



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
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth>



St John Fisher
Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/chorleywood>

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
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Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
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Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
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 @ChessValleyRC

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 24TH SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY THOUGHT

“They also serve who stand and wait” is a famous last line from English poet John Milton’s sonnet “On his Blindness.” Milton is saying that waiting is not an idle or empty activity but can be, in its very essence, a form of active doing.

The labourers in the marketplace in this parable can be thought of as merely “standing idle,” but they can also be interpreted as actively waiting to provide a labourer’s service. Their wait is productive, for the landowner persistently returns to the marketplace throughout the day to hire labourers for his vineyard. They are hired. That is one surprise of the gospel. Another surprise is that, no matter the hour of being hired, they are all given the full daily wage. This parable is likened to the “kingdom of heaven”. God is persistent in calling us and giving those who are faithful the full wage of salvation. All we need to do is wait, respond, serve.

We are actively awaiting God’s call when we, for example, remain persistent in prayer, patiently listen to others in their need to go on and on about their life difficulties, engage in careful discernment about something important in life rather than act on a hasty decision. Our patient response in these and many other daily situations strengthens us to be faithful on our journey of salvation. Our very waiting is a way we already serve God and others and receive the full wage God offers –salvation.

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Response to Psalm: The Lord is close to all who call him.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20-24. 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Next Sunday’s Readings

Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £608.41; Loose Plate: £338.69; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1457.10**

Mill End: Envelopes: £294.10; Loose Plate: £211.56; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £702.66**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of August - **£2408.06**

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 24TH SEPTEMBER	11.30am	Sunday Brunch - Hall	St John the Evangelist
MON 25TH SEPTEMBER	10.00am for 10.15am 10.00am - 12 noon 6.00pm - 7.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Quiet Space Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall B-Attitude - Upper Room Rickmansworth PPC Meeting - Presbytery Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 26TH SEPTEMBER	6.00pm - 7.30pm	Saints - Hall	St John the Evangelist
WED 27TH SEPTEMBER			
THU 28TH SEPTEMBER	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 29TH SEPTEMBER			
SAT 30TH SEPTEMBER	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
SAT. 23RD SEPTEMBER <i>St PIUS OF PIETRELCINA,</i> <i>PRIEST</i>	NO MASS THIS MORNING	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor RIP
SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30am Eileen Byrne RIP 11am Elsie Alexander RIP 6pm Heather Young RIP	10.30am Paul O'Connor RIP	9am Betty Donovan RIP
MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Reynolds Family RIP	9.30am Margaret McHugh	
TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER	12 noon Fr Tim Dean (25 th Anniversary of Priesthood)		NO MASS TODAY
WED. 27TH SEPTEMBER <i>St VINCENT DE PAUL,</i> <i>PRIEST</i>		9.30am Marie Borthwick RIP (Anniv.)	
THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Douglas Gardiner RIP		
FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER <i>SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS</i>	NO MASS THIS MORNING 7.30pm Fr Mark Walker (Ints.)		9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
SAT. 30TH SEPTEMBER <i>St JEROME, PRIEST & DOCTOR</i>	10.00am Martin Malone RIP	6pm (Vigil) Seamus Fagan RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Edward Davitt RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Colin Lawrence RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

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

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Joe Donnelly, John Connor 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, Don Williamson and Helen Forrest.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

FAREWELL MASSES FOR FR MARK

The Farewell Masses for Fr Mark will be as follows:

Friday 29th September at 7.30pm – Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth

Friday 20th October at 7.30pm – St John Fisher, Chorleywood

Friday 27th October at 7.30pm – St John the Evangelist, Mill End

Each Mass will be followed by a reception in the appropriate parish. If you are unable to be present for the Farewell Mass in the parish which you usually attend, then please feel free to attend whichever celebration in the other two parishes is most convenient for you. If you would like to make a contribution toward a farewell gift for Fr Mark, in thanks for his ministry in the three parishes over the past four years, there are special envelopes available in each parish. These can be placed in the offertory collection, handed to Fr Shaun or Fr Damian or posted through the Presbytery letterbox. Cheques should be made payable to your respective parish.

FR TIM DEAN'S SILVER JUBILEE OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD – 26th SEPTEMBER 2017

Fr Tim Dean, who lives in Rickmansworth, and regularly helps with Masses in the three parishes, will celebrate his silver jubilee of ordination to the priesthood this Tuesday. Fr Tim will preside at a thanksgiving Mass at Our Lady's at 12 noon on that day, to be followed by a reception in the parish hall. A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners to come and share in this special occasion. There will be no 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's or St John Fisher, Chorleywood that day.

MALCOLM STACEY RIP

The ashes of Malcolm Stacey RIP will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 9.30am Mass on **Friday 6th October**.

NOEL JACKSON RIP

It is with sadness that we announce the death this past week of Noel Jackson, a long-standing parishioner of Our Lady's. Noel's funeral will take place at Our Lady's at 11.00am on **Monday 16th October**, followed by committal at West Herts Crematorium. We pray for Noel's wife, Roberta, and for all Noel's family at this sad and difficult time.

1ST COMMUNION 2018 – PARENTS' MEETINGS

Parents who have registered their children for the 1st Holy Communion programme, are reminded that there will be a Parents Information Meeting in October. For those who have registered at St John's, Mill End – **Sunday 15th October at 11.45am**. For those who have registered at Our Lady's – **Tuesday 17th October at 7.30pm**

CONFIRMATION 2018

We are now beginning the process of enrolment for the Confirmation programme for 2018. To be eligible the candidates must now be in Year 9 or above and must have been baptised in the Catholic Church. Those young people who wish to be confirmed, and meet these requirements, should write a letter (no emails please) to Fr Shaun setting out why they wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please be sure to include your full name and address. There will then be a meeting in the New Year with Fr Damian and the team of catechists to set out the expectations that we have for those preparing for Confirmation. The classes will take place at Our Lady's Hall. The closing date by which you must have written to Fr Shaun is **Sunday 22nd October 2017**. No applications will be considered after this date.

ECUMENICAL EVENT: THIS IS MY BODY

On Wednesday 4th October at 7.15pm at St Paul's Church, Chipperfield Common, Chipperfield, there will be an ecumenical workshop at which representatives from different Christian churches will share our differing understandings of the Eucharist. Fr Shaun will be speaking about the Roman Catholic understanding of the Mass. All are very welcome to attend.

GROWING IN FAITH – PARISH BULLETINS

The latest **Growing in Faith** parish bulletins are now available on the noticeboards of the three parishes. The bulletins show the current expectation of pledges that have been made and the amount received in our parishes so far.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – SECONDARY TRANSFER SEPTEMBER 2018 FORM SIGNING

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice for Secondary Transfer 2018 on the following days: **Monday 2nd October** – 5.30pm to 6.30pm; **Tuesday 3rd October** – 5pm to 6pm and **Monday 16th October** – 7pm to 8pm (**NOT** Tuesday 17th as previously advertised). All three sessions will be held in Our Lady's Hall, Rickmansworth. There is no need to make an individual appointment; please just turn up for the date and time that best suits you. **Please be sure to bring your Mass attendance card**. If you have been regularly attending Sunday Mass elsewhere please remember to bring the documentation outlined in the letter which accompanied your Mass attendance card.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – SECONDARY TRANSFER 2019

Parents with a child who will be applying for a Secondary transfer place in a Catholic School for **September 2019** are asked to collect a letter and Mass attendance card from Fr Shaun or Fr Damian after Mass this weekend. Please read the letter carefully, as it contains **very important** information regarding what is required of you in order for us to be able to provide a Certificate of Catholic Practice for your family.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

In October we will be beginning the RCIA process for those adults who are considering becoming Roman Catholics and for those adult Catholics who, for one reason or another, never received the sacrament of Confirmation and now wish to complete their Christian initiation. Leaflets with information about the RCIA process are available at the back of the church. If you are interested in being a part of the RCIA process please complete the "About You" section on the leaflet and return it to Fr Shaun as soon as possible.

QUIET SPACE – ECUMENICAL GATHERING FOR PRAYERFUL REFLECTION IN STILLNESS

There is a twice-monthly gathering for silent prayer and reflection on the 2nd Thursday of each month at St Peter's, Mill End and on the 4th Monday of each month at St John's, Mill End. There will be a short reading from scripture and a poem, which will lead into 20 minutes of prayerful silence. The first gathering at St John's will be on Monday 25th September at 10.00am for 10.15am. All are welcome. For further details please contact Anne on 07810 805900 or Kathy on 07712 626169. Information leaflets are available at each parish.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP - *Book Sale & Quality Items*

Will be held on **Monday 25th** and **Tuesday 26th September** 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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

OUR PARISH, OUR NEEDS, OUR RESPONSIBILITY – PLANNED GIVING REVIEW

Last week our parish embarked on a Planned Giving review. Over the coming weeks we are asking parishioners to take the opportunity to *prayerfully* reflect on their financial commitment to our parish. As a parish and as individuals, we have been blessed with many, varied gifts. The life of a steward calls us to share our gifts of time, talent and financial blessings with our family, our community and our world. These gifts come from God, so let us strive to return a sacrificial, not token, portion to Him. Today you will hear more about Planned Giving and Stewardship and inside the newsletter you will find a planned giving leaflet entitled *Our Parish, Our Responsibility*, which gives details of our current financial situation and sets out some of our needs for the future for which we need to make financial provision.

Next weekend, at the end of Mass, we shall invite parishioners to complete a promise card - this will enable our parish to plan ahead with confidence for the future. If you have any questions, a member of the Finance Committee will be available after Mass today. Thank you. *Fr Shaun*

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the PPC will take place on **Monday 25th September**. Parishioners with any ideas or suggestions that they would like to be discussed should contact the Chair at rickmansworthppcchair@rcdow.org.uk.

FR MARK'S LEAVING PARTY - BUFFET CONTRIBUTION

We would like to make this a truly parish affair and we are asking for people to bring a dish of finger food to the party after Mass on Friday 29th September. There's a sign up sheet with a list of suggested items at the back of the church. Please sign up this weekend or contact Adrian on 07503 898689. Thank you!

MASS - there will be no morning Mass at Our Lady's on **Friday 29th September**.

EARLY WARNING

Quiz Night **Saturday 11th November**. Please add this date to your diary and start putting together some crafty teams. More information to follow from the Social Committee.

200 CLUB

The 200 Club begins again in October and if anyone is interested in joining (or cancelling their membership) please contact Kerry on 01923 773387 for further details. Payment is due before end of September for those who wish to continue their membership and pay their annual subscription (£60) by cheque.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon and sausage rolls) will take place on **Sunday 24th September** after 10.30am Mass. All proceeds raised will go to Aid to the Church in Need. We hope that you will come and join us!

RED MISSIO BOXES - please bring your boxes next weekend for the September collection. Many thanks.

BURNS NIGHT

We are looking into the possibility of having a Burns Night on **Friday 26th January 2018**. If you would be interested in helping to plan and organise this event please contact Bob Livingston on 01923 903375 or bblivingston@talktalk.net

READERS, MINISTERS OF WELCOME AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

New rotas are available now at the back of the church.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

BAPTISM OF BETHANY SCREECHE-POWELL

At the 9.00am Mass this Sunday we will celebrate the baptism of Bethany Screeche-Powell. This will also be an opportunity for us to use for the first time our new baptismal font and paschal candlestick. We have been able to purchase these two beautiful oak objects thanks to the very generous donation of a parishioner at the time of our Planned Giving Review in March this year.

QUIZ NIGHT

There will be a St John Fisher Quiz Night on the evening of **Friday 10th November** to be held at Our Lady's hall. Please add this date to your diary.

MONEY COUNTERS

We need a few more volunteers to help count the offertory collection after Mass on a Sunday. It only takes 10-15 minutes and if we get enough volunteers then each one of us should only need to count about once a month. If anyone would be willing to join our Counters Rota or would like to find out a bit more about it, please contact Fr Shaun, Fr Damian or Carolyn Opie.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
23/24 Sept.	M Fields	E O'Sullivan	J McEwen	M Calvert	H McGrath	L Turnbull	Una & Francis	C Steet
30/1 Oct.	M Foggo	A Roberts	P Goble	U Lean	J Donohoe	J Hale	Ann & Marguerite	T Price

Saints (school year 7-9)

Games, food & reflection

Saints, our year 7-9 youth group, meets on **Tuesday 26 September, 6 pm—7.30 pm @ St John's Mill End** parish hall. Anyone is welcome to come and give it a try. We'll start with 15 minutes of sharing and thinking about friendship. One of our games this week will involve being very loud and we'll also learn how to play "the priest of the parish." (Best game ever!)

B-Attitude (school year 9-13)

Put your faith into action

B-Attitude visit the care home and plan other ways to serve our local community. We meet fortnightly on Mondays for planning and reflection. We will meet on **Monday 25 September @ Our Lady's** parish hall (it's in the upper room, up the staircase) **from 6 pm to 7 pm**. New members are welcome to join!

Pub Socials

Pub socials for 18-35 year olds take place on:
15 October,
19 November and
17 December (3rd Sunday of the month),
always at 7.15 pm in the Coach and Horses.