



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 TEAM

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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator

0207 798 9356

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) - 7TH MARCH 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

This Sunday we depart from the Gospel of Mark and enter into the Gospel of John. The story of Jesus driving out the money changers happens during Holy Week in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, but early in Jesus's ministry in John's gospel. In fact, we are in chapter two, and Jesus is already in Jerusalem. Rather than a ministry in Galilee followed by a momentous journey to Jerusalem as we have the account in the other three gospels, here in John's gospel Jesus goes back and forth to Jerusalem throughout his ministry.

At the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, the temple had become in some senses a place for the selling and buying of commodities. Oxen, sheep, and doves were sold to be sacrificed. It wasn't enough to bring one's own animals. They had to pass an inspection, and 'pre-certified' so to speak, guaranteed to be without blemish and therefore worthy of sacrifice. Of course, there might be a mark-up for this quality assurance. For a nice price you could buy a worthy sacrifice. How quickly and easily does religion seem to fall into this trap? Similar things have happened in our own church history – the selling of indulgences comes to mind.

The challenge of dealing in commodities is not limited to Jesus' day, or the annals of church history. Commodification of God's grace happens today too. The unholy alliance of money and access to religion that it buys were scandalous then, and should be scandalous today. Jesus responds to this scandal - he is zealous, passionate for his Father's house, which has been turned into a bazaar.

Those with a vested interest in the status quo are upset. But Jesus replies only in parable-speech: 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' Of course, he is referring to the sanctuary, the temple of his own body. But the stakeholders do not see the deeper meaning of his speech. They see only literal realities and they know that the temple took nearly half a century to build. To them, Jesus must have seemed a wild-eyed zealot, off his rocker and half-baked. He was dangerous; a threat to business and religious interests and would have to be stopped.

But for Jesus, the temple is holy, not worthy of profanation, neither the Father's house nor Jesus' own self. The example Jesus gives us today demands consideration. We must recoil from every instance of commodified religion, or a selling of God's grace. God's presence is not to be bartered; it is not a commodity, God's grace is freely given to all.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

THUR 11TH MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	via Zoom
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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 6TH MARCH	Special Intention		
SUNDAY 7TH MARCH <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	10am Mary Dunleavy RIP 6pm Stanislaus Stephen RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Mary Viner RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 8TH MARCH	Cornelius Connolly RIP		
TUESDAY 9TH MARCH	Special Intention		
WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH	9.30am Declan Hayes RIP		
THURSDAY 11TH MARCH	Fr Kidane Lebasi RIP		
FRIDAY 12TH MARCH	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SATURDAY 13TH MARCH	Mgr Mark Langham RIP		
SUNDAY 14TH MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	10am Patrick James Conway RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Phillip Page RIP	10.30am Debbie Brown RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Response to Psalm: You, Ord, have the message of eternal life.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Next Sunday's Readings: Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21 (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 Westrop, Peter Knight, Bishop John MacWilliam and Michael Gaukroger.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock and James 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, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, Paddy Goble, Pam Fitzpatrick and Julian Harris.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

KAIROS MINISTRY

We have now launched our new online ministry, *Kairos*, and we were delighted to be joined at the first session by around 110 people! Registration for Season One is now closed, but we are now open for pre-registration for Season Two of *Kairos*, which will begin on **Tuesday 27th April 2021**. If you would like to join us for Season Two of *Kairos*, please email our Communications Team at Kairos@rcdow.org.uk. If you have registered for Season One you **do not** need to register again for Season Two.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL

Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, especially throughout the unprecedented events of 2020. Your donations help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in three mission areas which are more critical than ever. **Marriage and Family Life:** enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. **Youth and Evangelisation:** helping young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith. **Caritas Westminster:** putting our faith into action by serving those in need. **Education Service:** supporting our schools. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table. Poverty is deepening across our Diocese and the need for foodbanks and supermarket vouchers has accelerated. Through your generosity we're continuing to provide food for those people most in need. Please visit CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

SVP TWINNAGE LENT 2021 APPEAL - Sudan & South Sudan: the pandemic's impact

In recent years the SVP has helped millions of displaced and starving people in Sudan and South Sudan through baby feeding stations, provision of clean water, medical care and vocational training. Because of the pandemic, annual donations to help provide this assistance have fallen from around **£250,000** to **£85,000**. As a consequence some services will have to be cut in 2021. Adding to this, continuing political instability in both countries is leading to more and more people being displaced without recourse to help other than from the international community. This Lent, can you help? To donate, please visit <https://www.svp.org.uk/twinnage> and click on "Sudan and South Sudan appeal" Thank you for your generosity - every little helps. God bless you and your family, *Chess Valley SVP*.

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Please donate online www.cafod.org.uk/give or via text:

Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5

Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10

Text LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20

Or Telephone: 0303 303 3030 to donate over the phone

*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. Please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-policy

CAFOD

Abdella lives in Afar, Ethiopia – one of the hottest places on earth. Like hundreds of people in the area, he spends most of the day walking to get water for his family to drink. He knows that if there was water near his home, his family wouldn't have to worry any more about getting enough to stay alive. Walk for Water is a Lent challenge: 10,000 steps a day - done your way. Every day. For 40 days. See the link to sign up: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water>

Many of us have something of a soft spot for CAFOD, and for the work they do overseas for some of the poorest and most disadvantaged people on Earth. But they've developed a lot in recent years, and not many of us have a clear and up to date understanding of what they actually do nowadays, or all the ways in which we can help. It's much more than just making a donation at Fast Days twice a year.

ONLINE STATIONS OF THE CROSS – LENT 2021

This year, due to the pandemic, Lenten Stations of the Cross will take place via *Zoom* on three Fridays during Lent (in the weeks when there is no *Kairos* gathering). We will be using photographs of the Stations of the Cross from our three parishes. Using *Zoom* means that we can play some music as part of meditation on the Stations. The Stations will take place as follows:

Friday 19th March – 7.30pm – using the Stations of the Cross from Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) – 7.30pm – using the Stations from St John Fisher, Chorleywood.

Please email Fr Shaun at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk if you would like to be sent a *Zoom* invite to the online Stations of the Cross.

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 speak to Fr Shaun, Fr Damian or Kerry. We will then be able to provide you with a Gift Aid form and, if necessary, planned giving envelopes, if you are not already using them. It is also possible to set up a standing order, if you prefer. **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 also need to know if you have changed your address since you signed your Gift Aid declaration.

TURNING YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to recruit more members to serve the increasing number of people in need throughout the deanery. Even giving a little of your time can make a significant difference to someone needing help. To find out more, please join one of our information sessions on *Zoom* on **Wednesday 10th March at 6.30pm** or **Monday 15th March at 6.30pm**. To get a *Zoom* link to the sessions, please email Brendan at PresidentA22@svp.org.uk or call Siobhán on **07929 490090**.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

UPDATED - IMPORTANT INFORMATION - MASS ATTENDANCE STICKERS AND CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE (CCP) OF 2022 SECONDARY TRANSFER AND NURSERY / RECEPTION 2022

With the Sunday Mass Obligation currently suspended and the ability of families to attend Mass in the parish each Sunday being very restricted due to social distancing measures, it is currently not possible to provide Mass attendance cards and stickers to families with a child making secondary transfer in 2022 or seeking a nursery or reception place in a catholic primary school in 2022. There currently seems to be a level of uncertainty about if, and on what criteria, priests are going to be asked to complete CCPs for 2022 admissions. For the time being, all parents with a child who will be seeking a place in a Catholic Secondary school in 2022 or a nursery or reception place in a Catholic primary school (other than St John's, Mill End or St Anthony's, Watford which do not require a CCP) should email me at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk, providing the following information:

Name of the child (first name and surname); Parents/Guardians names (first name and surname); Address at which you reside; Telephone contact details.

I will retain this information and keep a careful eye on Diocesan guidance with regard to the issuing of CCPs for 2022 admissions in the light of the prevailing restrictions caused by the pandemic. *Fr Shaun*

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL ONLINE QUIZ NIGHT

We are excited to announce an online quiz for all the family on **Sunday 7th March** at 5.00pm. It's a way to not only unite as a community but with friends and family far and wide, so please do share and all profits will go towards resources for St John's School. £10 per family, with a raffle with cash prizes, tickets available online - <https://www.tickttaillor.com/events/mockinbirdentertainmentltd/484804>

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, MILL END AND MAPLE CROSS

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of St John the Evangelist church in 1971. I am delighted to say that Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be coming to St John's to celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving on **Sunday 27th June 2021**. We can be hopeful that by that time the restrictions will have been eased enough for us to be able to celebrate the day in a fuller way than we can right now. But we will have to wait and see. As part of our celebration of this important anniversary year we are moving forward with our plans to create a Lady Chapel in the side chapel area of the church. The statue of Our Lady from the church has now been removed in preparation for the construction of a new painted reredos which will form a new backdrop for the statue in its new space in the Lady Chapel. The old wooden altar, which has been unused since the church was re-ordered, is being refurbished as the Lady Chapel altar, and will sit beneath the statue and the reredos. We hope that this work will be completed in time for our big celebration in June.

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.

STAYING COVID-SECURE AT ST JOHN FISHER

With the rapid spread of the new variant of the coronavirus and the lockdown now in force, I asked our St John Fisher Covid19 taskforce to review the COVID secure measures we have in place. This is important given the particular circumstances of the St Fisher building and it's much smaller cubic footage, when compared to our sister parishes. As a result of this review, it has been agreed that it is necessary to increase the ventilation throughout the building by keeping the front and back doors and some windows open during the celebration of Mass. This is obviously not ideal during the cold winter months, but it is necessary to help keep the building COVID secure. If you are attending Mass at St John Fisher you are advised to wrap up warmly. I also remind you that there is currently no obligation to attend Sunday Mass, so if you have underlying health conditions or if you particularly feel the cold, you may wish to join in the celebration of Mass from Our Lady's, either by booking a place there or from your home via our livestream. Other mitigations will be put in place to help ensure everyone's safety. The taskforce will keep the situation under regular review. I am very grateful to the taskforce team for the thoughtful and prudent way in which they are dealing with these challenging issues.
Fr Shaun

CALLING ALL MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS

It is time for the March collection but I still cannot do a collection of the boxes. Please could we continue as we did in December? That worked very well. If you wish, and are able to, would you please be kind enough to put some money in an envelope marked with your name and Red Box and either post it or deliver it to me. I can also arrange for it to be collected if you wish. Could you please get it to me by **21st March**. Thank you very much, Mary 284975