



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

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 11TH FEBRUARY 2018

SUNDAY THOUGHT

For centuries, the ritual law of the Old Testament stripped leprosy sufferers of every possible vestige of dignity and humanity. In today's Gospel the leper does not just ask to be physically healed, but to be made socially and spiritually clean. His absolute faith in Jesus is rewarded: rather than healing the man from a safe distance, he reaches out, full of compassion, and banishes the loneliness with his touch and his words. Jesus came to heal not to prove his deity, but to make us whole. Our merciful God chose to restore to the man everything he had lost, but in his joy he didn't listen to the Lord and disobeyed his command. How often are we the same? How often are our prayers answered, or blessings bestowed, just for us to continue only heading his word when it suits us?

Mark begins with two very different men - one isolated and outcast; the other free and in his prime. Yet by the end of the reading they have switched places. The former leper is able to wander far and wide; whilst as a result of the man's disobedience, Jesus can no longer enter the villages to fulfil his mission freely. In this reversal of fortune is a foreshadow of the Passion, Christ's total sacrifice: his family and friends, his health, his reputation, his life - exchanged for the outcast, the sinful, and the undeserving. For us.

This Wednesday we enter the penitential season of Lent. Let us truly repent of all the times that we have received the Lord's healing touch, only to disobey him. Let us reflect on our loving Saviour who came to live among us spotless and perfect, in order to become broken and ravaged as he gave himself in exchange for the sins of the whole world.

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

1st Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

Response to Psalm: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £426.85; Loose Plate: £355.07; Standing Orders: £747.79 **Total: £1529.71**

Mill End: Envelopes: £267.00; Loose Plate: £214.62; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £678.62**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of December - **£2779.57**

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 11TH FEBRUARY			
MON 12TH FEBRUARY	10.00am - 12 noon	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall NO CHOIR PRACTICE THIS WEEK	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 13TH FEBRUARY			
WED 14TH FEBRUARY			
THU 15TH FEBRUARY	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 16TH FEBRUARY	10.00am	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 17TH FEBRUARY	10.30am - 11.30am 2.00pm 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Baptism Preparation - Hall 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
SAT 10TH FEBRUARY <i>St SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN</i>	10am Tom Byers RIP	6pm (Vigil) Joe Donnelly RIP	6pm (Vigil) Angela Leeson
SUNDAY 11 TH FEBRUARY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Radko & Banas Family (Ints.) 6pm Clare Loose (Ints.)	10.30am Brian Feehely RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 12 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Tom Byers RIP	NO MASS TODAY	
TUESDAY 13 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 14 TH FEBRUARY <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	9.30am For the People of the Parish 8pm For the People of the Parish	9.30am Anne Gemmell (Ints.)	8pm For the People of the Parish
THURSDAY 15 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Tom Byers RIP		
FRIDAY 16 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Mary Robinson RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
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

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

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesday of this week is Ash Wednesday, when we begin our observance of the solemn season of Lent. 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*

WELCOME!

This weekend we welcome Fr Lawrence Nam SJ, who will be celebrating the Vigil Mass at St John's Mill End and the 8.30am and 11.00am Masses at Our Lady's, while Fr Damian has a well-deserved post-Christmas break.

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 Duffy*

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A reminder for couples who have already seen Fr Damian or Fr Shaun regarding the baptism of a child that the next baptism preparation session is on **Saturday 17 February at 2.00pm** in Our Lady's hall.

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.

GIFT AID

Thank you to everyone who has Gift-Aided their offering. Gift Aid adds 25p to the value of every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your offering please speak to Fr Shaun, Fr Damian or Kerry. We will then be able to provide you with a Gift Aid form and, if necessary, planned giving envelopes, if you are not already using them. It is also possible to set up a standing order, if you prefer. **Please let us know if your tax circumstances have changed (2017/18 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.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

We are looking for additional people to join our team of adult leaders working with children in any of our three sections Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. ***This could be your opportunity to make a difference for the young people of the parishes.*** New leaders will have plenty of support from the other leaders within the Group. If you would like to know more about what is involved in a leadership role, please contact our Group Scout Leader - Chris Doran at 6thRickySeaScouts@gmail.com or call 07792 103736. For places in Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, please register your interest via our website: www.6thrickyseascouts.co.uk

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

TABERNACLE

As part of the redecoration of the church our tabernacle has been taken away to be refurbished. We have been loaned a tabernacle whilst this is being done.

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. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 4th February!

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

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 we are always looking for new volunteers (who will need to undergo a DBS check) so if you'd like to join us, please pop into the hall or contact Liz Purtil on lizpurtil@yahoo.co.uk or 07967 213963.

200 CLUB - JANUARY

Congratulations to John Steele £39, Michael Bridge Madden £29.25, Pauline Starck £19.50 and Catherine Kent £9.75

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

WEEKDAY MASS

There will be **no** 9.30am weekday Mass on Monday 12th February.

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!

READERS, WELCOMER'S AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION ROTA for January to March 2018 are available now at the back of the church.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

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.

FR PETER STEVENS

Maureen and Mary visited Fr Peter this week. He is looking a little more frail but happy and told us that he continues to pray for everyone in Chorleywood.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
10/11 Feb.	A Roberts	GF	M Latimer	U Lean	K Cottingham	F Holly	Peter & Don	A McReynolds
17/18 Feb.	D Gibney	T Hartney	E O'Sullivan	A Opie	M Golin	L Turnbull	Una & Carolyn	J Whelan

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).

VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing **12,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, two pairs of socks, gloves, toothbrush, toothpaste, information card and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP. Thank you.