

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

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RCIA THIRD SCRUTINY

This Sunday at the 8.30am Mass we will have the third and final scrutiny for our Elect, Kanat Ayyildiz. Please continue to pray for him and our Candidates, Chris Prytherch and Samantha Benson

WELCOMERS AT SUNDAY 6.00PM MASS

We are looking for some volunteers to join our team of Welcomers at the Sunday 6.00pm Mass. If you would be interested in playing a part in the crucial parish ministry of welcome please speak to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark or contact Martin Brady at martin.brady@mustangeng.com

RENOVATION OF THE PRAYER GARDEN AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

For a number of years there has been a Prayer Garden at St John's School for the use of the children. In recent years the garden has lost much of its original beauty and has become a rather barren space. The school, supported by the PTA, are now undertaking a renewal of the Prayer Garden with the help of a team of professional landscapers. There will be a special retiring collection this weekend for anyone who would like to contribute to the costs of restoring and developing the Prayer Garden, so that it may become a beautiful and tranquil place for the children to feel close to the Lord. At all the Masses this weekend children from St John's School will speak to us about why the Prayer Garden is so important for them.

PARISH MUSIC

It is with much sadness that we announce that Peter and Julia Adlard have decided to step down at the end of Holy Week from their leadership of the 11.00am (formerly 10.30am) Choir. Peter and Julia have given nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the choir and their enthusiasm and hard work have resulted in a choir of which the parish is rightly proud. We thank them for their dedicated and generous service to the parish community and wish them much happiness in their future endeavours. The departure of Peter and Julia does, of course, mean that we now need to begin looking for someone to take over the leadership of the choir. Ideally, we are looking for an accomplished musician who can play the organ and direct the choir. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in taking on this role please do speak to Fr Shaun, Fr Mark or Peter or Julia Adlard.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Please could anyone who hasn't collected their envelopes pick them up from the Sacristy after the Sunday Masses. If you are interested in starting Planned Giving, please contact Liz Purtil on lizpurtil@yahoo.co.uk or 01923 897957.

GIFT AID

Please let Christina know if your tax circumstances have changed (2013/14 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. [Tel 01895 636914 or cmwatson@hotmail.co.uk]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Madeleine McGrory, Maureen Digges, Gerry Koller, Elsie Alexander, Vinny Spiteri, Ruary Chisholm, Jonathan Pione, Bessie Collins and her daughter Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Byrne, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Peter Czarniecki, Tony Infante, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Sheelah Spence, George O'Neill, Neville Mathews, Norah MacWilliam, Agnes Harper, Diane Price and Joan Marioni.

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: £ 1497.31
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, RICKMANSWORTH,
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MILL END & MAPLE CROSS,
AND ST JOHN FISHER, CHORLEYWOOD



Parish Priest: Fr Shaun Church Assistant Priest: Fr Mark Walker

Parish Administrator: Mrs Kerry Van Rensburg

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www.rickmansworthcatholicchurch.org

www.rcdow.org.uk/millend

www.stjohnfisherchorleywood.org.uk

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 30TH MARCH 2014 (LAETARE SUNDAY) CONNECTING THE READINGS

In the first reading today Samuel anoints David. In the gospel Jesus anoints the blind man. In the responsorial psalm our shepherd God anoints us. In all three of these anointings a new sense of identity is given: David becomes king, the blind man becomes a believer, and we become members of God's household. Moreover in the three readings and the psalm, it is God who seeks out the one to be anointed. God sends Samuel to find David; Jesus sees the blind man as he passes by and later comes to find him when the authorities have thrown him out; as Paul reminds us in the 2nd reading, Christ comes with light while we are hidden in darkness. Truly the One who seeks us, draws us out of darkness, and anoints us is a shepherding God.

We, however, must choose to be shepherded in the light. St Paul exhorts us '*Try to discover what the Lord wants of you*'. Despite God's movements toward us, we can still choose not to see. Will we shun darkness, or will we like the Pharisees, only pretend to see? Will we undergo the change of identity to which the seeing invites us? Will we stand by what we have seen, even when like the blind man, we face opposition? The good news of today's responsorial psalm is that our shepherd God will be with us even while we struggle with darkness in ourselves and in others. We can walk the journey into light because God walks with us, giving us strength, protection, and the courage we need.

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Response to Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 30TH MAR			
MON 31ST MAR	10.00am 10.15am - 11.45am 5.45pm - 6.30pm 7.30pm - 8.30pm 8.30pm	St John Fisher Ladies Meeting 'Let's Get Together & Grow' – Hall 1st Communion Class – Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Choir Practice	Juliet Hale's House Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
TUE 1ST APR	7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Lenten Reconciliation Service RCIA - Upper Room	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 2ND APR	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Catholicism Course - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 3RD APR	7.30pm 8.00pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Lenten Reconciliation Service Choir Practice Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 4TH APR	10.00am 7.30pm 8.00pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Confirmation Class - Hall Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
SAT 5TH APR	10.00am 11.30am - 12.15pm	Newsletter Folding - Presbytery Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians

WEEKEND MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

RICKMANSWORTH

8.30 am — John Carroll RIP
11.00 am — Mary Robinson RIP and Annie Kelly RIP
6.00 pm — For the victims of Flight MH370 and their families

MILL END

6.00 pm (Vigil) — Mary Gibbs RIP
10.30 am — People of the Parish

CHORLEYWOOD

6.00 pm (Vigil) — People of the Parish
9.00 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

RICKMANSWORTH

Mon 9.30 am — Mary Robinson RIP and Annie Kelly RIP
Tue 9.30 am — Private Intention
Thu 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
Fri 9.30 am — Fatima Venancio RIP

MILL END

Mon 9.30 am — Maureen Hampton RIP
Wed 9.30 am — Kerry Hopkinson (Ints.)

CHORLEYWOOD

Tue 9.30 am — Stephen Birch (Ints.)
Fri 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish

THIS WEEK'S FEAST DAYS

No feast days this week.

OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians, 5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU
St John the Evangelist, Berry Lane, Mill End, WD3 7HG
St John Fisher, Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We wish all mothers and grandmothers a wonderful Mothering Sunday. At the end of all the Masses this weekend there will be a special blessing for all the mothers and grandmothers present.

THREE PARISHES BARN DANCE - SATURDAY 5TH JULY

On Saturday 5th July we will be having a Barn Dance in the hall of St Joan of Arc School. This will be a Three Parish event, and we hope for a good turnout from the three parish communities. We would like to put together a special planning committee for this event with volunteers from each of the parishes who would be willing to help plan and organise it. Please give your name (and ideally your email address) to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark if you would like to be involved in the planning and organising of this important event.

LENTEEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

The Lenten Reconciliation Services in the three parishes will be as follows:

Tuesday 1st April – St John the Evangelist, Mill End – 7.30pm

Thursday 3rd April – St John Fisher, Chorleywood – 7.30pm

Thursday 10th April – Our Lady Help of Christians – 7.30pm

Visiting priests will be available.

In the local parishes the times of Reconciliation Services are:

Wednesday 9th April – Holy Rood, Watford – 10.30am

Monday 14th April – St Helen's, North Watford – 8.00pm

THIS WEEK'S LENTEEN ACTIVITIES

Monday 31st March – Holy Hour – St John the Evangelist – 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 2nd April – Catholicism Series – Our Lady's Hall, Rickmansworth – 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Friday 4th April – Stations of the Cross – St John Fisher - 8.00pm

WHAT TO DO ABOUT PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES WHEN ATTENDING MASS AT ONE OF THE OTHER PARISHES

You can still use your existing Planned Giving envelopes should you choose to attend Mass, either frequently or occasionally, in one of the other two parishes. All such envelopes will be returned unopened to the parish from which they originated and will be counted in the collection for that parish.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI (15TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER)

There are still places available on the parish pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. Itineraries and booking forms are available. Please book soon to secure your place.

RICKY WEEK – BOUTIQUE FAIR 16TH MAY 2014

It's time to start planning this year's Boutique Fair. This fund raiser is a way our family of parishes can contribute to bringing our community together during Ricky Week. All proceeds go to the Rickmansworth Society. It takes a lot of organisation so I would love to hear from anyone willing to help me this year. No experience is necessary. Help is needed for the organisation of the event, during the fair itself, from baking cakes, tombola donations, taking a stall, selling tea/coffee, making phone calls, or ideas for fund raising. Please call Angela O'Donovan on 07971 587848, email aodonovan@ntlworld.com. All help gratefully received.

READERS AND MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Thank you to all of the Readers and Ministers of Communion who joined us for the Day of Recollection at the Niland Centre on 22nd March. It was a wonderful day and hopefully this can now become an annual event. Would all Readers and Ministers please collect a page of practical notes concerning your ministry from the back of the church. This is especially important for any Ministers and Readers who were not at the Day of Recollection as there have been some changes to the way we do things.