



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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5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) 2ND APRIL 2017

SUNDAY THOUGHT

How often do we say, If only I had gone to the doctor sooner! If only I had not made that sharp remark! If only I'd known what to say! The "if only" point to a wish that another decision or action had been taken. In this Sunday's gospel both Martha and Mary express this same sentiment to Jesus. "If only" Jesus had come sooner, Lazarus would still be alive.

When facing death, there are often things left unsaid; there are often things left undone. It is natural to want to go back. "If only ..." But Jesus "the resurrection and the life," invites us to go forward. Death is not the end. For Lazarus. For him. For us. If only ... we come to deeper believing.

Death leaves us shaken, uneasy, grieving. In our human reckoning, it is the ultimate mystery. With his disclosure of himself as "the resurrection and the life," Jesus reveals death to be merely the penultimate mystery. Death is necessary, but not the end. The real ending, the final mystery, is something entirely new: fullness of life in eternal union with God. If only ...

Entrance Antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Response to Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 - 27:66 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £512.90; Loose Plate: £318.97; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1341.87**

Mill End: Envelopes: £224.08; Loose Plate: £170.54; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £591.62**

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 2ND APRIL	12.00pm	Sunday Brunch - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 3RD APRIL	10.00am 11.00am 1.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Funeral Mass - Philomena Clancy RIP Robert Barron's DVD Course <i>Conversion</i> - Hall Holy Hour - Meditations for Lent from St Thomas Aquinas " <i>The Example Of Christ Crucified</i> " Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 4TH APRIL	7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Reconciliation Service RCIA - Upper Room	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 5TH APRIL	7.45pm	Robert Barron's DVD Course <i>Conversion</i> - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 6TH APRIL	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 7TH APRIL	10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Reconciliation Service Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
SAT 8TH APRIL	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 1 ST 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 2 ND 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
MONDAY 3 RD APRIL	9.30am Mr & Mrs B West RIP	9.30am Lockie Sheehan RIP	
TUESDAY 4 TH APRIL	9.30am Dessree Addison RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 5 TH APRIL		9.30am Lanna Foley RIP	
THURSDAY 6 TH APRIL	9.30am Peter Price RIP		
FRIDAY 7 TH APRIL	9.30am James Fitzgerald RIP		9.30am Desiree Addison RIP
SATURDAY 8 TH APRIL	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Patsy Meegan RIP	6pm (Vigil) Fr Jim Fanning RIP
SUNDAY 9 TH APRIL <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Private Intention 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm Fr Jim Fanning RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parish	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, Don Williamson and Helen Forrest.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THE VEILING OF CROSSES AND STATUES

From the 5th Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday the crosses and statues of our churches are veiled in purple cloths. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of “fasting” from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offerings at the Easter Day Masses are your personal gift to your priests. The Christmas and Easter offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Shaun and Fr Mark. These monies are paid into the respective three parishes’ accounts and are then paid to the priests as a monthly salary or stipend. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked *Easter Offering*. If you do not use Planned Giving, there are loose *Easter Offering* envelopes available at the back of church. If you know that you are going to be away for Easter you might wish to put your Easter Offering envelope into the collection either this weekend or next. Thank you.

PHILOMENA CLANCY RIP

The Funeral Mass of Philomena Clancy will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Monday 3rd April at 11am** followed by burial at Carpenders Park Lawn Cemetery. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

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 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 will be as follows: **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 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.

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 at 7.30pm at Our Lady’s.
- Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm: Mill End 7th April; Rickmansworth 14th April.

RCIA: Third Scrutiny of the Elect

This Sunday, we celebrate the third and last of the Scrutinies. The Gospel today, the raising of Lazarus, focuses on Christ, the resurrection and the life. We pray that they may be given the faith to acknowledge Christ as the resurrection and the life and that they may be filled with the hope of the life-giving Spirit as they prepare themselves for their birth to new life. Later this week, we will also present the Lord’s Prayer to the Elect - and “wait in joyful hope” until they can pray it with us as one of the faithful at the Easter Vigil.

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*

CHESS VALLEY SVP UPDATE

We would like to thank all parishioners for their continued support through the SVP boxes in all three parishes. Through your support, we have recently been able to help families with fuel costs and needed travel expenses for medical care. We have also donated to the Crisis in Sudan Appeal, which will help with their Baby Feeding Programme and providing Medical Care. Should you wish to read more about this appeal or make a direct donation please go to www.twinnage.org.uk.

Youth Group

Whoa! It’s already time for Easter break. We’ve really enjoyed our first three months of youth group and looking forward to many more. See you after Easter!



Year 7-8 meet on Tuesday 18 April
Year 9-11 meet on Thursday 20 April

Easter Catechesis Year 7-8



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

Crafting and catechesis. And splat!

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS - there will be no coffee after this Sunday's Mass (2nd April).

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT OUR LADY'S (2nd April)

This Sunday we will be holding a Sunday Brunch in Our Lady's hall after the 11am 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. *Fr Shaun*

HOLY THURSDAY – WASHING OF FEET

There is a list in the porch for anyone willing to have their feet washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Please do sign up.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

BOOK OF THANKSGIVING – STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Our Book of Thanksgiving for the new stained glass window has now been completed and rests up its new lectern, just in front of the sanctuary. Here you will find the thanksgivings associated with the 92 panes of glass in our new stained glass window. Once again, we thank all parishioners who made such generous donations towards the cost of this window, which has truly transformed our church.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the recent Annual Parish Meeting, together with the Parish Priest's Report and the Report of our SVP Conference, are now available on the parish website. A copy of the Minutes is also posted on the porch notice board.

RED MISSIO BOXES - could you please bring yours to Mass next weekend for the March collection. Thank you. Geraldine

ROTAS - are now available for the ministries of Welcome, Reader and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

200 CLUB - congratulations to Philip Gibbs £50; Jackie Fusco £30 and Sandra Miller £20

HOLY THURSDAY – WASHING OF FEET

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ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

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

Thank you for taking part in our 'Planned Giving' appeal last weekend. At the back of the church there are addressed envelopes for all parishioners who signed a promise card last week. If you asked for a standing order form (bankers order) or a new batch of donation envelopes, you shall find them inside your addressed envelope. Please take a few minutes to collect your letter when you leave Mass today. If you missed signing a promise card last weekend, and would like a box of donation envelopes, or to donate to the parish by standing order (bankers order) or wish to **Gift Aid**, please complete a promise card, which are available in the lobby today. Once again, thank you for all that you do. Please keep our parish in your prayers.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday Peter Mackie was elected as the new Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Carlos Pierce and Liz Munro were elected as new members of the Pastoral Council. I am very grateful to them all for standing for election and very much look forward to working with them. I also express my thanks to Alan Opie, whose term of office as Chair has now been completed, for the huge contribution he has made to the parish during his three years as Chair. I also express my thanks to Francis Holly, Siobhan Hoy and Laurence Turnbull, stepping down for the PPC at this time, for the very valuable contributions that they have all made. *Fr Shaun*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

At the Annual Parish Meeting, there was a discussion about the recitation of the Responsorial Psalm at Sunday Mass. There was a general consensus that the current way of reciting the psalm altogether does not foster meditation on the word of God in the way that the Church intends that it should. Therefore, it was agreed that from Easter Sunday morning we will revert to saying (or singing) the Responsorial Psalm as it is set out in the Lectionary, namely: with the Reader reading the verses and the congregation joining in with the response after each stanza, rather than with the congregation joining in throughout.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A selection of children's bibles and religious story and picture books are now available for use by small children during Mass. The books are in a clear plastic box in the lounge. Please feel free to take some into the church. We would be grateful if you could return them to the box at the end of Mass.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EASTER MASSES

We need welcomers, readers, Ministers of Communion and people willing to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday. If you can help, please put your name on the sheet on the noticeboard. Thank you.

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		
1/2 April	M Fields	J Stratton	E O'Sullivan	M Calvert	D Treanor	E Price	Marguerite & Ann	S Treanor
8/9 April	J Ingham	E O'Sullivan	C Johnson	M Mackie	M Calvert	F Holly	Carolyn & Patsy	V Terrill

GENERAL NOTICES

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED - have you got a few hours to spare on a Monday once a month? Rickmansworth Care needs someone to answer the phone 9.30 to 12.30. If you can help please phone Jenny Woods on 01923 447417.