



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:

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Assistant Priest:

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Parish Administrator:

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TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 9TH SEPTEMBER 2018

SUNDAY THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, Jesus heals a deaf man with a speech impediment, with an unusually intimate method. Placing his finger in the man's ears and touching his tongue with spittle, he looks to heaven and says "Ephphatha!", which means "Be opened!" This ritual is sometimes used in baptisms - the priest touches the child's ears and mouth with his thumb: "ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

Our second reading is a lesson in discipleship, reminding us of the impartiality needed if we are to follow Jesus. It is natural to feel more comfortable with people similar to ourselves, rather than with those who are very different. But this is not the Christian way - we must become aware of our boundaries and seek to live beyond them. In baptism we are healed - "opened" - so that we may hear God's word and thus proclaim God's deeds. But we are blind and deaf when we show favouritism or discrimination because of the status and wealth of other people. We are deaf when we refuse to recognise those who suffer around us, and do not acknowledge situations of inequality, injustice, poverty and marginalisation. We are deaf when we turn inward and close ourselves to the world because of selfishness, pride, anger, jealousy and our inability to forgive.

Mark tells us that Jesus has crossed the Jewish border to bring the Good News to the gentiles: *God's power is the power to save*. It is the power to change the one being saved in ways so immeasurable, as to change the individual for a life-time. We too must cross the borders to reach those who do not belong to us socially or religiously. The afflicted man in today's Gospel does not come to Jesus alone, but is brought to him by other members of the community. What faith on the part of these people! They believed that Jesus could heal his afflictions. As Christians, we believe this too - so who are we bringing to Jesus?

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Response to Psalm: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

2nd Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Communion Antiphon: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the Living God.

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 50:5-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £470.53; Loose Plate: £346.32; Standing Orders: £703.08 **Total: £1519.93**

Mill End: Envelopes: £186.50; Loose Plate: £89.70; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £453.16**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of August - **To be advised**

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 9TH SEPTEMBER	10 am 12 noon	Tea and Coffee after Mass Baptism	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
MON 10TH SEPTEMBER	10.30am - 11.30am 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 11TH SEPTEMBER			
WED 12TH SEPTEMBER	7.30pm	Choir Rehearsal	St John Fisher
THU 13TH SEPTEMBER	2.15pm for 2.30pm 8.00pm	Quiet Space Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St Peter's, Mill End Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 14TH SEPTEMBER	10.00am 7.00pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Confirmation Information Meeting - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 15TH SEPTEMBER	10.30am - 11.30am 1.00pm 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Wedding 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 8TH SEPTEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	10.00am Fr Michael Durand RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Rafael Solis Garcia RIP
SUNDAY 9 TH SEPTEMBER <i>23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Pat Byrne RIP 11am Christopher Williams RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Jonathan Pione RIP	10.30am Lesley Ann Johnston RIP	9am Molly & Michael O'Sullivan RIP
MONDAY 10 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	9.30am Leonore Moritz (Ints.)	
TUESDAY 11 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Fr Michael Durand RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 12 TH SEPTEMBER		9.30am Margaret Tighe (Ints.)	
THURS 13TH SEPTEMBER <i>St JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP & DOCTOR</i>	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		
FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER <i>THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS</i>	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SAT. 15TH SEPTEMBER <i>OUR LADY OF SORROWS</i>	10.00am Fr Michael Durand RIP	6pm (Vigil) Eddie McLoughlin RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) Pat Finucane (Ints.)
SUNDAY 16 TH SEPTEMBER <i>24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Luciana Beardmore RIP 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Myrtle Borthwick 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, 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, Joan Townend and Clive Powell-Williams.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray; Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, John Connor, Michael Dixon, Audrey Lewin, Mary Gardner and Robert Gibson.

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, Kitty Finucane, Don Williamson, Barbara Marke, Betty McGuinness, Anne Trenchard and Vicky Williams.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THE LAUNCH OF ALPHA

This Autumn our three parishes are launching Alpha. It will run on Tuesdays from 25th September to 4th December at 7.30-9.30pm at Our Lady's parish hall. Alpha is an opportunity for everyone and anyone to explore the big questions: life, faith and meaning. Each evening typically includes food, a short and engaging video which is designed to generate conversation, and a small group discussion where there's no obligation to say anything and there is nothing you can't say (seriously!) We are encouraging as many parishioners as possible to try Alpha and to invite friends who don't go to church. Places will have to be limited due to constraints on space this time around, so book early to secure a place. You will be able to register for Alpha this weekend after all Masses by filling out one of the Alpha registration forms at the back of the church and handing it in to Fr Shaun or Fr Damian. Alpha is free of charge but there is a small suggested donation towards the food. You will be hearing more about it at all Masses this weekend.

OPEN PARISH MEETINGS

Before the summer holidays I notified you of open parish meetings which will take place in each parish during September. The dates and venues are as follows:

Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – Sunday 23rd September at 3.30pm – Our Lady's Hall

St. John Fisher, Chorleywood – Monday 24th September at 7.30pm

St John's, Mill End – Sunday 30th September at 12 noon – St John's Parish Centre

Parishioners from across the three parishes are welcome to attend whichever meeting is most convenient for them. The agenda for the three meetings is exactly the same and there are three major items for presentation and discussion:

The Draft Terms of Reference for the Joint Parish Pastoral Council (JPPC)

The Future Provision of Masses for the Easter Triduum

A proposal for the adoption of a common identifying name for our three parishes

The draft Terms of Reference for the JPPC and explanatory papers for items 2 and 3 are now available on each parish website under the **Open Parish Meetings** tab. Parishioners are invited to download these in advance of the meetings. A few 'hard' copies of all these papers are available in each parish for those who do not have access to the internet at home. I encourage all parishioners to attend one of these important meetings in September. *Fr Shaun*

QUIZ NIGHT - Saturday 13th October at Our Lady's Hall

This event is going to raise money for the SVP and their many good works. Please come from all three parishes to make this a great success. We are having a catered curry and a bar. Best of all ridiculously easy questions or are they! Put this in your diary. Tickets available soon.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – SECONDARY TRANSFER 2020

Parents with a child who will be applying for a Secondary transfer place in a Catholic School for **September 2020** are asked to collect a letter and Mass attendance card from Fr Shaun or Fr Damian after Mass this weekend. Please read the letter carefully, as it contains **very important** information regarding what is required of you in order for us to be able to provide a Certificate of Catholic Practice for your family.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – SECONDARY TRANSFER SEPTEMBER 2019 FORM SIGNING

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice for Secondary Transfer 2019 on the following days: **Tuesday 2nd October** – 5.00pm to 6.00pm; **Saturday 6th October** – 2.00pm to 3.00pm and **Monday 8th October** – 6.00pm to 7.00pm. All three sessions will be held in Our Lady's Hall, Rickmansworth. There is no need to make an individual appointment; please just turn up for the date and time that best suits you. **Please be sure to bring your Mass attendance card.** If you have been regularly attending Sunday Mass elsewhere please remember to bring the documentation outlined in the letter which accompanied your Mass attendance card.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

We will very soon be beginning the RCIA process for those adults who are considering becoming Roman Catholics and for those adult Catholics who have not received the sacrament of Confirmation and now wish to complete their Christian initiation. Leaflets with information about the RCIA process are available at the back of the church. Please complete the "About You" section on the leaflet and return it to Fr Shaun this week.

CONFIRMATION

Parents and their teenagers, who have received their first Holy Communion, are in year 9 or above, and who would like to be confirmed in the summer term of 2019, are invited to come to hear and discuss our new vision for youth and Confirmation on **Friday 14th September**, 7-8pm, at Our Lady's parish hall. Please, email Fr Damian if you're planning to attend, or if you're interested in being confirmed but unable to attend that day and time.

YOUTH

Our three parishes are introducing an exciting new series for young people called Alpha Youth. Alpha Youth is an opportunity for every young person to explore life's big questions. Whether they go to church or are of no faith background whatsoever, all are welcome to explore life and faith in a relaxed, open, and non-judgemental way, with good food and fun games. It is a weekly series starting **Friday 28th September** 7-8.45pm, and finishing **Friday 14th December** 7-8.45pm. We hope that all of the young people from years 7 to 11 will take this opportunity to explore life, faith, and meaning and bring their friends, whether Catholic or non-Catholic. Please, email Anke Vos by **Monday 17th September** to let us know you're coming. We believe you'll enjoy it and will want to come back for more!

WOMEN'S WORLD OF PRAYER

WWDP was cancelled in March 2018 due to snow. We are pleased to let you know another date has been arranged for the celebration. **Friday 21st September** at **2.30pm**. Methodist Church, Berry Lane, Rickmansworth. Please do come along and celebrate this day of prayer followed by tea and cakes afterwards. Everyone is welcome - all you gentlemen as well. If you would like any more information please speak to Cristina MacGillivray or Geraldine Page.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next SVP Community Lunch is on **Sunday 16th September** 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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The rota for September - November was sent out earlier this summer. Please let us know if you did not receive it or would like a paper copy. Thank you. Richard and Angela

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Michael Bridge Madden (£42), Heather Kean (£31.50), Liz Waddington (£21), Imogen Barrett (£10.50).

200 CLUB

The 200 Club begins again in October and if anyone is interested in joining (or cancelling their membership) please contact Kerry on 01923 773387 for further details. The membership fee is due by mid September for those who pay their annual subscription (£60) by cheque.

HELP NEEDED – FIRE WARDENS FOR 11.00AM MASS

We need some more volunteers to act as Fire Wardens at the 11.00am Sunday Masses. It is not an onerous duty and some training would be given. If you would be willing to help with this please contact Fr Shaun.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

RED MISSIO BOXES.

Could you please bring these to church over the next couple of weeks to be emptied and collect your copy of Mission Today. Thank you, Geraldine.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

HELEN FORREST RIP

It is with sadness that we share the death of Helen Forrest. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time. Details of her funeral arrangements will be announced in due course

NEW MASS DUTY ROTAS

The new rotas start weekend of 29/30 September. Would Welcomers, Readers and Ministers of Communion please take their copy from the lobby. Thank you. *Maureen*

WEEK DAY MASS - there will be no Mass here on Tuesday 11th September and Tuesday 25th September.

COFFEE AND TEA will be available after Mass this Sunday. Everyone is welcome to stay for a cup.

RED APF/MISSIO BOXES

I hope you have all had a good Summer break and it is now time, once again, to bring your boxes to Church for the September collection. Thank you very much, Mary.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
8 & 9 Sept.	C Pierce	E Page	M Latimer	U Lean	A Opie	E Price	Yasmin & Marguerite	S Tarrant
15 & 16 Sept.	GF	C Pierce	C Johnson	M Mackie	M Calvert	F Holly	Kate & Una	V Terrill

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals will be here on Sunday 23rd September *before* Mass starts - the van will leave just before the start of Mass (by 9am at St John Fisher, 10.30am at St John the Evangelist and 11am at Our Lady's). Please remember to bring along all your unwanted clothing/bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*) in tied sacks. Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

QUIET SPACE - LECTIO DIVINA

There will be two opportunities each month to meet in quiet prayer. For further information see flyers at the back of the church or contact Kathy 07712 626169 or Anne 07810 805900

GENERAL NOTICES

HERTFORDSHIRE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Classical concert in aid of Watford Mencap at The Clarendon Muse, Watford Grammar School for Boys on **Saturday 15th September at 7.30pm**. Tickets £15, Concessions £8. Call 01923 713637 or email ajenshil@watfordmencap.org.uk

KERALA FLOODS: AN SVP APPEAL

As you've probably seen in the media, terrible floods have been taking place in Kerala in southern India. Hundreds of people have been killed and many more are missing; countless homes have been washed away, and the monsoon season is set to continue until early September. Kerala is the most Christian state in India – it has more churches than any other region. The leading Catholic volunteering charity, the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), is very active there and they are doing great work helping the victims of the flood in local communities. However, they desperately need funds. Please contribute to the SVP's Kerala appeal. To donate visit www.svp.org.uk, telephone 020 7703 3030 or send cheques made out to SVP (write 'Kerala appeal' on the back) to SVP, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. And please remember our sisters and brothers in Kerala in your prayers.

CHURCHES IN CROXLEY GREEN CIO...

Are looking to appoint a Parish Nurse to work for approximately 5 hours a week, alongside the local ministers and existing health professionals to bring holistic care to the people of Croxley Green. Please contact *Rev Miriam Mugan of All Saints Church* at miriam.mugan@btoopenworld.com or *Rev Lisa Kerry of Croxley Green Baptist Church* at lkerry@aol.com. Closing date for applications is 20th September 2018. Find out more about us here www.croxleyparishnurse.org