



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>

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) - 13TH MARCH 2016

MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN – LENT AND ALMSGIVING

In his Ash Wednesday homily in 2014 Pope Francis said of almsgiving that “...it points to giving freely, for in almsgiving one gives something to someone from whom one does not expect to receive anything in return. Gratuitousness should be one of the characteristics of the Christian, who aware of having received everything from God gratuitously, that is, without any merit of his own, learns to give to others freely. Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others.”

Almsgiving, together with Prayer and Fasting, is one of the elements of the spiritual journey of Lent. Almsgiving is both a sign of our care to those in need, and an expression of our gratitude to God for his gifts to us. In our Diocese this year the Lenten Alms appeal is in support of Caritas Westminster, the official social outreach arm of the Westminster Diocese. Caritas Westminster works across our Diocese enabling and co-ordinating parish communities to find practical solutions that address a variety of local social needs.

At present, Caritas Westminster is focusing on three projects where a big difference can be made to help those most in need, the marginalised, and those living on the fringes of society: *Foodbanks* – Caritas Westminster is helping parishes set up Foodbanks where there is a need. *Rough sleeping on the street* – Caritas Westminster provides homeless people with an evening meal, a bed for the night and a cooked breakfast via a network of night shelters for rough sleepers, operating in churches across the Diocese. *Tackling human trafficking and modern day slavery* – Caritas Westminster opened Bakhita House in June 2015 to provide a safe place for rescued female victims of human trafficking, especially victims who have no access to public funds.

Inside the Newsletter this weekend is a Caritas Donation leaflet. If you would like to make a donation to Caritas you can use this envelope to do so. You can put your donation into the offertory collection basket either this Sunday or over the next two Sundays. If you are a UK Tax payer, you can Gift Aid your donation, adding 25p to every £1 you give. Thank You! *Fr Shaun*

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Mark Walker
markwalker@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Mrs Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Address for all correspondence:
5 Park Road
Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU

Telephone: 01923 773387

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: Isaiah 43:16-21

Response to Psalm: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Communion Antiphon: Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14 - 23:56 (Gospel)

SALVE REGINA (HAIL, HOLY QUEEN)

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy!

Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope!

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus;

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £350.55; Loose Plate: £391.00; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1251.55**

Mill End: Envelopes: £276.29; Loose Plate: £288.06; Standing Orders: £99.00 **Total: £663.35**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of January amounted to **£2434.01**

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. It's Easy! Thank You!

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 13TH MARCH	8.45am 9.15am 10.00am 12.00pm 7.15pm	First Communion Class First Communion Class - Hall Coffee and Tea after 8.30am Mass Baptisms Young Adult Pub Social with Fr Mark	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist St John Fisher St John the Evangelist Coach and Horses
MON 14TH MARCH	10.00am - 12.00pm 11.00am 5.30pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Funeral - Jacqueline Grove RIP First Communion Class - Hall Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 15TH MARCH	7.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	7 Deadly Sins and 7 Lively Virtues Course - Hall Lent Penitential Service RCIA - Upper Room	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 16TH MARCH	7.30pm 7.30pm	Choir Practice Mill End Pastoral Council Meeting - Presbytery	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 17TH MARCH	7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Lent Penitential Service Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 18TH MARCH	10.00am 1.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Wedding - O'Driscoll / Shumake Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
SAT 19TH MARCH	10.30am - 11.30am 12.30pm 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Wedding - Maguire / Summerfield Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady Help of Christians 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 12 TH MARCH	10am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 13 TH MARCH <i>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Bernie Waine RIP 11am Ralph Kent RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Patrick Conway RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish
MONDAY 14 TH MARCH	9.30am Private Intention	9.30am Mossie Brennan RIP	
TUESDAY 15 TH MARCH	9.30am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish		
WEDNESDAY 16 TH MARCH		9.30am Cyril Borthwick RIP	
THURSDAY 17 TH MARCH <i>St PATRICK, BISHOP, PATRON OF IRELAND</i>	9.30am Private Intention		
FRIDAY 18 TH MARCH	9.30am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish		
SATURDAY 19 TH MARCH <i>St JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	10am Francis, Peter and Jean Reynolds RIP	6pm (Vigil) John & Mary Gibbs RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish
SUNDAY 20 TH MARCH <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Peggy Screeche-Powell RIP 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm Jim O'Brien RIP	10.45am 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, Vinny Spiteri, Ruary Chisholm, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Norah MacWilliam, Agnes Harper, Diana Price, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Roshini Alles, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Heather Kean and Olive Kiener.

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Joyce Baldwin, Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Seamus Fagan, Betty Page and Joe Donnelly.

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, Tony and Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Margaret Lamb, Jacob Stern, Thomas Gillies, Kitty Finucane and Susan Maynard.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH at St John's RC School

This is **your chance to help!** Without you, we cannot go ahead. The first of our lunches is on Sunday 17th April, and then every month on the third Sunday. You **do not** need to be a member of the SVP to help. **We need You!** Even half an hour will help. Please don't assume we have enough volunteers. We need help for Saturday afternoon and Sunday for: food preparation, moving furniture, washing up, cooking and serving, welcoming and befriending our guests and looking after safety. **Sign up today for any job, big or small.** Thank you for your support. For more information please ring Geraldine Page on 01923 776100 or email geraldine.page21@gmail.com

CATHOLIC AND HAVE LOST TOUCH?

All of us will know Catholics who, for one reason or another, no longer come to Mass and have lost touch with the Church. We have made available in each of the three parishes a supply of the leaflet: *Catholic and Lost Touch?* which has been produced by the Catholic Trust for England and Wales. It addresses some of the issues of why people may have drifted away from the Church and offers a warm invitation to people to have a fresh look at the Church and give it another go. We invite you to pick up a copy and consider offering it to someone you know who has, for whatever reason, lost touch with the Church. It's a very simple gesture, but one which might touch the life of someone in a very profound way.

PARISH YOUTH WORKER - UPDATE

In January and February, I conducted a second round of recruitment for the post of Parish Youth Worker, assisted by Phil Ross, the Director of Youth Ministry in the Diocese. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to appoint anyone at this time. While this is obviously disappointing news, we were advised during our research phase that it might take several attempts to find the right person for the role and that it was important to take our time and make the right appointment for the parish. We have now advertised the job again and I will update you once there is some more news. *Fr Shaun*

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.

LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

The Lenten Penitential services across the three parishes this year will be as follows: **Tuesday 15th March at 7.30pm – Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth; Thursday 17th March at 7.30pm – St John the Evangelist, Mill End; Wednesday 23rd March 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. St Bede's, Croxley Green also has a Reconciliation service on Monday 14th March at 7.30pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS — St John Fisher 18th March at 7.30pm; Our Lady Help of Christians 25th March at 7.30pm

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 PROGRAMME – SEVEN DEADLY SINS AND SEVEN LIVELY VIRTUES

This week in his DVD series, *Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Lively Virtues*, Bishop Barron discusses Gluttony and Asceticism. The programme will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm at St John's Parish Centre, Mill End.

CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP

On Good Friday morning there will be a workshop for the children of the three parishes to help them, through fun activities, to reflect on the meaning of Good Friday. The workshop will be held at St John's, Mill End and is open to children in school years 1 to 6. Registration begins at 10.15am and the workshop commences at 10.30am. The workshop will conclude with a short family service in the church at 12 noon and the parents of the children are encouraged to attend. We would be grateful for the help of a few parents who would be willing to stay throughout the morning to help with the running of the workshop.

JACQUELINE GROVE RIP

The funeral of Jacqueline Grove will take place at Our Lady's this Monday at 11am followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

RCIA: THIRD SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT (5TH SUNDAY OF LENT)

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. We pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2016/17 - are now available for collection in all three parishes this weekend.

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 (2015/16 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.

MASS ATTENDANCE CARDS

Parents who will be applying for **September 2017** Nursery, Reception or Secondary places for their children at Catholic Schools and who haven't yet collected a letter about the Certificate of Catholic Practice and a Mass Attendance Card, should see Fr Shaun or Fr Mark today.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Book Sale & Quality Items will be held on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th 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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – ORGAN RECITAL – Saturday 21st May 2016

On Saturday 21st May at 7.30pm there will be an organ recital on our new Skrabl pipe organ given by Martin Baker, the Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, where he is responsible for directing the world renowned choir in its daily choral programme and busy schedule of concerts, tours and recordings. Martin is one of the finest organists in the country and is known particularly for his skill in organ improvisation. There will be no entrance fee for this recital, but there will be a retiring collect to support the work of our Chess Valley Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Please make a note in your diary of the very exciting forthcoming event.

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.

FAMILY EASTER CARDS - on sale in the repository.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

THE NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOW – OUR THANKSGIVING WINDOW

Last weekend we launched the sponsoring of the 91 panes of glass in our new stained glass window. The response from parishioners was incredible. Over 60 of the panes were sponsored last weekend. Many of you gave far more than the requested minimum donation and I thank you, on behalf of the parish, for your amazing generosity. This means that, so far, we have been able to raise £4,065.00. To this we will be able to add a further £657.50 thanks to those of you who have Gift Aided your donation. This weekend we will be sponsoring the remaining 24 panes, so if you were away weekend – it's not too late! Additionally, if you have already sponsored one pane, but would like a second in thanksgiving for someone else, you can add your name to a waiting list, and any panes remaining after this weekend will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Once again, I express my deepest thanks to the incredible generosity of St John's parishioners. *Fr Shaun*

PALM SUNDAY – MORNING MASS

A reminder that Mass will begin at 10.45am **not 10.30am**. As we did last year, we will begin our celebration on the green space on Berry Lane with our brothers and sisters from St Peter's. If it is raining we will begin at St John's.

ROTAS

The new rota's for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of Welcome, Readers and Offertory are available now at the back of the church.

MONEY MATTERS — the Summary of the 2015 Parish Annual Financial Return is available at the back of the church.

READERS AND MINISTERS OF COMMUNION FOR HOLY WEEK – PLEASE SIGN UP!

Would Readers and Ministers of Communion who can exercise their ministries during Holy Week please sign up on the list on the porch notice board.

SPRING MAGAZINES FOR APF/RED BOX HOLDERS - are now available in the porch.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE FLAT AND RE-ORDERING THE CHAPEL

After Easter Sunday the church will be closed as the re-ordering work begins. This will mean that there will be no weekend Masses (as well as no weekday Masses) at St John Fisher for six to eight weeks. During that time, parishioners are encouraged to attend Mass at Our Lady's in Rickmansworth, St John's in Mill End or one of the other local churches. We will coordinate travel to our sister parishes for parishioners with no access to a car. A list is on the noticeboard to try and pair up those who require help with travel with drivers who are willing to take passengers to a specific Mass. Any Readers or Ministers of Communion who would like to exercise their ministry at either Our Lady's or St John's, Mill End, should contact Fr Shaun. Members of St John Fisher choir will also be very welcome to come and sing with the choirs of the other two parishes whilst St John Fisher is closed for the re-ordering.

COFFEE AFTER MASS - all are very welcome to stay for coffee or tea after Mass this Sunday.

COME AND JOIN THE CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK!

A very warm welcome is extended to any parishioners who would like to come and join the choir for Holy Week. Rehearsals take place on the Wednesdays of March at 7.30pm in the church and last usually less than an hour. You don't have to commit to anything beyond Easter and it doesn't matter if you can't read music, or read it well. So, why not come and give it a go!

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EASTER SERVICES

We need help with the various Easter services please - welcomers, readers, Ministers of Communion and people willing to have their feet washed. Please sign up on the noticeboard. Thank you.

MISSIO/RED BOXES

Please would you bring your red boxes by next weekend, 19th/20th March. Please remember to collect the emptied boxes by Easter Sunday at the latest, as after that our chapel will be shut. Thank you very much.

CHRISTIAN AID MARKET 2016

We are very sorry that we will not be able to hold our usual market this year as the church will be closed. However, you will still be able to order your hanging baskets and bedding plants, nearly as usual! Order forms explaining all will be handed out after Mass today. Please order as much as you can and get orders from your family and friends.

N.B. House-to-house collections - these will be carried out as usual and are even more important this year. If you have any extra time to offer, please contact Maureen Foggo (284740). Thank you.

	This week 12 / 13 March				Next week 19 / 20 March			
	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Counters	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Counters
6pm Vigil	GF	C Pierce	C Johnson	Carolyn Opie	R Ellis	A Penn	P Goble	Francis Holly
9am Mass	A Opie	N Johnson	L Turnbull	Ann Brew	U Lean	A Opie	J Hale	Una Lean
13 March	Laundry: C Steet			19 March Church Cleaning: M Calvert				