



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:
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damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:
Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 7TH APRIL 2019

SUNDAY THOUGHT

In today's Gospel Jesus is confronted by the scribes and the Pharisees, who bring before him a woman caught in the act of adultery. The Pharisees were the Jewish religious leaders. They were well educated, well known, and reputed to be men of wisdom and high moral standards. But as the story unfolds, we discover that they are ruthless, calculating and hypocritical. In their pride and arrogance they look down upon this woman, seeing her as nothing; a life to be thrown away in their war against Jesus. They stand over her, judging and condemning from their position of moral superiority.

Jesus cared about the law, but he cared about people more. "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" - Jesus' words strike at the hearts of the Pharisees, opening them to the realisation that they too are sinners, and not one of them can claim to be stain-free. Every one of us is like this woman, and these Pharisees - all sinners who are truly guilty in the eyes of God. Whenever we confront wrongdoing we must refrain from judgement and humbly consider our own sins and transgressions. Jesus does not say that sin doesn't matter, because sin does matter and damages our relationship with God.

In his compassion, Jesus forgives the adulterous woman and restores her dignity, because he loves her (just as he loves all sinners), and because he loves her, he wants what is best for her - to live from this point on a life of loving union with God. "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." This is the gift and graces we are given in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and precisely the attitude we should bring: a true repentance with a firm intention to amend our lives.

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: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Response to Psalm: What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Communion Antiphon: Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14 - 23:56 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £401.42; Loose Plate: £309.83; Standing Orders: £703.08 **Total: £1414.33**

Mill End: Envelopes: £254.00; Loose Plate: £104.56; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £535.52**

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 7TH APRIL	9.30am 7.00pm	Coffee after Mass - Hall The Afterparty - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 8TH APRIL	10.30am - 11.30am	Mum's Connect - Hall NO Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 9TH APRIL	10.00am for 10.15am 7.30pm - 9.30pm	Lectio Divina - Upper Room Alpha - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 10TH APRIL			
THU 11TH APRIL	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 12TH APRIL	10.00am 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
SAT 13TH APRIL	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
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 Sam Hanson & Family (Ints.)
MONDAY 8 TH APRIL	9.30am Reynolds Family RIP	9.30am Fran Faulkner	
TUESDAY 9 TH APRIL	9.30am Fr Gerry Burke RIP		9.30am Grace Xuereb RIP
WEDNESDAY 10 TH APRIL		9.30am Bevan Smith RIP	
THURSDAY 11 TH APRIL	9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish		
FRIDAY 12 TH APRIL	9.30am Douglas Gardiner RIP		9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 13 TH APRIL	10.00am Private Intention	6pm (Vigil) Jimmy Hughes RIP	6pm (Vigil) Andrew Smith RIP
SUNDAY 14 TH APRIL <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Patricia Breen RIP 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm Peter Mann RIP (Anniv.)	10.45am For the People of the Parish	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

THE VEILING OF CROSSES AND STATUES

From the 5th Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday the crosses and statues of our churches are veiled in purple cloths. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of “fasting” from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LEAFLET

Copies of the Holy Week and Easter leaflet, giving the times of all the Masses and liturgies over Holy Week and Easter are available this weekend. Please be sure to take one home with you .

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offerings at the Easter Day Masses are your personal gift to your priests. The Christmas and Easter offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Shaun and Fr Damian. These monies are paid into the respective three parishes’ accounts and are then paid to the priests as a monthly salary or stipend. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Easter Offering. Those of you who make your offering to the parish by standing order might also wish to use the loose Easter Offering envelopes available at the back of the church for your Easter offering to the clergy of the parish. If you know that you are going to be away for Easter you might wish to put your Easter Offering envelope into the collection either this weekend or next. Thank you.

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*

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 13th April at 2.00pm in Our Lady’s hall.

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:

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.

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 are available for collection this weekend.

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

HOLY THURSDAY –WASHING OF FEET

There is a list in the porch for anyone willing to have their feet washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Please do sign up.

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 this Sunday.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

100 CLUB - MARCH WINNERS

Congratulations to Winnie Connor (£35); Pauline Robinson (£20) and Mr McKiernan (£15).

CHOIR PRACTICE

Please note there will be no choir practice on Monday 8th, 15th and 22nd of April. Thank you.

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

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EASTER SERVICES

Please sign the sheet on the noticeboard if you would like your feet washed on Holy Thursday or if you can help as Welcomer, Reader or Minister of Communion on Good Friday or Easter Sunday. Many thanks. *Maureen*

NEW MASS DUTY ROTAS

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

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IS APPROACHING FAST - 12th to 18th MAY

This week we will be handing out our plant order forms for your hanging baskets, tubs and bedding plants. We look forward to receiving your orders. Our full market will be on Thursday and Friday and, plants only, on Saturday morning. All week our house to house collectors are knocking on doors and on Saturday evening Christchurch is showing the film *Invictus*. Volunteers urgently needed for all activities!!! Particularly collectors and ploughman's lunch stall holders. Please phone Maureen Foggo 07989 067109 for house to house work or Mary Latimer for the Market on 07795276728. Thank you - watch this space!!

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
6 & 7 April	E O'Sullivan	M Williamson	E O'Sullivan	J Hale	L Munro	E Price	Una & Marguerite	A McReynolds
13 & 14 April	C Pierce	A Roberts	P Goble	M Fields	J Hale	F Holly	Carolyn & Don	J Whelan

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.

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.