



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

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 @ChessValleyRC

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 26TH FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY THOUGHT

This Sunday's gospel is a "master" piece! To have a "master" means that we are to serve – we are to be a slave. Jesus raises the question, to whom or to what do we choose to be enslaved? If we choose the wrong master, we are an oppressed slave. If we choose the good Master, we become free.

Food, clothing and shelter are necessities of daily living, and we must attend to them responsibly. The issue raised by Jesus is to provide for these needs without making them our master. Living out of the conviction that God cares and provides for us, our only worry ought to be how wholeheartedly we seek God's kingdom and live God's righteousness. Only then do our hearts overflow with God's fullness of life.

The urgent question the gospel leaves us is whether we have chosen God as our Master in our daily living. Addressing this ought to be the content of a daily examination of conscience: Are we so enslaved by the effort to meet necessary daily needs that we make no time for daily prayer? Are we so busy working that we forget to relate to those around us? Are we so worried about ourselves and our own desires that we fail to see the needs of others? In the end, we choose either to serve God or to serve ourselves. Which master do we most often choose to serve? Is our life a "Master" piece?

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:14-15

Response to Psalm: In God alone is my soul at rest.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

Communion Antiphon: I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £512.01; Loose Plate: £356.66; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1378.67**

Mill End: Envelopes: £298.59; Loose Plate: £181.40; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £676.99**

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 26TH FEBRUARY	8.45am 9.15am 11.30am 7.15pm	First Communion Class First Communion Class Sunday Brunch - Hall Young Adults Pub Social	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Coach and Horses
MON 27TH FEBRUARY	10.00am 5.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall First Communion Class - Hall Confirmation Session - Hall Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 28TH FEBRUARY	7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	<i>No SVP Meeting this week</i> Bible Study Course - St Matthew's Gospel - Hall RCIA - Upper Room	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 1ST MARCH	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St John Fisher
THU 2ND MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 3RD MARCH	10.00am 10.00am	Burial of Ashes - Eric Selley RIP Coffee after Mass for all - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 4TH MARCH	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 25 TH FEBRUARY	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Natalie Zammit (Ints.)	6pm (Vigil) Frank Garvey RIP
SUNDAY 26 TH FEBRUARY <i>8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Wraight Family (Ints.) 11am Frank Garvey RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Nora Connor RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 27 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Finbarr and Eileen RIP	9.30am Mary Hornsby RIP	
TUESDAY 28 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	9.30am For the People of the Parish 8pm For the People of the Parish	9.30am For the People of the Parish	9.30am For the People of the Parish
THURSDAY 2 ND MARCH	9.30am Pat Prunty RIP		
FRIDAY 3 RD MARCH	9.30am Eric Selley RIP		NO MASS TODAY
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 Frank Garvey 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, Susan Maynard, Don Williamson, Aidan O'Mahony, Terry Messer and Helen Forrest

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

RITE OF SIGNING

At the 10.30am and 6.00pm Mass this Sunday our catechumens, Ann Marie Sugrue, Ryan Allen, Samantha Daniels, Tony Lloyd and Rowan Mangion will sign the Book of the Elect in preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil; and Richard Booth, Stacie Allen, Charlene White, Christie Stott, Jodie Vincent and Colin Grant will be presented as candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation, to also be received at the Easter Vigil. Next Saturday afternoon they will go, together with Fr Shaun and their catechists, to Westminster Cathedral for the Rite of Election in the presence of the Cardinal and his assistant bishops. The Book of Elect will rest on Our Lady's Altar at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth through Lent.

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 COMUNION 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 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.

ERIC SELLEY RIP

The ashes of Eric Selley RIP will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 9.30am Mass on **Friday 3rd March**.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the solemn season of Lent, is on **1st March**. Masses (with the imposition of ashes) across the three parishes will be as follows: 9.30am at St John the Evangelist, Mill End; 9.30am and 8.00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth; 8.00pm at St John Fisher, Chorleywood.

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.

SOME SAD NEWS

It is with sadness that I share with you the news that the Daughters of Jesus have decided, due to diminishing numbers and increasing frailty, to close their convent at Blakenhall in Nightingale Road. They are very sad to be leaving and we will certainly be very sad to see them go. However, the Congregation of the Daughters of Jesus needs to be sensible and practical in making the right decision for the sisters and for the Congregation as a whole. The Daughters of Jesus have been here since Our Lady's parish was founded and have been actively involved in the local community since that time, not least in their service at both St Joan of Arc's and St John's schools. It is likely that the sisters will be leaving towards the end of the year and we will obviously have a special Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell for them before they depart. *Fr Shaun*

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*

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES - WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE (RICKMANSWORTH)

This year's service has been put together by the women of the Philippines and it will be held at **1.30pm** on **Friday 3rd March** at Rickmansworth Baptist Church, High Street. Everyone is most welcome.

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.

Flame

We're going to FLAME!

10,000 young people, live music by
Matt Redman, drama & guest talks!

Saturday 11 March @ Wembley

Age 13-25 :: £15

To sign up, please pick up one of the forms in the porch or in
the back of the church and return it to Anke before 1 March.

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 February** for a drink and a chat.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

At the Parish AGM on Sunday 12th February I announced that I have appointed Jane Riddleston, Teresa Dinsey, Steph MacGillivray and Paul Burke as members of the PPC to serve a two year term of office. I am very grateful to them for accepting my invitation to join the PPC. I am very grateful to Samantha Benson, Maud Cutting, Dave Pione and Michael Curtin, whose term of office has now come to a conclusion, for the support and commitment they have given over the past two and half years. I also express my thanks to Christina Calderato, elected to the PPC last February, who is stepping down at this time due to other commitments. In accordance with the Terms of Reference four new members will be elected to the PPC at the next AGM in February 2018. *Fr Shaun*

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

MONEY MATTERS - the summary of the 2016 Annual Financial Return is available at the back of the church.

SERRA CLUB OF SOUTH-WEST HERTFORDSHIRE

Serra would like to thank all those who agreed to offer one of their Masses each month for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We are delighted by your generous response to our appeal. There is a list of names in the porch and a prayer card at the back of the Church for anyone who would like one.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – SUNDAY 5TH MARCH

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 12 noon on Sunday 5th March. 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.

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

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

SUMMARY NOTE OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) MEETING

A Summary Note of the PPC meeting held on 11th January 2017 is now on display on the noticeboard. It can also be downloaded from the parish website and a few "hard" copies are available in the porch for those without access to the internet.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

WEEKDAY MASS – FRIDAY 3RD MARCH

There will be no 9.30am Mass at St John Fisher on Friday 3rd March.

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.

COFFEE AND TEA - all are welcome to stay for a cup of coffee or tea after Mass this Saturday (25th February).

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO COLLECT FROM THE LOBBY PLEASE

Before Christmas, a number of cards were left on the small table in the lobby for the following families - Booth, Budzynska, Farnsworth, Hannan, Johnson, Munn, O'Mahony, Price, Prunty, Ryan-Watson, Steet, Vurdien and Ward. Grateful if the recipients could collect them please. If you know that any of the families don't attend St John Fisher, but you could deliver their card to them please, that would be much appreciated! Any cards still there after 12 March will be thrown away.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES - WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE IN CHORLEYWOOD

This year's service has been put together by the women of the Philippines and it will be held at **10.30am** on Friday **3rd March** at Christ Church. Everyone is most welcome to attend and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
25/26 Feb.	J Ingham	M Foggo	M Latimer	D Treanor	L Munro	E Price	Marguerite & Patsy	V Terrill
4/5 March	E O'Sullivan	T Hartney	E O'Sullivan	M Calvert	J Donohoe	F Holly		C Steet

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**.