



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 Damian Ryan
damianryan@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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) - 18TH FEBRUARY 2018

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Today's concise Gospel leads us firmly into Lent. The Holy Spirit has driven Jesus into the wilderness for forty days following his Baptism, and for forty days we are led to reflect on our Baptismal vows, in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. In the desert Christ the Son of Man shows us that, looked after by God and his angels, it is possible for us to resist the temptations of Satan! But if we think of temptations only as gossip, sloth, adultery and so on, we are mistaken. The more subtle and most dangerous "empty promises" are the insidious creeping attractions of wealth, status, power. These desires prevail in secular society, which treats all of God's beloved creations as commodities for ownership and personal gain. It can feel like we are a long way from the Kingdom of God.

In Lent we have a 40-day "retreat" in which we are invited to examine our actions and priorities, to concentrate precisely on assuming the ways of Christ through fasting, prayer and almsgiving. We "Repent, and believe the Good News", and help others to do the same.

In repenting we re-orientate our lives to God. To believe the "Good News" is to believe in who Christ is, and what he has done for us: through him all our sins are forgiven, and we are promised eternal life in Heaven. Salvation is a gift freely given, not a transaction - but crucially, in order to open the gift, we need first to believe it is ours. We are saved because God in his merciful, unconditional love chose to do so through the sacrifice of his only Son - we are not deserving of it, and nor can we earn it. This is the Good News that we seek to share with every person still living in the wilderness with their un-opened gift.

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Response to Psalm: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £647.24; Loose Plate: £344.74; Standing Orders: £747.79 **Total: £1739.77**

Mill End: Envelopes: £255.61; Loose Plate: £174.28; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £626.89**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of January - **£2434.37**

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 18TH FEBRUARY	8.45am 9.15am 12 noon 12.30pm 7.30pm	First Communion Class First Communion Class - Hall Annual Parish Meeting - Hall SVP Community Lunch - Hall Young Adults Pub Social	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist St John's School Coach & Horses
MON 19TH FEBRUARY	10.00am 11.30am 7.15pm - 8.45pm 8.00pm	SJF Ladies Meeting Funeral - Janet Ward RIP Confirmation Course - Hall Choir Practice	Jackie Ingham's home Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 20TH FEBRUARY	5.30pm 6.00pm - 7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	First Communion Class - Hall Saints (school year 7-9 youth group) - Hall RCIA - Upper Room	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 21ST FEBRUARY	7.30pm	Lenten Holy Hour	St John the Evangelist
THU 22ND FEBRUARY	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 23RD FEBRUARY	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross	St John the Evangelist
SAT 24TH FEBRUARY	10.30am - 11.30am 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	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 17 TH FEBRUARY	10am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Ron Scahill RIP	6pm (Vigil) Brian Feehely RIP
SUNDAY 18 TH FEBRUARY <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Declan Finn RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Nora Connor RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 19 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Thomas Askins RIP	9.30am Phyllis & Derek Humphries RIP (Anniv.)	
TUESDAY 20 TH FEBRUARY	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Isabelle Ramsay RIP	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 21 ST FEBRUARY		9.30am Brian Feehely RIP	
THURS 22ND FEBRUARY <i>THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE</i>	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	
FRIDAY 23 RD FEBRUARY	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Frank Rice RIP (Anniv.)	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 24 TH FEBRUARY	10am Janet Ward RIP	6pm (Vigil) Brian Feehely RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 25 TH FEBRUARY <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Sheila Sharp RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Stephen & Joss Dowds RIP	9am For the People of the Parish

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Christina Thomas, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townend and Mike Townend.

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, John Connor, Michael Dixon, Pat Beaton, Audrey and Paddy Lewin

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, 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

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: Friday 23 February

CAFOD's Family Fast Day this Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On Friday 23 February can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity? With malnutrition still killing almost three million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough good food to eat. And this Lent, your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed. Twice the number of children can have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong. Please collect your Fast Day envelope from church this week and give generously.

HELP NEEDED, PLEASE!

On *Tuesday 13th March* it will be our turn to host the priests of the Watford Deanery for our monthly Deanery meeting and Deanery lunch. The parishioners who have helped us with this lunch in previous years are unable to help us this year, and so I am appealing for help with the preparation, cooking and serving of this Deanery lunch at Our Lady's. It doesn't have to be a complicated meal, perhaps soup – lasagne and salad – crumble and custard. We host the Deanery on behalf of all three parishes and so I make this request for help to the parishioners of all three parishes. If you would be willing and able to help, please speak to me or to Fr Damian. Thank you. *Fr Shaun*

MASS OF THANKSGIVING AND FAREWELL FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF JESUS

As many of you will know, the Daughters of Jesus are sadly leaving the parish after over 100 years of service the Catholic community in this area. There will be a special Mass of Thanksgiving for them at 7.00pm on **Friday 13th April** at Our Lady, Help of Christians. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

During Lent we are encouraged to give a renewed focus to prayer, fasting and almsgiving in our lives. These traditional Lenten activities help us to form new and good spiritual habits that prepare us for our celebration of Holy Week and lead us to the everlasting reward of God's transforming grace. I hope too, that you will take the opportunity to participate in our programme of Lenten activities. Many of you have already signed-up for the Lenten Readings Groups, but I would also encourage you all to come along to the Lenten Holy Hour with Meditations from the Popes since Vatican II. This will take place on the Wednesdays of Lent (beginning 21st February) at St John's, Mill End at 7.30pm. As usual, Stations of the Cross will rotate around the three parishes on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm (beginning on 23rd February). Details of the venue will be published in the newsletter each week. This year I have invited parishioners of the respective parishes to lead the Stations of the Cross. I do hope that you will join in these activities of our Lenten journey as fully as is possible for you. *Fr Shaun*

FUNERALS

The funeral of Janet Ward RIP will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Monday 19th February** at **11.30am** followed by burial at Woodcock Hill. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

Tom Byers RIP - those who remember former parishioners Tom and Alice Byers will no doubt be sad to hear that Tom died on Monday 29th January unexpectedly after a brief illness. His funeral will be held at the Catholic Church in Buckingham on **Thursday 22nd February**. May he rest in peace. *Fr Jim Duffly*

The funeral of Michael Flaherty RIP will take place at St John the Evangelist on **Tuesday 27th February** at **11.00am** followed by burial at Woodcock Hill. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS AND THE ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE PASTORAL COUNCILS

In November I wrote to explain that in 2018 we will begin the transition from three pastoral councils to one joint pastoral council to serve the three parishes. The Annual Parish Meetings (APMs) of the three parishes will take place as follows:

St John's, Mill End - Sunday 18th February 2018 at 12 noon

Our Lady's, Rickmansworth - Sunday 25th February at 3.00pm

St John Fisher, Chorleywood - Tuesday 20th March at 8.00pm

We are now inviting nominations for **two** places on each of the pastoral councils. Parishioners may nominate either themselves or another parishioner (please be sure to ask them before doing so). The new members elected at the APMs in 2018 will serve on the existing pastoral councils for one year, and then a further two years on the new joint pastoral council from February/March 2019. During 2018 the three pastoral councils will work with me to determine how the joint pastoral council will be constituted, function and ensure that the "everyday" business of the three parishes can be discussed in appropriate forums. As the new members to be elected in 2018 will serve a further two years on the joint pastoral council, I particularly encourage nominations from those who feel a passion for helping us to build parishes of missionary disciples. This will be the principle task of the joint pastoral council. Our focus will be on 'mission' not 'maintenance' and I ask you to please keep this in mind when nominating yourself or another parishioner. Nominations for each pastoral council will remain open until one week before the respective APMs. Nominations should be submitted to the respective Chairs as follows: Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – Angela Steele – rickmansworthppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Peter Mackie – chorleywoodppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

St John's, Mill End – Bob Livingston – millendppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

Written nominations can also be submitted to the respective Chairs c/o The Parish Office at Rickmansworth.

Thank you. *Fr Shaun*

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next SVP Community Lunch is on **Sunday 18th February** at **12.30pm** in St John's School Hall. Please do come along and have a meal and befriend our guests. Spread the word. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year we are celebrating the WWDP on **Friday 2nd March** at **2.30pm** at the Methodist Church, Berry Lane, Rickmansworth. This year's service has been written by the women of Suriname, South America. Please do come and join us. Although it is called WWDP men and children are most definitely welcome.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

RE-PAINTING OF THE CHURCH

On Tuesday 20th February, we will begin the next phase of the redecoration of the church with the re-painting of the church. This work is likely to take about four weeks to complete. During this time there will be no 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's Monday to Friday. The Masses on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays will be transferred to St John's, Mill End. The Friday evening Stations of the Cross (when scheduled for Our Lady's), the 10.00am Saturday morning Masses and the Sunday Masses will continue at Our Lady's as normal.

BINGO EVENING

A social event aimed at families. We are holding a Bingo evening on **Saturday 3rd March** starting at 6.30pm and ending by 9.30pm at the latest. Pizza will be served for supper. Great fun for kids from 5 to 95. We hope for a large turnout with tickets at just £6.00 for adults and £4.00 for children to include the Pizza. Tickets available after Masses or phone Adrian on 07503898689.

THE AFTERPARTY

After 6.00pm Mass every first Sunday of the month in the parish hall at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth. The next Afterparty will be on **4th March**. Starts 7.00pm-ish, finish 8.00pm. Ping pong, foosball, hot chocolate & tea. Everyone is warmly invited, especially families with teenagers.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 12 noon on Sunday 18th February. 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 2017 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 on **Sunday 25th 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!

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 26th February** at **8pm**. Parishioners with ideas or suggestions they wish the PPC to discuss should submit these to Malcolm Golin (PPC Secretary) malcolmgolin@outlook.com. Alternatively, parishioners can approach an individual PPC member (the names of all PPC members are listed on the parish website).

LADIES MEETING - MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 10.00am

This will be next Monday at 5 CHURCH GROVE, Little Chalfont. (Jackie Ingham is hosting).

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE - 11am at St John Fisher on Friday 2 March 2018

Prepared by the women of Suriname and held in Chorleywood this year at our church. Everyone is warmly invited to join us and to stay for tea & coffee afterwards. **NB** - parking restrictions operate for 1 hour at various times during weekday mornings in Shire Lane and some of the surrounding streets. **Please check nearest street signs before leaving your car.** No parking restrictions apply beyond the junction of Shire Lane and Haddon Road, heading towards Heronsgate.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
17/18 Feb.	D Gibney	T Hartney	E O'Sullivan	A Opie	M Golin	L Turnbull	Una & Carolyn	J Whelan
24/25 Feb.	E O'Sullivan	S Hoy	C Johnson	M Mackie	M Golin	J Hale	Una & Vivian	S Tarrant

DIOCESAN NOTICES

CARDINAL'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr Shaun or Fr Damian the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Young Adult Pub Socials

Pub socials for young adults every third Sunday of the month (Sunday **18th February**, Sunday **18th March** and Sunday **15th April**), from 7.30 pm to 9 pm at the Coach & Horses in Ricky. Everyone age 18-35ish is very welcome to come along for a drink & a chat.

Saints (school year 7-9)

Games, food & reflection



Tuesday 20th February, 6 pm—7.30 pm @ Mill End parish hall. We get together, share good news, have a chat, play some crazy games and eat delicious pizza & sausage rolls. For anyone in school year 7-9. You're so welcome to join us!