



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) - 29TH APRIL 2018

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Today's gospel is from Christ's discourse at the Last Supper. He is preparing the disciples for mission, and reassuring them of his constant life-giving presence. In a clear analogy for the relationship between God and his people, Jesus tells them he is the "true vine". All those who respond to Jesus' call to abide with him become branches grafted to the vine. The Father is the owner of the vine. To abide in Jesus means to be in constant communion with him - to draw our strength from him, obey him, to love him and one another, resisting sin and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit. It means to know and give thanks that he is the source of our life and of every good thing we do; and that without him, we can do nothing.

Fruitfulness is not to be confused with success, nor productivity. Jesus is asking for relationships, connectedness, community. When we see our lives conforming to the example of Jesus - when we are loving, compassionate, humble, serving others - we know we are fruitful, as then our lives glorify God.

Yet fruitfulness is no guarantee of a pain free life. Pruning is needed to remove anything that inhibits growth, and it is ultimately for our spiritual benefit. Every branch that bears fruit is pruned in order to produce even more fruit, and no-one is exempt. Anger, pride, envy, selfishness - all this dead wood must go. God prunes his children as sees fit, and he alone decides the quality and quantity of fruit that pleases him. Even good things may have to be lost in order that other things may flourish. During this process remember God is close by, his hand is upon us - it is proof that he loves us personally and that we are his. Through faith, all the challenges and difficulties of our lives can be looked at as opportunities to become more Christ-like. If life is painful for you right now, consider prayerfully - what may be stopping your growth?

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Response to Psalm: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Communion Antiphon: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Next Sunday's Readings

Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £348.50; Loose Plate: £312.78; Standing Orders: £703.08 **Total: £1364.36**

Mill End: Envelopes: £323.00; Loose Plate: £195.23; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £695.19**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of March - **£2555.35**

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 29TH APRIL | 8.45am 12.15pm | First Communion Class Baptisms | St John Fisher St John the Evangelist |
| MON 30TH APRIL | 10.00am 10.30am - 11.30am 7.15pm - 8.45pm 8.00pm | SJF Ladies Meeting Mom's Connect - Hall Confirmation Course - Hall Choir Practice | Ilona's home Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist |
| TUE 1ST MAY | 5.30pm 6.00pm - 7.30pm 7.00pm 7.00pm | Rehearsal for 1 st Communion Mass (5 th May) Saints (school year 7-9 youth group) - Hall Rehearsal for 1 st Communion Mass (6 th May) PPC Meeting - Presbytery | Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians |
| WED 2ND MAY | | | |
| THU 3RD MAY | 8.00pm | Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall | Our Lady Help of Christians |
| FRI 4TH MAY | 10.00am 11.00am 7.00pm | Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Funeral - Peter Lynch RIP Evening of Prayer for the Three Parishes | Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians |
| SAT 5TH MAY | 10.30am 5.30pm 5.30pm | NO HOLY HOUR OR CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK First Holy Communion Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John Fisher |

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

| | Our Lady Help of Christians | St John the Evangelist | St John Fisher |
|--|--|--|---|
| SATURDAY 28 TH APRIL | 10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish | 6pm (Vigil) Maureen Bolitho RIP | 6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish |
| SUNDAY 29 TH APRIL <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i> | 8.30am Margaret Breen RIP 11am Sonia Guce RIP 6pm Margaret Connor RIP | 10.30am Siobhain Barnes RIP | 9am Private Intention |
| MONDAY 30 TH APRIL | 9.30am Fr Nicholas Kavanagh RIP | 9.30am Maude Lewis RIP | |
| TUESDAY 1 ST MAY | 9.30am Br Philip Lacare RIP | | 9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish |
| WEDNESDAY 2ND MAY <i>St ATHANASIUS, BISHOP</i> | | 9.30am Theresa Forestal RIP | |
| THURSDAY 3RD MAY <i>SS PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES</i> | 9.30am Daphne Wynn RIP | | |
| FRIDAY 4TH MAY <i>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</i> | 9.30am Connie Robinson RIP (Anniv) | | 9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish |
| SATURDAY 5 TH MAY | NO MASS TODAY | 6pm (Vigil) Mary & John Gibbs RIP | 6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish |
| SUNDAY 6 TH MAY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i> | 8.30am Frank Waters RIP (Anniv.) 11am Mike Townend RIP 6pm Heather Kean (Ints.) | 10.30am Bridie Rodgers RIP | 9am Michael Fields RIP |

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, Brenda Reynolds, 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 and Joan Townend.

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

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

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available at each parish. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

PETER LYNCH RIP

The funeral of Peter Lynch will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Friday 4th May** at **11.00am** followed by burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

On **Thursday 10th May** the Church celebrates the Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord. Being one of the major feasts in the Church's year, Thursday is therefore a holy day of obligation, meaning that Catholics should attend Mass that day. Please take note of the extra Masses being celebrated across the three parishes:

Our Lady Help of Christians - 9.30am and 8.00pm; St John Fisher - 9.30am; St John the Evangelist - 8.00pm.

NEWSLETTER

Please could notices for next weekend's newsletter be submitted to Kerry by **Tuesday 1st May** as it will be printed earlier than usual next week. Thank you.

"DIVINE RENOVATION" READING GROUPS

The Lenten Reading Groups were very well received, and enjoyed by around 60 parishioners across the three parishes - Fr Shaun and Fr Damian are now working through your feedback! Thank you to all who supported this event, and in particular the Group Hosts who so generously gave of their time and their homes.

Due to popularity of the Reading Groups, we are now planning to re-run the 6 week programme for those who were previously unable to join in. As before, *times and venues will be agreed once we know the level of interest*, so please do sign up on the sheets provided in the churches, before **Sunday 29th April**.

EVENING OF PRAYER FOR THE THREE PARISHES - FRIDAY 4TH MAY, 7.00PM

It is our commission and our vision to become parishes that make and send forth missionary disciples: so that all can form living, loving relationships with Jesus Christ and each other. There will be an Evening of Prayer for the Three Parishes in continued support of this vision at **Our Lady's, Rickmansworth** on **Friday 4th May, 7.00pm**. Please do join us for an hour of Scripture, Adoration, reflection and hymns of praise and worship; followed by tea, coffee and cake in the Hall. We hope the evening will also provide an opportunity for Lenten Reading Group members to reconnect and share their experience with others. Divine Renovation is filming stories of parishes that are moving from maintenance to mission. They will be with us filming on this evening, if you do not wish to be filmed, could you please sit towards the back of the side aisle.

A SPECIAL VISITOR

At the 6.00pm Mass at Our Lady's on **Sunday 6th May** we will be joined by Fr Simon Lobo. Fr Simon is now the Pastor (Parish Priest) at St Benedict's Parish, Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada. Fr Simon was previously the Associate Pastor in that parish, working with Fr James Mallon, the author of *Divine Renovation: Bringing your parish from maintenance to mission*. Fr Simon continues to work with Fr Mallon in sharing and developing this exciting vision of parish renewal with parishes in North America and around the world. Fr Simon has recently had his own book published: *Divine Renovation Apprentice: Learning to Lead a Disciple-Making Parish*. I am delighted to say that Fr Simon will be staying with us for a few days in the presbytery and that he has very kindly agreed to preach at the 6.00pm Mass at Our Lady's on 6th May. We very much look forward to welcoming him and hearing him. I hope that many of you will come and share in our celebration of Mass that evening and hear first-hand from Fr Simon how 'Divine Renovation' is being lived out at St Benedict's, where it all began! Divine Renovation is filming stories of parishes that are moving from maintenance to mission. They will be with us filming during this Mass, if you do not wish to be filmed, could you please sit towards the back of the side aisle. *Fr Shaun*

DIVINE RENOVATION - VISION DAY – SATURDAY 9TH JUNE

On Saturday 9th June there will be a Divine Renovation Vision Day at the Niland Centre, Bushey. This will take the place of the Day of Recollection for Readers, Ministers of Communion and Welcomers, and will be open to all parishioners who exercise any ministry at all in the parish. The day will be an opportunity to explore more deeply together the vision of Divine Renovation for the spiritual renewal of our three parishes and also an opportunity for you to hear more about Alpha and how it will work in our parishes. The day will take the form of prayer, priest and lay presentations, group discussions and Q&A. There is no charge for the day; we simply ask that everyone bring something for our shared lunch together. Forms are available in each parish this weekend for you to book your place. We are limited to a maximum of 100 places, so don't miss out – get your completed form back to us as soon as possible in order to secure your place. Places will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. If we are oversubscribed we will have a reserve list, in case of later cancellations.

COMPOSTELA PRILGRIMAGE TRAINING WALKS - ALL WELCOME!

The next walk is **Saturday 5th May**. The route will be Our Lady's Church - Springwell Lane - Long Lane - Bottom Wood - Dumb Bell (P.H.) - Swillett - Black Horse (P.H.) - Our Lady's Church. This will be about 13 miles. Future walks will take place on 12th and 19th May. All the walks depart from Our Lady's at 9am. All parishioners are welcome to join us.

FILM NIGHT IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - Friday 18th May at Christ Church, Chorleywood

"A United Kingdom" is the story of King Seretse Khama of Botswana and how his loving, but controversial marriage to Ruth Williams, a British white woman, put his kingdom into political and diplomatic turmoil. Doors open at 7.15pm & film starts at 7.45pm - entry free! Soft drinks and nibbles are provided for generous donations! All are most welcome.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

Are appealing for donations of long-life milk, toilet rolls and cleaning detergents for the Catholic Worker Farm who provide accommodation for refugees at the farm and at Mary House. Collection boxes in the church porches. *Could we politely ask that nothing else be left in the porch other than the requested items.* Thank you.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

First Communion Masses will take place on 5th May and 12th May at 10.30am. Rehearsals will take place in the church at **5.30pm** on a weekday preceding your child's First Communion Mass (Tuesday 1st May and Tuesday 8th May).

SATURDAY MORNING MASS, HOLY HOUR AND CONFESSIONS DURING MAY

Due to First Holy Communion Masses there will be **NO** 10.00am Mass, Holy Hour or Confessions on **Saturday 5th May** and **Saturday 12th May**. Mass, Holy Hour and Confessions will be as normal as from Saturday 19th May.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the PPC will take place on **Tuesday 1st May**. As there is currently no chair in post, if parishioners have any ideas or suggestions they would like discussed, please contact Fr Shaun - shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk or the parish office - rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

THE AFTERPARTY

The next Afterparty will be on **6th May** after 6.00pm Mass in the hall at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth. Starts 7.00pm-ish, finish 8.00pm. Ping pong, foosball, hot chocolate & tea. Everyone is warmly invited, especially families with teenagers.

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS - please join us in the hall for our coffee morning after Mass next Sunday.

COME AND JOIN THE 11.00AM MASS CHOIR!

Would you like to sing in the 11am choir? We practise from 10 most Sundays (restarting on May 13th). It's a lovely way to contribute to the Mass - no experience needed, and you don't need to read music. Contact Cormac on 07759 118770 or cormac.purtill@gmail.com, or just turn up!

APF MISSIO - would promoters please collect the Spring Magazines from the church porch. Thank you.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

First Communion Masses will take place on 6th May and 13th 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 1st May and Tuesday 8th May).

HEALTH AND SAFETY – FIRE PROCEDURES

As a parish we are constantly reviewing safety including the risk of fire at our church. As with any public building we are developing a fire plan and will in some point in the future have a fire drill. Please take the time over the next few weeks to familiarise yourself with the fire precautions already in place. There are 3 green marked designated fire exits in the main church area, through the front door and through the sacristy and into the hall. Once in the hall area, there is an exit from the hallway, and in the hall itself exits on both sides of the hall. The designated meeting point is at the top of the hill up towards the entrance to the church, this is where for children in the liturgy group and any altar servers will be taken for parents to collect. All other parishioners, head away a safe distance from the church or leave the site to allow quick access for firefighters, do not return to the church or car park until the all clear is given. We are also setting up roles of fire wardens to help if the situation ever occurs, they are aware of all exits, and where extinguishers and fire blankets are placed around the buildings. There will be a fire warden at each Mass, they will be distinguished by an armband and an extra fire blanket, they are there to guide, check only if safe that the church is empty and liaise with the fire fighters. A designated parish member on the Sunday Mass will have the role to solely alert the children's liturgy. There is a possibility that you are familiar with this scenario through your workplace. We are in need for more volunteers to share the load, so please speak to Father Shaun if you can assist. Full fire safety details will be available on the outside noticeboard and in the hallway and also designated meeting points displayed around the buildings.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PENTECOST NIGHT OF ECUMENICAL PRAYER AND WORSHIP EVENT

There will be a night of praise and worship on Saturday 19th May from 7.30pm at Hillside Baptist Church, Chorleywood for all the churches in the local area. A warm invitation is extended to come and join us in seeking the Lord, glorifying his precious name and praying for his kingdom to come!

COFFEE AND TEA NEXT SUNDAY - all are welcome to stay for a cup of coffee or tea after Mass next Sunday.

LADIES' MEETING - the next meeting will be on Monday 30th April at Ilona's home, 10 Green Street at 10am. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MARKET – 17 & 18 MAY

Please note the silent auction will start next weekend. Do come and see the wonderful goods we have to offer. Thank you for the items you are kindly bringing and leaving in the kitchen.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTORS NEEDED PLEASE

I still need volunteers to deliver and collect envelopes in these areas please: LHS Green Street (even numbers and collecting only as the Beavers will be delivering); Chenies Road (from traffic lights on A404 to St Clement Danes School); Woodland Lane + Common Road from junction with Woodland Lane to traffic lights + Rickmansworth Road from traffic lights at junction with Common Road to junction with Dog Kennel Lane. Envelopes need delivering between 6-12 May and collecting (I only go once) between 13-18 May. If you can help, please let me know. Thank you very much indeed. *Maureen* (07989 067109)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTORS' RED BAGS

Your red bags are ready for collection in the lounge. Thank you! *Maureen*

| ROTAS | Saturday 6.00pm Mass | | | Sunday 9.00am Mass | | | Sunday Counters | Laundry |
|-------------|----------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|----------|------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | Welcomer | Reader | MoC | Welcomer | Reader | Communion | | |
| 28/29 April | GF | A Penn | D Gibney | J Hale | T D'Urso | F Holly | Marguerite & Yasmin | T Price |
| 5/6 May | E O'Sullivan | M Foggo | M Latimer | M Fields | T D'Urso | L Turnbull | Peter & Don | A McReynolds |



Saints (school year 7-9)

Games, food & reflection

Year 6's are invited to our youth group after Easter! Next one takes place Tuesday 1st May, 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. You're so welcome! No need to sign up, just come along on the evening.