



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
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Assistant Priest:
Fr Damian Ryan
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Parish Administrator:
Kerry Van Rensburg
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 24TH MARCH 2019

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Conversion is not one single event, but a continual summons to align our lives with an ever-deepening knowledge of God. The Corinthians were good Christians, but there were also negative aspects: dissent, immorality, envy. St. Paul warns them against presuming that celebration of Baptism and Eucharist automatically guarantees salvation. The Old Testament ancestors in the desert had been “saved”, yet nonetheless they fell away.

No matter how much we are nurtured and cared for by the Eucharist, God's Word and the Holy Spirit, there is no guarantee that we will naturally bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This is why Jesus is so direct in his words: “if you do not repent, you will all perish”. Maybe this seems harsh, as we know Christ to be merciful and compassionate. However, in speaking this way, his compassion and mercy is not diminished - he does so because he truly loves us and sees what we cannot.

Today's Gospel recalls two incidents involving large-scale loss of life: a massacre, and the fall of a tower. From these, Jesus make a prophetic point with the parable of the fig tree: these examples of sudden, unforeseen death are a warning that our time left for conversion may be short. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. How many Lenten journeys have we made - and with what profit to show? How many Lents will we see in the future? If you think of yourself as a fig tree - do you bear fruit? If you don't, should you be cut down and destroyed, since you are useless in terms of your purpose in life? And yet... God is merciful. Just as God is love, so God is also patient. With the intercession of Jesus our gardener, the Father delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he asks from us, even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Time and time again, God offers us the opportunity to change, repent and start again.

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish
Dave Pione 01923 772606

Mill End Parish
Matt McKiernan 01923 493747

Chorleywood Parish
Jennifer McEwen 01923 284402

**Diocesan Safeguarding
Coordinator** 0207 798 9356

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

1st Reading: Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Response to Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Next Sunday's Readings

Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3. 11-32 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £323.87; Loose Plate: £481.09; Standing Orders: £703.08 **Total: £1508.04**

Mill End: Envelopes: £326.60; Loose Plate: £186.67; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £690.23**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of February - **£2359.71**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 24TH MARCH	8.45am 9.15am	First Communion Class First Communion Class - Hall	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
MON 25TH MARCH	10.00am for 10.15am 10.30am - 11.30am 5.30pm 8.00pm	Quiet Space - Upper Room Mum's Connect - Hall First Communion Class - Hall Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 26TH MARCH	7.30pm - 9.30pm 7.30pm	Alpha - Hall RCIA	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
WED 27TH MARCH	7.45pm	First Communion Parent's Meeting - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 28TH MARCH	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 29TH MARCH	10.00am 7.00pm - 8.45pm 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Alpha Youth - Hall Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 30TH MARCH	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 23 RD MARCH	10.00am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Eve Clark (Ints.)	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 24 TH MARCH <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Mary & Evandro Girolami RIP 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm Humberto Munoz RIP	10.30am Elizabeth Lyons RIP	9am Margie Kavanagh RIP
MONDAY 25TH MARCH <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish	9.30am Sean Conway RIP	
TUESDAY 26 TH MARCH	9.30am Fr Gerry Burke RIP		9.30am Fr Gerry Burke RIP
WEDNESDAY 27 TH MARCH		9.30am Declena Keely	
THURSDAY 28 TH MARCH	9.30am Frank & Denise Waters RIP		
FRIDAY 29 TH MARCH	9.30am Mary Robinson RIP		9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 30 TH MARCH	10.00am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Jimmy Hughes RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 31 ST MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Stanislaus Stephen RIP 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Charles Dunleavy RIP	9am Malcolm Stacey 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, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Christina Thomas, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townsend and Maureen Douglas.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray; Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, John Connor, Michael Dixon, 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, Betty McGuinness, Anne Trenchard, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn (please, no phone calls)

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION DURING LENT

During Lent we are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in preparation for Easter. Opportunities to celebrate the sacrament in the parishes will be as follows:

Saturday 30th March – 10.30am to 11.30am – Fr Shaun – Our Lady's

Monday 1st April – **Holy Hour** – 7.30pm to 8.30pm – Fr Tim Dean & Fr Shaun – Our Lady's

Saturday 6th April – 10.30am to 11.30am – a priest from Holy Rood, Watford – Our Lady's

Wednesday 10th April – **Holy Hour** – 7.30pm to 8.30pm – Fr Shaun – St John's, Mill End

Saturday 13th April – 10.30am to 11.30am – a priest from Holy Rood, Watford – Our Lady's

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LORETO, RAVENNA, BOLOGNA AND FERRARA

There are still places available on the parish pilgrimage to Loreto, Ravenna, Bologna and Ferrara from 28th September to 5th October 2019. Unfortunately we don't have any single rooms left, but twin room and doubles are still available. We currently have 20 parishioners signed-up for the pilgrimage - it would be wonderful if we could reach 24 or even 26! Pilgrimage brochures and booking forms are available in each parish this weekend.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS MEETING - Wednesday 27th March

Parents are reminded that there will be a meeting with Fr Shaun at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Hall.

FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND PREMISES COMMITTEES (FOPs)

As part of our transition from three pastoral councils to one Joint Parish Pastoral Council (JPPC) to serve the three parishes, the existing Finance Committees in each parish have now been re-designated as *Finance, Operations and Premises Committees* (FOPs). As well as broadening their remit to cover all operational matters relating to the practical day-to-day smoothing running of the parishes, I am also appointing two new (non-finance background) parishioners to serve on each FOP, as follows:

Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – Louise Leahy and Michael Curtin

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Rosemary Ellis and Malcolm Golin

St John's, Mill End – Allyson O'Grady and Bo Bambridge

I am very grateful to these six parishioners for accepting my invitation to join the FOP of their respective parish and I very much look forward to working with them and the continuing members in ensuring the prudent management of parish finances, the upkeep and development of our parish properties and the smooth-running of our day-to-day operations. *Fr Shaun*

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT) AND JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (JPPC)

Now that all three parishes have elected their new members to serve on the JPPC, the full membership of the JPPC, and its Terms of Reference, are available on the new *Senior Leadership Team and Joint Parish Pastoral Council* tab of the three parish websites. There (as the name suggests) you will also find information about the SLT.

HOLY WEEK TRIDUUM

In the autumn of 2018 the Pastoral Councils of the three parishes jointly agreed that from 2019 onwards there would be only two celebrations of Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil across the three parishes instead of three. It was also agreed that each parish will continue to have the Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord. Once every three years each parish will have a full celebration of the Triduum. This year St John's, Mill End will not have a celebration of Holy Thursday and St John Fisher, Chorleywood will not have a celebration of the Easter Vigil. Parishioners of the parish without a celebration of Holy Thursday or the Easter Vigil are encouraged and warmly invited to participate in the respective celebration in one of the other two parishes.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2019

This year the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal has a special focus on food poverty. If you have not done so already, please pick up a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of church for more information. Please read and pray for its aims, and if you choose to do so, please give generously. Thank you.

MEMORIAL STONES FOR THE GARDEN OF REST

Both stones have now been installed in the Garden of Rest. On **Saturday 6th April at 2.30pm** Fr Shaun will bless the stones in a short ceremony in the Garden of Rest.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

As usual, Stations of the Cross will rotate around the three parishes on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30pm.

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*

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Planned giving envelopes are available for collection this weekend. Please make sure that the address on your box of envelopes is correct.

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 (2018/19 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.

THREE PARISH WALKING GROUP

We start the new season at 9.30am **Saturday 13th April** at Our Lady's with a 7 mile circular walk to Cassiobury via the Chess Valley and cross-country to the GU canal returning to Ricky for (optional) refreshment at the White Bear, Batchworth at about mid-day. Everyone very welcome to join us. Enquiries please to billgraham1888@gmail.com

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

LOST CAR KEY

Did anyone pick up a Peugeot car key a couple of Sundays ago? Please have a look, and if you find it, contact Kerry at the parish office.

THE AFTERPARTY

The Afterparty resumes on **Sunday 7th April** after the 6.00pm Mass so starts at about 7.00pm, in the parish hall just behind Our Lady's church. There will be tea and hot chocolate waiting for you, as well as ping pong and table football. Everyone is warmly invited to come along.

EASTER CARDS on sale in repository.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Many thanks to all who have saved their used stamps for the Missions. Everyone's small contributions can make a difference. The box is in the church porch. Please keep them coming! *Sheila Harrington.*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

RED MISSIO BOXES.

Could you please bring these to church by the end of March to be emptied, and collect your copy of Mission Today. Thank you. *Geraldine*

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon and sausage rolls) will take place on **Sunday 31st March** 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!

COFFEE AND TEA AFTER 10.30AM MASS

A reminder that tea and coffee is available in the parish hall after the 10.30am Mass each Sunday. Do please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM) MINUTES

The Minutes of the parish APM are now on the notice board and on the parish website. A few 'hard' copies are available in the lobby for those without access to the internet.

JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (JPPC)

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 11th March, Yasmin Lakin and Francis Holly were elected as the two new St John Fisher members of the JPPC. They will join Maggie Stacey and Toni D'Urso in forming the St John Fisher Core Group on the JPPC. I am very much looking forward to working with the JPPC as a whole in planning strategically for the continued development of parish renewal process, following principles of *Divine Renovation*. Full details of the JPPC membership and its Terms of Reference can be found on the new *Senior Leadership Team and Joint Parish Pastoral Council* tab of the three parish websites. *Fr Shaun*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Good Friday, 19th April at 11.00am, hospitality to worshippers from the Crossroads (**can you help?**); 12th-18th May, Christian Aid Week; Saturday 30th November, Charity Christmas Fair.

RED APF/MISSIO BOXES

Please bring your boxes to church by Sunday 24th March for the March collection. Thank you.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
23 & 24 March	GF	S Hoy	M Latimer	M Mackie	C Holly	J Hale	Patsy & Peter	C Steet
30 & 31 March	M Bychawski	M Foggo	P Goble	U Lean	M Golin	AM Farnsworth	Francis & Kate	J Whelan

DIOCESAN NOTICES

CAFOD Emergency Cyclone Idai Appeal

If you would like to support CAFOD's emergency appeal, there are envelopes available at each parish this weekend. Your donation will give food, clean water and healthcare to people in desperate need. Gabriel, our expert working with the Church in Mozambique at this time, tells us: "We know that Idai has wiped out crops and livestock, damaged water supplies and wrecked sanitation facilities, leaving vulnerable families even more exposed. With the support and generosity of the Catholic community, we can reach the people who really need urgent emergency aid."

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: THE YEAR OF THE WORD

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales are conducting a short survey about how we engage with the Bible as part of our preparations for our 2020 Initiative - "The God who Speaks: The Year of the Word". We will then conduct an identical survey at the end of 2020 and compare the data. We would be very grateful if you completed this short survey as it will help us to provide the right focus, activities and resources for 2020 as well as supporting dioceses going forward. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LDGRCYM>

CARDINAL'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 8th June 2019 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 2019. 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) by **Sunday 24th March**.