



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
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Assistant Priest:

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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - 17TH MAY 2015 SUNDAY THOUGHT

When someone we love must leave us – a child going off to university or to work in another part of the country, grandparents returning to their home, a family member working abroad – 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 his witnesses 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 blessing 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.

At the Mass during the Day

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 4:1-13

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

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

Next Sunday's Readings (during the day)

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11; **2nd Reading:** Galatians 5:16-25; **Gospel:** John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £699.31; Loose Plate: £408.59; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1606.90**

Mill End: Envelopes: £227.72; Loose Plate: £291.47; Standing Orders: £93.75 **Total: £612.94**

Chorleywood: Recorded monthly.

Priest's Training Fund Collection: Rickmansworth £1546.46; Mill End £339.57; Chorleywood £360.45

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 17TH MAY	8.45am - 9.30am	First Holy Communion Class	St John Fisher
MON 18TH MAY	10.00am 8.00pm	Rosary St John Fisher's AGM & Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
	8.00pm	Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist
TUE 19TH MAY	7.30pm 7.30pm	Our Lady's Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Faith Matters Discussion Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
	8.00pm - 9.30pm	RCIA - Upper Room	Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 20TH MAY	8.00pm	Rickmansworth Finance Committee Meeting - Presbytery	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 21ST MAY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 22ND MAY	10.00am 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Lourdes Pilgrimage Meeting - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
	SAT 23RD MAY	9.30am departure	No Mass, Holy Hour or Confessions at Our Lady's today Day of Reflection for Readers / Ministers of Communion (<i>please remember to bring something for the shared lunch</i>) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
5.30pm			

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 16 TH MAY	10.00am Margaret Connor RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 17 TH MAY THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Ramiro Montesdeoca RIP and Fabby Montesdeoca (Ints.) 6pm Margaret Connor RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Margaret Connor RIP	9am Rosanna Hanson RIP
MONDAY 18 TH MAY	9.30am Manuel Ferreira (Ints.)	9.30am Kitty Smith RIP (Anniv.)	
TUESDAY 19 TH MAY	9.30am Norah O'Neill RIP		9.30am Private Intention
WEDNESDAY 20 TH MAY		9.30am Bridget McManamon RIP	
THURSDAY 21 ST MAY	9.30am For the Sick and Household of the Parish		
FRIDAY 22 ND MAY	9.30am Yvonne Davies RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Household of the Parish
SATURDAY 23 RD MAY	No Mass today	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Patrik Biel RIP (1 st Anniv.)
SUNDAY 24 TH MAY PENTECOST SUNDAY	8.30am Patrik Biel RIP (1 st Anniv.) 11am Dominik Rozwod RIP and Family (Ints.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Jim Mannion RIP	9am Bertil Tyden RIP (Anniv.)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Maureen Digges, Elsie Alexander, Vinny Spiteri, Ruary Chisholm, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Peter Czarniecki, Tony Infante, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Norah MacWilliam, Agnes Harper, Diana Price, Joan Marioni, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Roshini Alles, Maureen Douglas and Maria Wallis.

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Margaret Sweeney; Clare Schofield; Joyce Baldwin, Margaret (Meg) Cunningham, Imogen Bailey and Harry Lennon.

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, Barbara Marke and Paddy Holly.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

PREPARING FOR PENTECOST 2015 – A NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

On Friday of this past week we began nine days of prayer to the Holy Spirit, leading up to the Solemnity of Pentecost. During the Novena we are praying that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may be poured afresh on us and all the Church. The praying of the Novena takes approximately 10 minutes. During this week the Novena will continue at the following times:

Sunday 17th May - immediately after the 6.00pm Mass - Our Lady's

Monday 18th May - immediately after the 9.30am Mass - Our Lady's

Tuesday 19th May - immediately after the 9.30am Mass - Our Lady's

Wednesday 20th May - immediately after the 9.30am Mass - St John the Evangelist, Mill End

Thursday 21st May - immediately after the 9.30am Mass - Our Lady's

Friday 22nd May - immediately after the 9.30am Mass - Our Lady's

Saturday 23rd May - at the Niland Centre (by those on the Day of Recollection for Readers and Ministers of Communion). Copies of the Novena will also be available in Our Lady's for those wishing to pray the Novena communally at 10.00am or individually during the day. We hope that parishioners will take what opportunities they can to share in this Novena to the Holy Spirit.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE PRAYER INTENTIONS

If you have any particular intentions you would like to be prayed for on the Lourdes Pilgrimage, forms are available this weekend.

RUNNING CLUB

A parishioner from Our Lady's (Maria Gilmore) has suggested the idea of starting a Running Club for the parishes. It will be a group for runners of all abilities from 18 years old upwards. Distances and routes will be negotiated. Maria proposes that would-be runners meet outside Our Lady's on a Monday evening at 7.00pm. The first run will take place this

Monday 18th May.

FR GRAHAM GILLMAN'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

This summer Fr Graham celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. To mark this special anniversary Fr Graham will be celebrating the **11am Mass on Sunday 28th June** at Our Lady's. Fr Graham has played an important part in the life of Our Lady's parish for many years and over the last 18 months or so has become a familiar figure at both St John Fisher, Chorleywood and St John, the Evangelist's, Mill End, where he has celebrated Masses when Fr Shaun or Fr Mark have been away. There will be a special collection for anyone who would like to contribute to a gift for Fr Graham to mark this important anniversary. Special envelopes are available this weekend marked **Fr Graham's 40th Anniversary Gift**. Any contributions should be either posted through the Presbytery letterbox or handed to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark. Cheques should be made payable to **Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth**.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE MEETING

On **Friday 22nd May, 7.30pm**, there will be a meeting in Our Lady's hall for those coming on the parish pilgrimage to Lourdes. This will be an opportunity to meet each other over some light refreshments and find out a little more about Lourdes, what we can expect on the pilgrimage and the significance of Lourdes as a pilgrimage destination.

REGISTRATION FOR 1ST HOLY COMMUNION 2016

In June and July Fr Shaun will be registering children wishing to make their First Communion in **2016**. To be eligible children must be in Year 3 or above by September 2015 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:

Saturday 27th June – Our Lady's Church Hall, Rickmansworth – 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Monday 29th June – Our Lady's Church Hall, Rickmansworth – 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Wednesday 1st July – St John the Evangelist Church, Mill End – 5.30pm to 6.30pm

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. **First Communion preparation will continue to take place in the three parishes.**

FAITH MATTERS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Faith Matters Discussion Group is a forum to reflect, discuss and debate different aspects of our Catholic faith and life. The group meets at St John the Evangelist's parish hall, Mill End every Tuesday. This week the discussion will be on Marian Apparitions - Our Lady of Lourdes. All are welcome.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS, HOLY HOUR AND CONFESSIONS DURING MAY

Due to 1st Holy Communion Mass and the Day of Recollection for Readers and Ministers of Communion there will be **no** 10.00am Mass, Holy Hour or Confessions on **Saturday 23rd May** and **Saturday 30th May**.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The school is planning to mark the occasion with some great events which will include a tea party for all the children and staff. A logo designing competition for the children which will be used on all our materials for this year and going forward. There is a family fun day planned in the summer term and many more besides. We are trying to track down old pupils, governors, parents, teachers and staff who were at the school back in 1965. I am putting together a booklet recounting the events of the school from 1965 along with old photos of the school and pupils' that attended back then. If any one has any stories, photos, articles or documents referring to the school from 1965 I would love to hear from them, my contact details are Annettelounaughton@gmail.com Mobile: 07875 409860.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN – A NEW PIPE ORGAN FOR OUR LADY’S

When Cormac Purtill and Susana Tierney took over the running of the 11.00am choir last year, they asked me if the choir could move back up to the organ loft. I was very happy to agree to this request if this was the desire of the Choir and later I was assured that it was their unanimous wish to do so. Cormac and Susana also asked if I would consider replacing the current electronic organ with a pipe organ. After careful thought, and in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, it has been decided to commission a new pipe organ for the parish and the Diocese has granted its permission for us to spend the necessary parish funds. The pipe organ is being designed and built especially to meet our requirements and will be a thing of beauty, as well as greatly enhancing the quality of the musical sound that we are able to produce. It is hoped to that the organ will be installed in time for Christmas. Before the summer holidays there will be an open meeting for parishioners to view the plans and designs for the new pipe organ. Dr John Rowntree, a member of the Association of Independent Organ Advisers, who is overseeing the design and build of the organ on our behalf, will be at the meeting to explain how the organ will enhance Our Lady’s both musically and aesthetically. The cost of the new organ (including necessary alterations to the organ loft will be in the region of £45,000. The bulk of this cost will be met from existing parish funds (and two outstanding legacies gifted to the parish totalling £20,000 will be allocated to this project). Some fundraising will still be necessary and the Choir has agreed to organise some fundraising events. In due course we will be seeking donations from any parishioners who would wish to support this exciting project. *Fr Shaun*

FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

This year we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians at the **9.30am Mass on Monday 25th May** (transferred from Sunday 24th because of the Solemnity of Pentecost).

APF MISSIO - would promoters please collect the Spring magazine from the church porch for distribution.

MORNING PRAYER AT OUR LADY’S

Morning Prayer of the Church is celebrated at **9.10am** at Our Lady’s on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We encourage parishioners who will be attending the 9.30am Mass on those days to come along and take part. At first it can be a little confusing to find the correct pages in the breviary, but guidance is always given and the more regularly you join in the more familiar you will become with how the celebration of the Daily Office works.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 19TH MAY

If you have any thoughts or suggestions about parish life that you would like discussed please contact either Samantha Benson (Chair) at rickmansworthppcchair@rcdow.org.uk or Michael Curtin (Secretary) at rickmansworthppcsec@rcdow.org.uk. If you don’t have access to the internet you can write to either Samantha or Michael c/o The Presbytery, 5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU.

THE ROSARY AT OUR LADY’S DURING MAY

On the Mondays of May the Rosary will be prayed after the 9.30am Mass at Our Lady’s, with the special intention of praying for persecuted Christians around the world. All are warmly invited.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN - RE-ORDERING OF THE CHURCH

Parishioners will remember that the Growing in Faith project chosen by Fr Peter was the re-ordering of the sanctuary with a new stone floor, ambo and altar. I am very keen to move this project forward, but feel that we need to look at the church as a whole. With the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee I’ve been developing plans for improvements to the church, including new stained glass and lighting, as well as developing the original plans for the sanctuary. I would like to share these plans with you and so there will be a meeting at **4pm on Sunday 24 May** in the church. All parishioners are invited to come along and see and hear about the plans for the re-ordering of the church. This is a very exciting project which will transform the interior of the church and greatly enhance it as the centre of our worshipping life as a parish community. *Fr Shaun*

FIRST COMMUNION MASS - the 10.30am Mass this Sunday (17th May) will be a First Communion Mass.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT BEFORE THE SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

Beginning on **Saturday 6th June** there will be 25 minutes of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before the 6.00pm Mass on the first Saturday of the month. Exposition will begin at 5.30pm and conclude at 5.55pm. Prayer before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament is an important part of Catholic worship and devotion. We hope that parishioners who attend the 6.00pm Mass will avail themselves of this monthly opportunity for quiet and reflective prayer. While the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar it is important that those arriving at the church for Mass try to be a silent as possible so that we can maintain an atmosphere of prayer and devotion.

FR PETER STEVENS

Fr Peter is rather poorly in St Anne's Care Home, Stoke Newington, but he sends us his love. Please remember him in your prayers. *Mary Latimer*

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AGM - will be held this **Monday 18 May at 8.00pm**. All parishioners are welcome.

	This Week 16 / 17 May				Next Week 23 / 24 May				
	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Counters	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Counters	
6pm Vigil	A Dennis	A Roberts	E O’Sullivan	Mark Gibson	M Foggo	J Stratton	J Biel	Marguerite Watkins	
9am Mass	D Treanor	J Whelan	F Holly	Una Lean	M Calvert	C Holly	D Gibney	Ann Brew	
17 May Laundry: I Schwartz				22 May Church Cleaning: M Calvert					