



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:
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Parish Administrator:
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY) - 31ST MARCH 2019

SUNDAY THOUGHT

As we reach Laetare Sunday, half way through Lent, our readings encourage us with great reasons to “Rejoice”. The Hebrews celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land; Paul tells us that Christ has reconciled us to the Father; and the prodigal son is welcomed back home. All invite us to recognise the joy that will be ours if we are wholehearted in our turning to God.

St. Paul tells us that having been transformed by our baptism, we should be instrumental in the transformation of others - exactly what the scribes and Pharisees were not doing. They may have been transformed by their relationship with God but they were doing nothing to help transform others. Blinded by prejudice, they don't see the good that Jesus does in sharing the Gospel message without discrimination. In the eyes of the Pharisees, a sinner cannot change his ways - but the Gospel message is that with God's help anyone can change, and the power of the Gospel lies in love. The theologian Hans Urs Von Balthasar wrote: “The decisive thing is that the sinner has heard of a love that could be, and really is, there for him...”. Conversion is not simply a “bad” person becoming “good”, but any person experiencing the love of God.

Neither son knew their own father's heart. When the younger son decides to return home, he doesn't know that he will be welcomed back by his father, who is merciful and wants nothing else but his return. The older son is dutiful but distant, like the Pharisees who are obedient to God but without really loving him. Do we find ourselves distant from God because we do not truly know his heart? The father says to the elder son, “everything I have is yours” - our Father constantly opens his arms to us with the same beautiful message: “Everything I have is yours”. During the remainder of this season of Lent let's try to get to know our Father's heart better; and may we, who have been forgiven so much, embrace and extend this same love and forgiveness to every person.

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish
Dave Pione 01923 772606

Mill End Parish
Matt McKiernan 01923 493747

Chorleywood Parish
Laura Turnbull 01923 897899

**Diocesan Safeguarding
Coordinator** 0207 798 9356

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

1st Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Response to Psalm: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

Communion Antiphon: You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead
and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £457.00; Loose Plate: £363.40; Standing Orders: £703.08 **Total: £1523.48**

Mill End: Envelopes: £281.50; Loose Plate: £157.72; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £616.18**

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 31TH MARCH	8.45am 9.15am 11.30am	First Communion Class First Communion Class - Hall Sunday Brunch - Hall	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
MON 1ST APRIL	10.30am - 11.30am 5.30pm 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall First Communion Class - Hall Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 2ND APRIL	7.30pm - 9.30pm 7.30pm	Alpha - Hall RCIA	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
WED 3RD APRIL			
THU 4TH APRIL	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 5TH APRIL	10.00am 7.00pm - 8.45pm 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Alpha Youth (Celebration Night) - Hall Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SAT 6TH APRIL	10.30am - 11.30am 2.30pm 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Ceremony to bless the Memorial Stones 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
SATURDAY 30 TH MARCH	10.00am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Jimmy Hughes RIP	6pm (Vigil) Monica Flynn RIP
SUNDAY 31 ST MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)</i>	8.30am Stanislaus Stephen RIP 11am Charlotte & George Louis RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Charles Dunleavy RIP	9am Malcolm Stacey RIP
MONDAY 1 ST APRIL	9.30am Reddy Sequeira RIP	9.30am Thomas Daly RIP (Anniv.)	
TUESDAY 2 ND APRIL	9.30am Timothy O'Driscoll RIP (Anniv.)		9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 3 RD APRIL		9.30am Johnny Brennan RIP	
THURSDAY 4 TH APRIL	9.30am Isabel Montesdeoca (Ints.)		
FRIDAY 5 TH APRIL	9.30am Peter Price RIP		9.30am Fr Gerry Burke RIP
SATURDAY 6 TH APRIL	10.00am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) John & Mary Gibbs RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 7 TH APRIL <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Tess Logan RIP (Anniv.) 11am Kevin Ford RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Charles Dunleavy 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, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Christina Thomas, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townend 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

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We wish all mothers and grandmothers a wonderful Mothering Sunday. At the end of all the Masses this weekend there will be a special blessing for all the mothers and grandmothers present.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE – FRIDAY 12th APRIL 2019

In February 2016, Pope Francis asked each Bishops' Conference to establish a Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. In response, the Bishops of England and Wales designated the Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent to be observed as this Day of Prayer. This year, therefore, the Day of Prayer is Friday 12th April. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked that this Day of Prayer be observed in the parishes of our Diocese. Day by day, the pain of those who have suffered abuse, and its lasting corrosive impact, are brought more fully into the light. The pain of that betrayal of trust is all the more profound when the abuse took place within the community of the Catholic Church. We also see so clearly the failures in leadership in the Church that have exacerbated the sufferings of those who have been abused. We have plenty of reasons to pray. We pray for those who bear this pain. We pray for their strength and perseverance. We pray for those who have been caught up in the circles of mistrust, silence and complicity which emanate from this abuse. We seek repentance and renewal for all who have failed in their duty to protect and respond to the victims of these crimes. We pray for a renewal in the life of our Church that has become a lodging place for this evil. We pray in confidence that the Lord does not abandon His Church but constantly calls us to purify our ways of life. We pray with Mary, our holy Mother, and finest expression of our Holy Mother, the Church. Consequently, on **Friday 12th April** we will have an extended period of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady's, after the 9.30am Mass – from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Special prayers for victims and survivors of abuse will be available for use by individuals. In each parish this weekend there will be a sign-up list for those who would be willing to commit to praying before the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour or an hour. *Fr Shaun*

JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (JPPC) – ELECTIONS AND MINUTES

On Monday 25th March the first meeting of the new JPPC took place. At that meeting the following were elected to offices on the JPPC:

Sharon Blayney – elected as Chair of the JPPC

Yasmin Lakin – elected as Secretary of the JPPC

Judy Gordon – elected as Our Lady's Vice-Chair of the JPPC

Toni D'Urso – elected as St John Fisher Vice-Chair of the JPPC

Maria Crossland – elected as St John the Evangelist Vice Chair of the JPPC

All of them will serve a term of one year, but may be re-elected during their term of service on the JPPC. I thank them all for taking on these important responsibilities. The Minutes of the first meeting of the JPPC are now available on the notice boards of the three parishes and their respective websites. A few 'hard' copies are also available in each parish for those without access to the internet. *Fr Shaun*

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:

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 – Fr Joseph Okoro 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 – Fr Derek McGuire 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.

ALPHA YOUTH CELEBRATION NIGHT - FRIDAY 5TH APRIL

We're wrapping up this season's Alpha Youth Course with a celebration night on Friday 5th April - 7.00pm to 8.45pm at Our Lady's Hall. Friends, family (including young children), and anyone interested are very welcome to come and join us. Pizza, pancakes and refreshments will be served.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS

Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends at our coffee morning after Mass next Sunday.

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!

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

NEW MASS DUTY ROTAS

Would Welcomers, Readers and Ministers of Communion please pick up their copy from the lobby.

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.

APF MISSIO RED BOXES

Thank you so much for all your boxes. We reached an excellent total for March of £123.94.

SILVER FOIL AND CANS COLLECTION

I am now spreading my wings (call me Mrs Steptoe!) and will be happy to receive old cooking pots and oven pans, particularly aluminium. I would be happy to arrange collection of larger items e.g. broken aluminium ladders etc. Thank you, Mary 284975.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
30 & 31 March	M Bychawski	M Foggo	P Goble	U Lean	M Golin	AM Farnsworth	Francis & Kate	J Whelan
6 & 7 April	E O'Sullivan	M Williamson	E O'Sullivan	J Hale	L Munro	E Price	Una & Marguerite	A McReynolds

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL PFTA - INDOOR TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 27th April, 2-4pm. Admission - adults £1, children free. Sell your pre-loved items, make a few pennies and pick up a bargain. Refreshments available. Sellers table £10 each, to reserve a table please email Lorraine Priestley-Barnham on jamesandlorraine@hotmail.co.uk for payment details and further information.

THE PASSAGE

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give until 12 noon Monday 1st April to support its work with homeless people moving from Street to Home. Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921856 andrew.h@passage.org.uk

Donate at www.thebiggive.org.uk/theassage2019

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 **Friday 26th April**.

JOB VACANCIES - please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.