



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
shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Mark Walker
markwalker@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Youth Worker:

Anke Vos
ankevos@rcdow.org.uk

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

Telephone: 01923 773387



@ChessValleyRC

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A) - 28TH MAY 2017

SUNDAY THOUGHT

A gold watch is a traditional farewell gift to someone who is retiring. A framed photo of a good time together may be a farewell gift to a cherished neighbour who is moving out of town. The gift given is not something perishable like flowers or something transitory like a meal, but something lasting that keeps memories alive.

In this Sunday's gospel Jesus gives two farewell gifts. He is giving his lasting, ongoing Presence to his disciples; he gives his disciples to the world to be his living remembrance through their baptizing and teaching. These gifts are for all times and all people.

Jesus' ascension is a farewell event during which he gives the gift of himself to us and the gift of us to the world. We encounter his gift of self to us in prayer, through the sacraments, through the goodness of others, in the beauty of creation. We are his gift to the world when we teach others his Good News of salvation by the manner of our Gospel living; when we encourage others in their following Christ and keeping his commandments; when we walk with others who are burdened with sickness, suffering, diminishment, discouragement, loss. In these and many other ways, Jesus' Presence is lasting and his memory alive – for all time and for all people.

Entrance Antiphon: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Response to Psalm: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Next Sunday's Readings (during the day)

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13; John 20:19-23 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £395.50; Loose Plate: £593.94; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1499.44**

Mill End: Envelopes: £316.19; Loose Plate: £170.67; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £683.86**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of April - **£3119.46**

Priest Training Fund: £1118.62 (Rickmansworth); £256.23 (Mill End); £287.50 (Chorleywood).

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 28TH MAY	9.00am 11.30pm 12.45pm	First Holy Communion Mass Sunday Brunch - Hall Baptisms	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 29TH MAY		NO CHOIR PRACTICE THIS WEEK	St John the Evangelist
TUE 30TH MAY	7.30pm	Bible Study Course - St Matthew's Gospel - Hall	St John the Evangelist
WED 31ST MAY			
THU 1ST JUNE	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 2ND JUNE	10.00am	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 3RD JUNE	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 27TH MAY <i>St AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP</i>	10.00am Stephen Birch RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 28TH MAY <i>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Bridget Neary RIP (Anniv.) 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm John P Tighe RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am Patricia Ryan RIP (Anniv.)
MONDAY 29TH MAY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	9.30am Val Gamble RIP	
TUESDAY 30TH MAY	9.30am Elizabeth Antwi-Darkwah RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY <i>THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>		9.30am Ada Massey RIP (Anniv.)	
THURSDAY 1ST JUNE <i>St JUSTIN, MARTYR</i>	9.30am Private Intention		
FRIDAY 2ND JUNE	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 3RD JUNE <i>St CHARLES LWANGA & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	10.00am Private Intention	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 4TH JUNE <i>PENTECOST SUNDAY</i>	8.30am Nuala & Gerry Corr RIP (Anniv.) 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Deirdre Robinson RIP	9am Jean Ryan 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 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

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

This Sunday is World Communications Day when we pray in particular way for the very valuable work being done on behalf of the Church by the communications office of the Bishop's Conference. Prayer cards are available this weekend in each parish. Please take one and pray for the media and the Catholic Communications Network (CCN). If you would like to support the work of the communications office of the Bishops' Conference and CCN you can donate online so at www.catholicnews.org.uk/donate-wcd

THANK YOU

Richard and Angela Dumughn have been leading our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) programme for 25 years and 20 years respectively. They have now decided that the time has come for them to step down from this ministry. I wish to express, on my own behalf and on behalf of the three parishes, our sincere thanks to Richard and Angela for their commitment to this important ministry, which they have exercised so diligently and faithfully over such a long period. There will be many in our congregations whom they will have accompanied on the journey into full communion with the Catholic Church. I know that these people, now full members of the Church, will feel a debt of gratitude to Richard and Angela for the support, kindness and love they have received from them along the way. I am delighted to say that Paul Forrest and Julie Bryne will be continuing in their ministry as RCIA catechists, and that they will be joined by Samantha Benson from Our Lady's and Linda Yates from St John's, Mill End. I know that you will all join me in wishing them every blessing as they continue this important work within the three parishes. *Fr Shaun*

A MESSAGE FROM FR JIM DUFFY

Just a brief note to say thanks for the many cards, good wishes and gifts which I have received on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of my ordination. I am truly grateful and deeply moved by the many gestures of goodwill. My thanks to all the individuals, families and the folk group for their kindness and generosity. I pray for God's continued blessing on all in the parish. With every good wish to everybody in the parish and with an assurance of remembrance in prayer. *Fr Jim*

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Any children in the parish who have already received their first Holy Communion (thinking in particular of those who have just received their first Holy Communion) who would like to become altar servers are invited to attend the training sessions below in their respective parish. Servers for Our Lady's and St. John the Evangelist should, where possible, come to both sessions. Any children unable to attend any of the sessions but who would still like to become altar servers should speak to Fr. Mark:

Our Lady Help of Christians - Sunday 11th June, 4.30pm; Sunday 18th June, 4.30pm

St. John the Evangelist - Saturday 10th June, 4.30pm; Saturday 24th June, 4.30pm

St. John Fisher - Saturday 1st July, 4.30pm

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (no duvets or pillows please) and will be here on **Sunday 18th June** to collect them all. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up **before** Mass starts - by 9am at St John Fisher, 10.30am at St John the Evangelist and 11am at Our Lady's. Amazingly 4 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

THREE PARISH WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DI COMPOSTELA, VIA THE PORTUGUESE COASTAL ROUTE – 26TH MAY TO 2ND JUNE 2018

Booking is now open for our 2018 walking pilgrimage to Santiago via the last 100km of the Portuguese Coastal route. The shortest day's walk will be 9.3 miles and the longest will be 15.5 miles and the total distance walked will be about 79.5 miles (128km). The pilgrimage is being organised through *Camino Ways* and more details of the route can be found on their website at: <http://caminoways.com/ways/portuguese-coastal-way-caminho-da-costa/portuguese-coastal-way-section-2>

The cost of the pilgrimage will be €868 (c. £738) per person (sharing a twin room) or €1,052 (c. £894) for a single room.

Please note that there is only two single rooms available. Flights are **not** included and are being arranged separately. Included in the price are local transfers between Porto airport and hotel (and return), a local tour guide, transfer of luggage along the route and half-board (breakfast and dinner) throughout. Information about the pilgrimage, about the arrangements being offered regarding the booking of flights and how to book a place on the pilgrimage are all available in the parishes this weekend and also on all three parish websites.

DAY PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY – MONDAY 24TH JULY 2017

On Monday 24th July there will be a Three Parishes Day Pilgrimage to Canterbury. There will be Mass in Canterbury Cathedral in the morning, the possibility of a guided-tour of the cathedral in the afternoon, as well as free time to explore the city. We have booked a 57 seater coach. The cost per person for the coach will be £9.00. The cost of the (optional tour) will be £6.00 per person. Booking forms are available in each parish this weekend. If you would like to join the pilgrimage please complete your form and return it (in the enveloped provided) with cash or cheque payment to the Parish Office at Our Lady's or hand it to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark. Places will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis, so please do not delay if you wish to secure your place. There are now only 3 places left.

PREPARING FOR AND CELEBRATING PENTECOST

The world needs the courage, hope, faith and perseverance of Christ's followers. The world needs the fruits of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal 5:22)." Pope Francis, Homily Pentecost Sunday 2015. In response to the invitation of Pope Francis to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church there will be an evening of prayer incorporating a Pentecost Novena on **Thursday 1st June** from **8pm** in Our Lady's church. In addition and in solidarity with celebrations being held in Rome there will also be an opportunity to celebrate the feast of Pentecost by enjoying refreshments and cake in Our Lady's church hall after 6pm Mass on 4th June. All are very welcome.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS (4TH JUNE)

Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends at our coffee morning after Mass next Sunday.

CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED

We need a few new people to join our dedicated team of church cleaners. If you would be willing to help please speak to Fr Shaun, Fr Mark or contact the Church Cleaning rota co-ordinator, Rowan Mangion at gourmetrowan@gmail.com.

CRECHE AT 11AM MASS

There is a crèche with toys and books for pre-school children (walking age upwards, as long as they're happy to be left) which runs throughout the year, usually alongside the Children's Liturgy, for the first half of the 11am Mass. This is not for school-aged children who can join the Children's Liturgy group in the small hall (during term time). We organise a rota on a two monthly basis and in September we will lose the majority of our volunteers when their youngest children start school so it may no longer be viable to run it. If you'd like to join us (you will need to undergo a DBS check), please pop into the hall or contact Helen Nolan on helenvnolan@ntlworld.com or 07980 600549.

MISSIO

Would promoters please collect Spring Magazines from the church porch. Thank you.

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 this Sunday 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!

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

COFFEE AND TEA

All are welcome to stay for a cup of coffee or tea after Mass this Saturday.

FIRST COMMUNION MASS

First Holy Communion Day for three of our young parishioners will take place this Sunday 28th May. This is a parish event, so we would love all parishioners to join our communicants' families in celebrating this very special occasion. There will be a Communion Breakfast after the Mass to which you are all invited. Looking forward to seeing you all there. *Elena and Jennifer.*

PARISH BBQ – SUNDAY 2ND JULY

Please put the date of our lunchtime Summer BBQ in your diary. We will need volunteers to assist with the event, including help with the preparation of the food, drinks and setting up the garden. If you can help in any way, please add your name list to the list on the noticeboard.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Thank you so much to each and every one of you who contributed in so many ways to help at our successful and happy Market and the house to house collections. I think nearly everyone who could joined in to help and the rest prayed for us. We are happy to be able to tell you that our total profit for the market has amounted to £3620. House to house figures later. On behalf of some of the poorest people in the world helped by Christian Aid we give you our warmest thanks - Eddie, Maureen and Mary.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
27/28 May	E O'Sullivan	A Roberts	J McEwen	U Lean	J Hale	L Turnbull	Francis & Una	C Steet
3/4 June	M Foggo	T Hartney	M Latimer	J Hale	A Opie	AM Farnsworth	Ann & Marguerite	T Price

DIOCESAN NOTICES

GENERAL ELECTION

The Bishops of England and Wales have produced "*A Letter to Catholics in England and Wales from their Bishops*" for the forthcoming General Election. The letter is offered by the bishops as a resource for parishioners as they prepare to cast their votes, offering a framework for their own discernment of the issues at hand. Copies of the letter are available in the three parishes this weekend.

We're going trampolining!

Year 6-13, 1.30-3pm, Sat 10 June @ St Albans

All young people are very welcome, and you are very welcome to bring friends as well! If you want to come but didn't get the form in on time, just send an email **today** (ankevos@rcdow.org.uk, deadline Sunday 28 May) to let me know and we can sort out the other bits later.

Youth Groups

Happy half term break!

Year 7-8 will meet on Tuesday 6 June, 6-7.30 pm @ Mill End parish hall. Come and beat me at four square or balloon stomp!

Year 9-11 will meet on Thursday 8 June, 6-8 pm @ Our Lady's parish hall. The evening will probably involve taking out stress and frustration on innocent piles of cards. Warning: rules of the game *may* change whilst playing. If this happens to be in my favour it will, of course, be entirely coincidental. — Anke