



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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Assistant Priest:

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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

8TH MAY 2016

SUNDAY THOUGHT

When someone we love must leave us – a parent in the armed services is deployed, grandparents return to their home in another part of the country, a child heads off to university for the first time – we are saddened. The physical absence of loved ones imparts an emptiness and longing in a relationship. Jesus' blessing of the disciples at the moment of his ascension erased emptiness and longing and instilled in them joy and firmness of purpose.

Everything about Jesus' life – preaching and forgiveness of sins, dying and rising – is passed on to the disciples at Jesus' ascension. Filled with power from on high, the disciples returned to Jerusalem from where their ministry would begin. Though they would not escape the plight of Jesus, his blessing empowered them to be witnesses of these things as sharers in his risen life. Jesus' ascension is a promise of their own ascension to fulfilment. They saw the end before they even began their ministry.

When we experience an emptiness and longing in our relationship with God, it is sometimes a sign that we have strayed from fidelity to Jesus' ministry and are not living the blessedness we have been given. This emptiness and longing call us to renew our relationship with the risen Lord, our firmness of purpose in continuing the ministry of Jesus, and our keeping before us the promise of our own ascension to fulfilment. Throughout our daily living we must always remember Jesus' blessing and the empowerment of the indwelling Spirit.

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: Luke 24:46-53

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; Romans 8:8-17; John 14:15-16. 23-26 (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: £557.34; Loose Plate: £386.42; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1453.79**

Mill End: Envelopes: £207.00; Loose Plate: £179.10; Standing Orders: £99.00 **Total: £485.10**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of March amounted to **£1967.31**

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 8TH MAY	10.30am 12.45pm	First Holy Communion Mass Baptisms	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 9TH MAY	10.00am - 12.00pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 10TH MAY	5.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	First Holy Communion Rehearsal First Holy Communion Rehearsal Confirmation Rehearsal Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
WED 11TH MAY			
THU 12TH MAY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 13TH MAY	10.00am	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 14TH MAY	10.30am 5.30pm	NO Holy Hour or Confessions this week First Holy Communion Mass 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 7 TH MAY		6pm (Vigil) Frank Page RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 8 TH MAY <i>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Rosanna Hanson RIP 11am Michael Fields RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am For the People of the Parish	
MONDAY 9 TH MAY	9.30am Desmond Brady RIP	9.30am Patsy Meegan	
TUESDAY 10 TH MAY	9.30am Special Intention		
WEDNESDAY 11 TH MAY		9.30am Patricia Montesdeoca (Ints.)	
THURSDAY 12 TH MAY	9.30am Private Intention		
FRIDAY 13 TH MAY	9.30am Andrew Dumughn RIP (Anniv.)		
SATURDAY 14 TH MAY <i>ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE</i>		6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	
SUNDAY 15 TH MAY <i>PENTECOST SUNDAY</i>	8.30am Edward O'Neill RIP 11am Barker / Rozwod Family - in thanksgiving 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Kathleen Donnelly RIP (Anniv.)	

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, Olive Kiener and Jeannine Simonds

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

DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND MINISTERS OF COMMUNION – SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

Readers and Ministers of Communion should now have received from your respective rota coordinators information about the arrangements for the Day of Recollection on **Saturday 4th June**. Please be sure to have returned your reply slips by **Saturday 28th May** at the latest.

ENID COVINGTON RIP

The ashes of Enid Covington RIP will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 9.30am Mass on Friday 20th May.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The SVP Community Lunch is on **Sunday 15 May** in St John's School Hall. Dinner is served at 12 noon. Please do come along and have a meal and befriend our guests. Spread the word. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2017

In June and July Fr Shaun will be registering children wishing to make their First Communion in 2017. To be eligible children must be in Year 3 or above by September 2016 and attend Mass regularly in one of the three parishes. The expectation is that all children preparing for Holy Communion should already know how to make the sign of the cross and know the *Our Father, Hail Mary* and *Glory be*. These prayers should be taught and prayed in the home regularly. Parents may bring their child for registration on the following dates:

Tuesday 5th July – Our Lady's Church Hall, Rickmansworth – 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Monday 11th July – Our Lady's Church Hall, Rickmansworth – 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Saturday 16th July – St John the Evangelist Hall, Mill End – 10.30am to 11.30am

It is essential that you bring with you to the meeting the child wishing to be prepared for Holy Communion. If your child was baptised somewhere other than Our Lady Help of Christians Rickmansworth, St John Fisher Chorleywood or St John the Evangelist, Mill End you will need to bring with you the child's baptismal certificate. You are welcome to bring your child to whichever of the registration times is best for you. Do not worry if the place of registration is not your usual church for Sunday Mass attendance.

ORGAN RECITAL BY MARTIN BAKER

At **7.30pm** on **Saturday 21st May**, Martin Baker, the Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral will be coming to Our Lady's to give a recital on the new Skrabl pipe organ. We hope that many parishioners from the three parishes will come along to this special occasion. Martin is one of the finest organists in the country, with an international reputation, and so an evening of sublime organ music is guaranteed. No ticket is required for the recital, but there will be a retiring collection to support the work of the Chess Valley Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP).

GROWING IN FAITH: PARISH BULLETINS AND SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

The latest *Growing in Faith* Parish Bulletins are posted on the notice boards (the Chorleywood bulletin is posted both at Our Lady's and at St John's, Mill End). Also available this weekend is the Spring 2016 *Growing in Faith* Newsletter. We encourage you to take a copy home with you and read about how the funds raised through the *Growing in Faith* campaign are being used in exciting projects around the Diocese.

THREE PARISH TWITTER ACCOUNT

As one of our three evangelisation projects for the *Proclaim Westminster* initiative we have now established a three-parish Twitter account. Our Twitter account can be accessed at "**@ChessValleyRC**". We will be regularly "tweeting" information about events in the parishes, in the diocese and in the wider Catholic Church. It's a great way for you to stay up to date with what's happening in the Church both locally and further afield. I am very grateful to Samantha Benson (Our Lady's), Duncan Farnsworth (St John Fisher) and Roisin McAleavy (St John the Evangelist) for setting up the Twitter account and for agreeing to administer it on behalf of the three parish communities. We encourage parishioners to sign up to our exciting new venture into the world of social media!

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TRANSFER: September 2017 and the Certificate of Catholic Practice

If you are new to the parish, have not been issued by us with a Mass Attendance Card, and will be seeking a Certificate of Catholic Practice for a **September 2017** reception or nursery place in a Catholic primary school or a place in a Catholic Secondary school, please speak to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark as soon as possible.

PRAYING THE ROSARY DURING MAY

There was a request at Our Lady's AGM that the Rosary be prayed after the weekday Masses throughout May. If you would be willing to lead the Rosary one or more Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday (at Our Lady's) or a Wednesday (at John's, Mill End) please sign up on the list on the porch noticeboards at Our Lady's or at St John's Mill End.

PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – SATURDAY 27TH MAY TO SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2017

In the May half term of 2017 I will be offering you the opportunity to take part in a special version of the final week of the Camino pilgrimage (St James' Way) walking from Sarria into Santiago de Compostela. During this eight night (six days walking) pilgrimage we will complete the final 100km (70 miles) of the St James' Way - all you need to walk to become an official Pilgrim in Santiago and qualifying for a Pilgrim Certificate. The days are shorter than the full version of this pilgrimage leaving you plenty of time to complete each day at your own pace and still have time to explore your destination before dinner. Walking this section of the Camino involves average daily distances of about 11 miles (longest day 15 miles) and follows well marked paths with good surfaces. Walkers' luggage will be transported from each hotel to the next enabling you to travel with a day rucksack.

The estimated cost for the pilgrimage will be around £1,150 per person (plus single room supplement, if required). This price include flights, transfers, baggage transfers, 8 nights in higher grade hotels and 8 breakfasts and dinners.

At this stage I am seeking only an expression of interest (**absolute commitment is not necessary at this stage**). If you have a **serious interest** in joining this pilgrimage, please sign up on the lists available at Our Lady's and at St John's, Mill End. Once I have an idea of the likely numbers of potential pilgrims, I will be able to confirm prices and provide firm details, itineraries and booking forms. *Fr Shaun*

YOUTH EVENT – HELP NEEDED

We are looking to organise a fun day for children in school years 6 to 9, with outdoor activities (weather permitting!!!) and make your own pizzas. We would welcome help to make this day a success, so if you have some ideas and can spare a few hours please contact katie: katiebaichoo@hotmail.co.uk or 07518 352478. If you're in years 10-13 we'd love to hear from you too!!!

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

SATURDAY MORNING MASS, HOLY HOUR AND CONFESSIONS DURING MAY AND JUNE

Due to First Holy Communion Masses and the Day of Recollection for Readers and Ministers of Communion there will be **NO** 10.00am Mass, Holy Hour or Confessions on the following Saturdays: **14th May, 21st May, 28th May** and **4th June**. Mass, Holy Hour and Confessions will be as normal as from Saturday 11th June.

LOOK – NEW CHILDREN’S MASS LEAFLET

This weekend we are introducing a children’s Mass leaflet, entitled **Look**. The leaflet has a number of fun activities for younger children, all of which are connected with the Sunday Gospel themes. If your child wasn’t offered one as you came into Mass, please do collect one from one of the Welcomers.

MONEY COUNTERS NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for two or three people to join the team. The Sunday count takes place after the 11.00 am mass and takes approximately 30-45 minutes. With a full team you would only have to count every 7-8 weeks.

If you are able to join us, please contact Carol Bartlett on 01923 773841 or e-mail her at carolbart37@gmail.com.

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

First Communion Masses will take place on 14th May, 21st May and 28th May at 10.30am. Rehearsals will take place in the church at 5.30pm on a weekday preceding your child’s First Communion Mass (Monday 9th, 16th and 23rd May).

200 CLUB DRAW (APRIL)

Congratulations to the following winners: Sarah Bannister (£58), Christopher Knight (£43.50), Diane Passmore (£29) and Chris Doran (£14.50).

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

THANK YOU

Last Saturday at a beautiful and very moving Mass of Dedication, Cardinal Vincent Nichols consecrated the church of St John the Evangelist. It was an occasion that will stay for a very long time in the memories of those who were privileged to be a part of that special day. I express my deep and sincere thanks to the very many parishioners who, in so many different ways, helped to make this such a wonderful celebration for the parish community, both at the Mass of Dedication itself and in the reception that followed it in the school hall. As I said at the Mass, we now have a sanctuary that we can be rightly proud of, and which truly lifts the heart and mind to the worship of God. *Fr Shaun*

CONGRATULATIONS

At the Mass of Dedication on Saturday, Cardinal Vincent Nichols presented Celia Beckley and Robert Gibson with the Diocesan Medal in recognition of their long and dedicated service to the parish of St John the Evangelist, Mill End and Maple Cross in many aspects of its liturgical and pastoral life. We offer many congratulations to Celia and Robert for this well-deserved recognition of their faithful service to the parish community.

PHOTOS OF THE MASS OF DEDICATION ON FLICKR

The official photographs taken at the Mass of Dedication at St John’s last Saturday are now available to be viewed and downloaded on Flickr. The link is: [flic.kr/s/aHskvXV6iL](https://www.flickr.com/photos/aHskvXV6iL/)

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

First Communion Masses will take place on 8th May and 15th May at 10.30am. Rehearsals will take place in the church at **7.00pm** on a Tuesday preceding your child’s First Communion Mass (Tuesday 10th May).

CHILDREN’S LITURGY AT THE 10.30AM MASS

The Children’s Liturgy during the 10.30am Mass is designed to help younger children understand the message of the Sunday gospel at a level they can understand. The activities that the children undertake require a certain level of development and so the Children’s Liturgy is open to children **aged four and above** (until they begin their preparation for 1st Communion). We kindly ask that parents keep children younger than four with them in the church. Thank you.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

RE-ORDERING OF THE CHURCH

Work on re-ordering the church is now progressing well and the major steel beam, which allows for the opening up of the loggia, has been fitted and the vast majority of the inner loggia wall removed. The floor in the loggia area has also now been raised to the level of the main church. We are expecting to be back in the church for the celebration of Mass on the weekend of **4th/5th June**. This should provide the necessary time for the new tabernacle, carpets and window blinds to be fitted and for the church furnishings to be properly arranged in their new orientation before we begin celebrating Mass again at St John Fisher’s.

CHRISTIAN AID 'POP UP' MARKET - SATURDAY 21 MAY

This year there will be a small 'pop up' market at the Free Church, Hillside Road, on Saturday 21 May from 9am to about 12 noon. It will be selling homemade cakes, marmalade and other produce, but **NOT** books, ornaments, etc. If anyone can bake a cake or has any other homemade produce to bring along on the day to raise funds for Christian Aid, they would be very welcome! Please note that if homemade cakes, etc, are being sold, they now need to be accompanied by a list of their ingredients - health & safety apparently! We hope to see you there. *Mary & Maureen*

	Weekend church opens				Weekend after church opens			
	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Counters	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Counters
6pm Vigil	A Dennis	R Ellis	E Harris		D Gibney	GF	E O’Sullivan	
9am Mass	J Hale	S Marston	AM Farnsworth		D Treanor	L Munro	E Price	

GENERAL NOTICES

GUIDED TOUR

As part of Ricky week, there will be a guided tour of Our Lady’s by the historian of the parish, Peter Waters at 3 o’clock next Sunday afternoon. Meet him outside the church porch or inside once started. No charge but donations to the church gratefully received.