



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:
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4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) LAETARE SUNDAY - 26TH MARCH 2017

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Potters often remark on the pliability of moist clay, how easily it is shaped, how thrilling it is to draw a blob into a form that begins in the eye of the potter's imagination and becomes a beautiful work of art. Jesus thrills to draw us into a new shape, a new work of creation. When Jesus smears clay on the eyes of the blind man, Jesus' power reshapes him into a new creation – a seer, a believer, a worshipper.

Jesus made the clay from his spittle and the dust of the earth, smearing it on the eyes of the blind man. That gesture alone, that touch of Jesus, certainly would have been enough to heal the man. But Jesus was offering him something more than human sight; he was offering the seeing eyes of faith. To receive this gift, the man had to respond to the command of Jesus to go and wash. Having done so, he came back able to see – physically and spiritually. Jesus recreated him as a new man – a man of faith.

Jesus comes to us to remove whatever prevents us from being drawn into a new creation, from seeing him more clearly, and from responding to him more fully. Lent is our time to undertake the works necessary that open us to Jesus recreating us into beautiful works of art. During Lent, our season of baptismal preparation and renewal, how does Jesus touch us? What does Jesus command us to do? How do we come to see him more clearly and believe in him more fully?

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Response to Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

Next Sunday's Readings

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £654.61; Loose Plate: £511.80; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1676.41**

Mill End: Envelopes: £234.00; Loose Plate: £161.13; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £592.13**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of February - **£1965.34**

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 26TH MARCH	8.45am 9.15am 11.30am 12.45pm 7.15pm	First Communion Class First Communion Class Sunday Brunch - Hall Baptisms Young Adults Pub Social	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Coach and Horses
MON 27TH MARCH	10.00am 1.30pm 5.30pm 6.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Robert Barron's DVD Course Conversion - Hall First Communion Class - Hall Holy Hour - Meditations for Lent from St Thomas Aquinas " <i>The Passion Of Christ Is A Remedy Against Sin</i> " Reconciliation Service 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 28TH MARCH	8.00pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	No SVP Meeting this week Annual Parish Meeting RCIA - Upper Room	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 29TH MARCH	7.30pm 7.45pm	Choir Practice Robert Barron's DVD Course Conversion - Hall	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 30TH MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 31ST MARCH	10.00am 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
SAT 1ST APRIL	10.30am - 11.30am 5.30pm 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John Fisher

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 25TH MARCH <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Maurice O'Connor RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) St. John Branigann RIP
SUNDAY 26TH MARCH <i>4TH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Mary & Evandro Girolami RIP 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm James O'Brien RIP	10.30am Bernie Loney RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 27TH MARCH	9.30am Mr & Mrs H Rogers RIP	9.30am Maura Moyles RIP	
TUESDAY 28TH MARCH	9.30am Kathleen Collins (Ints.)		9.30am Desiree Addison RIP
WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH		9.30am Betty Shanley RIP	
THURSDAY 30TH MARCH	9.30am Mr & Mrs J Simmons RIP		
FRIDAY 31ST MARCH	9.30am Malc Stacey RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 1ST APRIL	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Peggy O'Connor RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 2ND APRIL <i>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Mary & Patrick McCullagh RIP 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Rena Old RIP	9am Archbishop Luigi Barbarito RIP

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, Don Williamson and Helen Forrest.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We wish all mothers and grandmothers a wonderful Mothering Sunday. At the end of all the Masses this weekend there will be a special blessing for all the mothers and grandmothers present.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – IMPORTANT REMINDER TO PARENTS

Parents currently collecting Mass attendance stickers for primary or secondary places in catholic schools are reminded to 1.) Put cello-tape over each row once it is completed, so that stickers will not peel off over time and 2.) Take regular photographs of the Mass attendance card (making sure the child's name is visible). This will ensure that you have evidence of Sunday Mass attendance should your card become lost. Please take great care of your Mass attendance card – remember that this is the evidence on which Certificates of Catholic Practice are issued.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2017/18

Are now available for collection this weekend. Please make sure that the address on your box of envelopes is correct.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LEAFLET

Copies of the Holy Week and Easter leaflet, giving the times of all the Masses and liturgies over Holy Week and Easter are available this weekend. Please be sure to take one home with you.

LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

The Lenten Reconciliation Services across the three parishes this year will be as follows:

Monday 27th March at 7.30pm – Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth; **Tuesday 4th April at 7.30pm** – St John the Evangelist, Mill End; **Friday 7th April at 7.30pm** – St John Fisher, Chorleywood.

Visiting priests will be available to hear confessions (at Our Lady's and St. John's, Mill End) as well as the parish clergy. Fr Shaun or Fr Mark are also available each Saturday for hearing confessions between 10.30am and 11.30am during the Holy Hour at Our Lady's.

SVP REQUEST

The SVP has been asked by a local family for a bunk bed, with the bottom bunk being a double. If anyone has one they are looking to dispose of please ring Geraldine Page on 07725 748490. Thank you.

RCIA: Second Scrutiny of the Elect

This Sunday, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptised at the Easter Vigil. This Sunday the scrutiny is based around the Gospel of today, Jesus giving sight to the man born blind, a focus on Christ, the light of the world. We pray that God may dispel darkness and be the light that shines in their hearts and they continue on the road towards Easter.

LENT 2017

Our Lenten programme for 2017 continues:

- 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 (**this week at 6.30pm**) at Our Lady's.
- Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm: Chorleywood: 31st March; Mill End 7th April; Rickmansworth 14th April.

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*

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – Nursery/Reception 2018 and Secondary Transfer 2018

If you are new to the parish, and have not been issued with a Mass Attendance Card, and will be seeking a Certificate of Catholic Practice for a **September 2018** reception or nursery place in a Catholic primary school or a **September 2018** place in a Catholic Secondary school, please speak to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark as soon as possible.

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.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

Are appealing for donations of long-life milk, toilet rolls and cleaning detergents for the Catholic Worker Farm who provide accommodation for refugees at the farm and at Mary House. Collection boxes in the church porches. *Could we politely ask that nothing else be left in the porch other than the requested items.* Thank you.

Aquadrome (Year 7-13)

On Saturday 1 April, we're going to visit the Aquadrome in the afternoon to play some games (and enjoy some good weather if we're lucky). Please pick up a form from the back of the church if you would like to join us.

P.S. We're going **trampolining** on 10 June!

Easter Catechesis Year 7-8



25 April	6-7.30 pm
9 May	@ Mill End
23 May	(parish hall)

Crafting and catechesis. And splat!

Young Adult Pub Social

This Sunday (26 March), 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) for a drink and a chat.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT OUR LADY'S

Beginning on Sunday 2nd April we will be holding a Sunday Brunch in Our Lady's hall after the 11.00am Mass. We will be serving vegetable soup with a roll and bacon rolls. All proceeds will go to the Catholic Worker Farm. I am very grateful to the parishioners who have kindly agreed to organize and run the brunch. Please to come along and join us on 2nd April. *Fr Shaun*

EASTER CARDS - now available in the repository.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

GROWING IN FAITH – PARISH PROJECT FUNDS

We have now received £1,508 as the next tranche of funding from the parish project share of the *Growing in Faith* campaign. This money will be used to offset some the costs of the new sanctuary. We are deeply grateful to all parishioners who have, and continue, to support the parish and the diocese through the *Growing in Faith* campaign.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

We are changing the way that we organise the offertory procession at Mass. Until now those bringing up the gifts of bread and wine have done so on a rota basis. We would now like to have a less structured way of organising this and so in future the Welcomers at Mass will invite parishioners to take part in the presentation of the gifts. We are especially keen for children to become involved in this. If you, or your children, would like to bring forward the gifts of bread of bread and wine on a particular Sunday do please mention it to the Welcomers.

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon and sausage rolls) will take place on **Sunday 26th March** 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!

ROTAS

New rota's for the ministries of Welcome, Reader and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available now at the back of the Church. Please take your copy.

EASTER CARDS - now available in the repository.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

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

Over the last couple of weeks you have heard about Stewardship and Planned Giving. We have asked that all parishioners prayerfully reflect on what they contribute to our parish, having taken into consideration the needs of our parish and having reflected on the message of stewardship. This weekend we ask that *all* parishioners complete a promise card. These cards will remain private and confidential. Please provide your full contact details and select the method of offertory giving best suited to you. If you pay UK income tax, please sign the **Gift Aid** declaration (*in one name only*) so that the parish can claim 25p back from the government for every £1 that you donate, at no extra cost to yourself. Finally, we thank you for all that you already do for our parish. Without your continued support, this wonderful, living church would not continue to be the spiritual center it is today. If you have any questions, there shall be volunteers available after Mass. Thank you.

GROWING IN FAITH – PARISH PROJECT FUNDS

We have now received £1,862 as the next tranche of funding from the parish project share of the *Growing in Faith* campaign. This money will be used to offset some the costs of the re-ordering of the church. We are deeply grateful to all parishioners who have, and continue, to support the parish and the diocese through the *Growing in Faith* campaign.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at St John Fisher on **Tuesday 28 March at 8.00pm**. 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.

NEXT LADIES MEETING - Monday 27th March 10am at Edith Moid's flat, 2 Grenville Court. All are most welcome.

NO COFFEE AFTER MASS ON SATURDAY 25 MARCH - the next one will be on Saturday 29 April.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (14TH - 20TH MAY)

Christian Aid Week is just around the corner. Please be ready to volunteer your time and your offerings to support some of the most disadvantaged people in our world. Please volunteer to be a house-to-house collector (great Christian witness) and also help at our Market, once more back at St John Fisher, on Friday and Saturday 19 and 20 May. As well as baking your delicious cakes and breads and searching your cupboards for good bric-a-brac and Silent Auction items, we also need helpers at all stalls. We will also shortly be handing out order forms for our hanging baskets and bedding plants. Please offer your help to your own Church Rep Eddie, Maureen or Mary, or respond willingly if approached. Thank you.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
25/26 March	A Dennis	M Fields	M Latimer	D Treanor	K Cottingham	J Hale	Kate & Peter	S Tarrant
1/2 April	M Fields	J Stratton	E O'Sullivan	M Calvert	D Treanor	E Price	Marguerite & Ann	S Treanor

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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**.