in Mill End and Chorleywood and this will be communicated to the parishes as soon as possible.**

## 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. 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 during the past 18 months. Without their generosity and willingness to help it would not have been possible for our churches to have been opened 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

*Fr Andrew*