



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
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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
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Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
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Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337
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YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

The first weekend in September always seems like a new beginning. Perhaps we have been on holiday or at least had a chance to slow down during August, a new academic year begins, and our formation classes start to resume as we return to normal patterns of life. When September arrives, we pick everything up again, hopefully with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

I am of course conscious how September 2021 comes with new beginnings in a very different way to normal.

Firstly, Fr Shaun's departure and my arrival as parish priest create a new beginning for our parishes. Over the past 8 years I know there have been many challenges in bringing the three parishes closer together and am most grateful to all of you who have supported Fr Shaun in this difficult task. I look forward to being able to continue this work using the foundations that have already been established, but also bringing new ideas to ensure that each of the parishes are served according to their needs to encounter Jesus and serving others.

Secondly, I am fully aware that my arrival coincides with the new beginnings that lie ahead for us as the pandemic restrictions are lifted, and we can start to do more of the things we have been unable to do for the past 18 months. We do this with a degree of cautiousness knowing that Covid-19 remains a threat and also aware that many of us return with some anxiety. During this time, we have also lost family and friends as a result of the pandemic, with some parishioners also moving away from the area. We keep all of them in our prayers and we ask God to continue to bless our parishes with new members who can share their gifts to help us to flourish.

We must also return to 'normal' aware that things may be different to how they were before March 2020. Lessons have been learned and new opportunities have arisen which I believe can be harnessed to help us grow in our mission to grow in our Catholic faith and to share it with the wider world. As with all new beginnings this will require some letting go and new ways of being, it will require us to navigate new pastures and make decisions that affect us all.

I ask for your prayers and support as we begin this journey of 'new beginnings' together. Please be patient and trust that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, St John the Evangelist and St John Fisher, the coming years will be a time of much grace for our parishes.

Fr Andrew Gallagher

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

THURS 9TH SEPTEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	<i>Via Zoom</i>
SAT 11TH SEPTEMBER	1.00pm	Wedding	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 12TH SEPTEMBER	12 noon	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 4TH SEPTEMBER <i>ST CUTHBERT, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Terrance & Paul Monaghan RIP		
SUNDAY 5 TH SEPTEMBER <i>23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am Christopher Williams RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Moreno Torrini RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Eve Clark RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 6 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Annette Curran (Ints.)		
TUESDAY 7 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Private Intention		
WED 8TH SEPTEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am In Thanksgiving		
THURSDAY 9 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish		
FRIDAY 10 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For the sick & housebound of the parish		
SATURDAY 11 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Anne McNamara (Ints.)		
SUNDAY 12 TH SEPTEMBER <i>24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	10am Helen De Lacey RIP 6pm Bridget, James & Jim O'Brien RIP	10.30am Cathleen Gallagher (Ints.)	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon:	You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 35:4-7
Response to Psalm:	My soul, give praise to the Lord.
2nd Reading:	St James 2:1-5
Gospel:	Mark 7:31-37
Communion Antiphon:	Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Isaiah 50:5-9; St James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35 (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 14th September – St John Fisher –7.00pm to 8.00pm

Wednesday 15th September – St John the Evangelist Parish Centre – 3.15pm to 4.15pm

Wednesday 15th 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.

DAVID COOK RIP

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

ALPHA

Alpha face to face begins again on Wednesday 22nd September from 7.30pm - 9.15pm and runs every week until 8th 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 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!

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Although it isn't currently possible for the priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the confessional, Fr Andrew 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 Andrew 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.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

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

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.

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.

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 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 as soon as possible.

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.

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 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

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