



St. John The Evangelist,
Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millend>



Our Lady Help of Christians
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU
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St John Fisher
Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/chorleywood>

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:

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@ChessValleyRC

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) 5TH MARCH 2017

SUNDAY THOUGHT

All three temptations which Jesus faces in the desert are attempts to turn his Kingdom into another worldly kingdom: a kingdom of prosperity, power and productivity; a kingdom focused on satisfaction, security and success. These temptations invite us to ask what we are looking for in life and what we are asking from the Church.

Lent is a time of choice. The desert is a place of choice. To observe Lent, to go out into the wilderness, is to confront the choices we have made, the choices we have yet to make. It is to ask what we are actually looking for right now – from life, from our religion. Are we living for satisfaction, security, success? Are we basing our hopes on prosperity? On power? On productivity? Are we hiding behind “fig leaves” of illusions because we are afraid to stand naked in truth before God?

The holy season of Lent invites us to turn away from every desire, defence or idol which prevents us from focusing on Jesus as saviour and basing our lives on him as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9. 3:1-7

Response to Psalm: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £721.67; Loose Plate: £528.67; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1760.34**

Mill End: Envelopes: £227.55; Loose Plate: £211.28; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £635.83**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of January - **£2180.41**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

TEXT GIVING THROUGH YOUR MOBILE PHONE

Special Gift? Top-Up Offering? For Rickmansworth text: **Parish RICKM** to 70800; For Chorleywood text **Parish CHORL** to 70800; for Mill End text **Parish MILLE** to 70800. It's easy! To make a £5 Donation. Thank You!

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 5TH MARCH	8.45am 9.15am 9.30am 12 noon 12.45pm	First Communion Class First Communion Class Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Annual Parish Meeting - Hall Baptisms	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 6TH MARCH	10.00am 1.30pm 5.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Robert Barron's DVD Course <i>Conversion</i> - Hall First Communion Class - Hall Holy Hour - Meditations for Lent from St Thomas Aquinas " <i>On Reforming Ourselves</i> " Confirmation Session - Hall Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 7TH MARCH	6.00pm - 7.30pm 7.30pm - 9.00pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Youth Group (Year 7-8) - Hall 1 st Communion Parents Meeting - Hall RCIA - Upper Room	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 8TH MARCH	11.00am 7.45pm	Funeral Service - Rena Old RIP Robert Barron's DVD Course <i>Conversion</i> - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 9TH MARCH	6.00pm - 8.00pm 7.45pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Youth Group (Year 9-11) - Hall SVP Meeting - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 10TH MARCH	10.00am 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
SAT 11TH MARCH	10.30am - 11.30am 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 4 TH MARCH	10.00am Desiree Addison (Ints.)	6pm (Vigil) Kathleen Fitzpatrick RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 5 TH MARCH <i>1ST SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) 11am Richard Leslie Brown RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Mary Viner RIP (Anniv.)	9am Peter Emmanuel RIP (Anniv.) & Stanislaus Stephen RIP (Anniv.)
MONDAY 6 TH MARCH	9.30am Private Intention	9.30am Tom Bugler RIP	
TUESDAY 7 TH MARCH	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 8 TH MARCH		9.30am Malcolm Borthwick RIP (Anniv.)	
THURSDAY 9 TH MARCH	9.30am John & Mary Gibson RIP		
FRIDAY 10 TH MARCH	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 11 TH MARCH	10.00am Desiree Addison (Ints.)	6pm (Vigil) Rickey O'Donnell RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 12 TH MARCH <i>2ND SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Philomena Roche (Ints.) 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Patrick Conway RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Elsie Alexander, Ruary Chisholm, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, Jeannine Simonds, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Noel Jackson, Christina Thomas and Nalene Nixon.

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Joyce Baldwin, Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Joe Donnelly, John Connor, Mary Harris and Michael Dixon.

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Rita Garrett, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Fr Peter Stevens, Angela Hoy, Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Margaret Lamb, Kitty Finucane, Susan Maynard, Don Williamson, Aidan O'Mahony, Terry Messer and Helen Forrest

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

FRIDAY 10TH MARCH 2017 IS CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

So many of us focus on giving up something for Lent, why not do something positive as well this year and support the work CAFOD and its partners are doing with the most vulnerable around the world. The money you save from giving up that daily coffee, glass of wine or cake at 11 o'clock could make all the difference to those struggling to provide basic food and education for their children. Please take a Fast Day envelope on 4th/5th March, and return it with your donation on 11th/12th March, or make a pledge to give regularly. If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity

LENTEN ALMS COLLECTION

This year the Cardinal has asked that the Lenten Alms collection be directed to the Cardinal's Appeal fund. The funds raised will go to support parishes or groups in their work to further the mission of the Church: to serve the evangelisation of youth, to develop marriage and family life projects, and to provide service in society, especially to those on the margins. You can make a Lenten gift by placing your offering in the designated money box in each parish. More information and donation envelopes are available in each parish for anyone wishing to support the Cardinal's Appeal. To donate online please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations then click on 'Cardinal's Appeal'.

DAY PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY – 24TH JULY 2017

I have arranged a day pilgrimage by coach to Canterbury for **Monday 24th July**. The day will include Mass in Canterbury Cathedral, the possibility of a tour of the cathedral in the afternoon and plenty of free time to explore this historic city. The pilgrimage has been arranged for the very beginning of the school summer holidays, so I hope that families with children will be able to join us. The cost of the trip will be £12 for adults and children over 12 and £6 for children 12 or under. The cost of the tour of the cathedral (optional) will be £6 per person. Booking forms will be available shortly after Easter and places will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. Please make a note in your diary now! *Fr Shaun*

DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR READERS, MINISTERS OF COMMUNION AND WELCOMERS

The annual Day of Recollection, to which Welcomers are now invited, in addition to Readers and Ministers of Communion, will take place at the Niland Centre, Bushey on **Saturday 23rd September 2017**. Once again we will be joined by Fr John Hemer from Allen hall Seminary, who will share with us some of his extensive knowledge and insights into an aspect of scripture. Please make a note in your diary of this important event.

FUNERAL OF RENA OLD RIP

The funeral service of Rena Old will take place at Our Lady's on **Wednesday 8th March at 11.00am**, followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

LENT 2017

Our Lenten programme for 2017 will consist of the following:

- Robert Barron's DVD Course *Conversion* in which he showcases six stories of conversion from the Bible. Mondays and Wednesdays of Lent. Mondays at 1.30pm at St John's, Mill End and Wednesdays at 7.45pm in Our Lady's hall.
- A Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament with reflections from the writings of St Thomas Aquinas on the Mondays of Lent at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.
- Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm: Chorleywood: 10th and 31st March; Mill End 17th March and 7th April; Rickmansworth 24th March and 14th April.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A reminder for couples who have already seen Fr Mark or Fr Shaun regarding the baptism of a child that the next baptism preparation session is on **Saturday 18th March at 2.00pm** in Our Lady's hall.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE –MAY/JUNE 2017

There will be a pilgrimage from **Tuesday 30th May to Sunday 4th June 2016**. The itinerary and booking forms are available in the parishes this weekend and are also downloadable from the parish websites. *Fr Shaun*

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Spring Jumble Sale & Nearly New will be held on Saturday 11th March at 10.30am. *Book sale & Quality Items* will be held on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th March from 7 to 9pm. Any suitable items can be left at the Scout HQ behind Our Lady's Church at the usual meeting times or collection can be arranged by telephoning – 246169 / 776035. Parents and Supporters are reminded that help is needed to run these events.

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 Mark 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 (2016/17 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.

Youth Group

Our youth groups are meeting this week!

Our year 7-8 youth group will meet on **Tuesday 7 March** at Mill End, 6–7.30 pm.

Our year 9-11 youth group will meet on **Thursday 9 March** at Our Lady's, 6–8 pm.

Young Adults Pub Social

All young adults (i.e. age 18-35ish!) are warmly invited to meet up at the Coach and Horses in Rickmansworth at 7.15 pm (after the 6 pm Mass) on **Sunday 26 March** for a drink and a chat.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS - please join us at our coffee morning after Mass this Sunday (**5 March**).

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT / TRAIDCRAFT STALL

This Sunday marks the middle of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight. There will be Traidcraft stall alongside the coffee after the 8.30am and 11am Mass. As well as a chance to buy fairly traded goods, there will also be a chance to pre-order Easter eggs from the Real Easter Egg company (samples available). These are the only Easter eggs which have the Easter story booklet in the box, are made of Fairtrade chocolate and make a donation to charity from sales. There will also be an opportunity to sign a petition to the International Trade Secretary asking him to make sure that as new deals are negotiated post-Brexit, the UK's trade approach works for the world's poorest people, millions of whom rely on trade with the UK.

READERS - the new rota is now available at the back of the church for those who would like a 'hard-copy'.

CRECHE AT 11AM MASS

There is a crèche with toys and books for pre-school children (walking age upwards, as long as they're happy to be left) which runs throughout the year, usually alongside the Children's Liturgy, for the first half of the 11am Mass. This is not for school-aged children who can join the Children's Liturgy group in the small hall (during term time). We organise a rota on a two monthly basis and we are always looking for new volunteers (who will need to undergo a DBS check) so if you'd like to join us, please pop into the hall or contact Helen Nolan on helenvnolan@ntlworld.com or 07980 600549.

EASTER CARDS - now available in the repository.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – SUNDAY 5TH MARCH

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 12 noon on Sunday. There will be reports from the Parish Priest, the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Chair of the Parish Finance Committee (who will present the 2016 Financial Return), our Parish Youth Worker and our SVP Conference. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

200 CLUB DRAW (FEBRUARY)

Congratulations to Robert Gibson (£50); Lynne Soames (£30) and Sean Fagan (£20).

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at St John Fisher on **Tuesday 28 March at 8pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend. The meeting will include the appointment of a new Chair and members of the Parish Pastoral Council to replace those who will stand down this year. Nominations for a Chair and new council members should be passed to Fr Shaun, Fr Mark or Alan Opie, Chair of the Pastoral Council. Parishioners can nominate themselves to be members of the Council.

CHESS VALLEY RC TWITTER FEED

The *Chess Valley RC* Twitter feed is a great way of keeping in touch with news and issues in our 3 Parishes, the wider Church and Society at large. For example, recent articles have included:

- Information on our Lenten programme
- The Pope's intentions for the month
- Background to the daily Feast Days.
- An excellent explanation of the Eucharist.

Alan Opie or Duncan Farnsworth are happy to help if you would like to know how to register for Twitter and follow the Chess Valley RC account.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO COLLECT FROM THE LOBBY PLEASE

Before Christmas, a number of cards were left on the small table in the lobby for various families. Many thanks to those who collected their cards last weekend. Cards remain for the following families - Hannan, Munn, O'Mahony, Prunty, Vurdien and Ward.

RED MISSIO BOXES

Hello to all supporters! Please could you bring your boxes to church on the next two weekends, 11/12th and 18/19th, for the March collection. Thank you, *Mary*.

COFFEE AFTER 9AM MASS - all very welcome to stay for a cup of tea or coffee after next Sunday's Mass, 12 March.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
4/5 March	E O'Sullivan	T Hartney	E O'Sullivan	M Calvert	J Donohoe	F Holly	Peter & Ann	C Steet
11/12 March	M Fields	S Hoy	C Johnson	M Mackie	J Hale	L Turnbull	Carolyn & Kate	T Price

DIOCESAN NOTICES

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

The Mass for bereaved parents will take place at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 11th March at 2.30pm**. It's a time to remember, to pray, to give thanks, and to entrust deceased children to the Lord. All are welcome to attend.

CARDINAL'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 3rd June 2017 at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr Shaun or Fr Mark the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by the **24th March 2017**.