



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>

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
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Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga.forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 1ST MARCH 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Throughout the season of Lent, the First Readings tell us the story of Israel, which includes some of the main figures from the Old Testament: Adam, Abraham, Moses, David and Ezekiel. Through Israel's sacred story we understand better the story of Jesus as told by the Apostle Paul and the evangelists Matthew and John.

In his Letter to the Romans, Paul contrasts Adam with Jesus. As a Pharisee trained in the interpretation of the law, Paul was aware of today's First Reading from Genesis, the story of the creation of Adam and the fall of Adam and Eve. Paul saw in Adam and Eve's fall the tragic consequences of sin and death for all people. But Paul also saw in Jesus' death and Resurrection the universal gift of life and acquittal of sin for all people. Paul made sense of the Cross by contrasting Jesus' obedience with Adam's disobedience.

Like Paul, Matthew draws parallels between the events in the life of Jesus and events in the Old Testament. In the Gospel for today, Matthew tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. With the temporal setting of forty days and forty nights and the spatial setting of the desert, Matthew's Jewish community likely hear this temptation story in relation to the forty-year desert experience of Moses and the Israelites told in the Books of Exodus and Numbers. But whereas ancient Israel failed in the desert, Jesus was victorious.

As both Paul and Matthew teach, we are connected to our ancestors in faith by both sin and death. Each of us is disobedient to God, and each of us has desert experiences on our journey with God. The Good News is that Jesus has the power to overcome sin and death.

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Dave Pione 01923 772606
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Chorleywood Parish

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9. 3:1-7

Response to Psalm: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9 (Gospel)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envs £777.91; Loose £308.23; S/Orders £647.01; **Total £1733.15**

Mill End: Envs: £351.40; Loose: £170.57; Standing Orders: £215.23; **Total: £737.20**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of January - **£2592.88**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 1ST MARCH	9.15am 9.30am 7.00pm	First Communion Class - Hall Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Afterparty	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 2ND MARCH	10.30am - 12.30pm 5.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall First Communion Class - Hall Annual Parish Meeting RCIA Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 3RD MARCH	10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm	SJF Ladies Meeting Alpha - Invitation to pray- Church Alpha - Hall	Edith's flat Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 4TH MARCH	7.30pm - 9.00pm	First Communion Parent's Meeting - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 5TH MARCH	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 6TH MARCH	10.00am 11.00am 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Funeral - Don Williamson RIP Lenten Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SAT 7TH 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 29 TH FEBRUARY	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 1 ST MARCH <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Paddy Lewin RIP	9am Peter Price RIP
MONDAY 2 ND MARCH	9.30am Reynolds Family RIP	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	
TUESDAY 3 RD MARCH	9.30am Anne O'Grady RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 4 TH MARCH		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	
THURSDAY 5 TH MARCH	9.30am Douglas Gardiner RIP		
FRIDAY 6 TH MARCH	9.30am Ramiro Montesdeoca RIP		9.30am Reynolds Family RIP
SATURDAY 7 TH MARCH	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) John & Mary Gibbs RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 8 TH MARCH <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Peggy Randles RIP 6pm Margaret Taylor RIP	10.30am Mary Viner RIP	9am Don Williamson RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townend and Maureen Douglas

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray; John Connor, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock and Joan Hart

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Angela Hoy, Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett and Ann Penn

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

CORONAVIRUS

Following the latest guidelines from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales we are taking the following precautions in our three parishes:

- **For Prayer Partners and at the Sign of Peace** – rather than shaking hands we ask that the congregation acknowledge each other and exchange names/the Sign of Peace with a small bow or nod of the head rather than a handshake.
- **Communion** - until further notice communion will be on the hand only. **No** communion will be given on the tongue. Anyone with cold or flu symptoms is asked **not** to receive communion from the chalice.
- The Holy Water stoops in each parish will be removed until further notice.

As is the case in general society, everyone should ensure they maintain good hand hygiene, especially at Mass and parish gatherings. Thank you for your understanding in these important matters.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will once again circulate around the three parishes as follows:

Friday 6th and 27th March – St John's, Mill End – 7.30pm

Friday 13th March and 3rd April – St John Fisher, Chorleywood – 7.30pm

Friday 20th March and 10th April (Good Friday) – Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – 7.30pm

The devotions will be led by parishioners. We hope that many parishioners from across the three parishes will come and join us for this important aspect of our Lenten spirituality.

RITE OF SIGNING

At the St John the Evangelist, Mill End 10.30am Mass, our two catechumens will sign the Book of the Elect in preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Our four candidates will be presented for the sacrament of Confirmation (two also for First Eucharist), to be received at the Easter Vigil. On Sunday afternoon all six will go, together with Fr Shaun, their catechists, sponsors and godparents, to Westminster Cathedral for the Rite of Election in the presence of the Cardinal and his assistant bishops. The Book of Elect will rest on Our Lady's Altar at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth through Lent. Please continue to keep them in your prayers this Lent as they approach full communion with the Church.

CAFOD

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day on Friday 6th March is the 60th anniversary of the first Family Fast Day led by our founding mothers and, as it has been for sixty years, is an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest members of our global family. Please collect your Family Fast Day envelope this week and give whatever you can to help experts like Sister Consilia - a nun and trained pharmacist who treats people in rural Zimbabwe - continue their vital work.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2020

Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table, even though they may be in work. Sadly, poverty is deepening across our Diocese and more people are turning to foodbanks for help. One initiative the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal supports is school holiday clubs, where children can have fun, and prepare and eat a healthy meal during the school holidays. Please take a donation leaflet as you leave Mass today. These can be returned any time during Lent and placed in the collection basket at Mass.

DON WILLIAMSON RIP

The funeral of Don Williamson will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at **11.00am on Friday 6th March**, followed by burial at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS MEETING - Wednesday 4th March

Parents are reminded that there will be a meeting with Fr Shaun at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall

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 28 March** at 2.00pm at the Presbytery.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM)

The Chorleywood APM will take place on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30pm at Hill Cottage. There are no elections to the Joint Parish Pastoral Council (JPPC) this year, but there will be reports on various aspects of parish life, a report on the parish finances for 2019 and the opportunity for parishioners to ask questions. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 30th May 2019 at 3.00pm.

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 2020. 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).

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The origins of WDP date back to 19th century in USA and Canada when Christian women from different denominations started organising days of prayer for missionary work. Gradually the movement spread throughout the world and to the UK as well, where the first service was held in Scotland in 1930. Now it is a truly international and ecumenical world day of prayer with about 170 countries participating. Every year the focus is on a different country and the service is written by the women of that country and then translated into over 60 languages and 1000 dialects. In the Rickmansworth area the service rotates among the different participating churches and is a great opportunity for meeting and praying with fellow believers. This year we are celebrating the WDP on **Friday 6th March at 2.00pm** at one of our own parishes - St John the Evangelist, Mill End. The time to be confirmed. This year's service has been written by the women of Zimbabwe. We extend a warm invitation to all parishioners – men, women and children – to join us. Some children from St John's School will also be taking part in the service. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards. *Geraldine and Cristina.*

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

MONEY MATTERS

Copies of the "Money Matters" summary of the 2019 Annual Financial Report to the Diocese are available at the back of church. Parishioners are invited to take a copy home with them.

THE AFTERPARTY

The Afterparty resumes on **Sunday 1st March** 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.

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.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT / TRADCRAFT STALL

This weekend marks the middle of the annual Fairtrade Fortnight which once again this year focusses on the people, in particular the women, who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much. A typical cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn £1.86 to achieve a living income, but instead they take home around 74p a day. By choosing Fairtrade, you can make a difference. Next weekend there will be a Tradcraft stall in the hall after 11am Mass (and hopefully tea and coffee as well).

REAL EASTER EGGS

If you'd like to order chocolate eggs from The Real Easter Egg Company, the only Fairtrade Easter Egg with the Easter Story included and supports charitable chocolates, please fill in details on the clipboard at the back of church by the end of this weekend (1st March), see Helen Nolan (welcoming at 11am Mass) or contact her on helenvnolan@ntlworld.com or 07980 600549 by the end of Sunday. Payment on collection.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

RED APF/MISSIO BOXES

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

MONEY MATTERS

Copies of the "Money Matters" summary of the 2019 Annual Financial Report to the Diocese are available in the porch. Parishioners are invited to take a copy home with them.

CHILDREN IN THE PORCH

For both safe-guarding and health and safety reasons it is very important that children are not left unattended in the porch area. If your child needs to be in the porch please remain with them at all times. We have discovered that children have been pushing papers through the vents of the fan heater in the porch. This is clearly a fire hazard. We would be grateful to any parents with children in the porch to please keep a close eye on them so that this does not happen in the future.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

FIRE WARDEN TRAINING

Safety is our key responsibility as a Parish community, particularly to ensure the church is evacuated quickly and safely in case of fire. For this reason, a simple two Fire Warden system will be introduced for Saturday and Sunday Masses and festivals/solemnities when the church is full. A copy of the Fire Warden notes is on the noticeboard. It is not an onerous duty as action is only required in the unlikely event of a fire, one warden responsible for evacuating people at the front and the second for evacuating those at the back. A rota is not needed as wardens volunteer on arrival for each service. If you are willing to consider acting as a fire warden, please contact Alan Opie (Alan.opie@live.co.uk).

LADIES MEETING

Our next meeting is this coming Tuesday, March 3rd, 10.00am at 2 Grenville Court, (Edith's flat). All are very welcome.

RED MISSIO/APF BOXES

Hello all box holders. Please could you bring your boxes to church in the next two weeks. We know loose cash is getting scarce as we all use our cards. If you could possibly spare a little bank note that would be so welcome. Our missionaries still do rely on our help. Thank you very much, *Mary* 284975.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - CHORLEYWOOD WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE - 2.00PM ON FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

This year's service will be held at the Free Church in Hillside Road. It has been put together by the women of Zimbabwe on the theme "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". All are most welcome and there will be refreshments afterwards.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
29/02 & 1/03	A Roberts	C Johnson	P Goble	M Fields	H McGrath	F Holly	Yasmin & Una	S Tarrant
7 & 8 March	E O'Sullivan	S Hoy	M Latimer	A Opie	M Calvert	L Turnbull	Carolyn & Francis	V Terrill

DIOCESAN NOTICES

EU SETTLED STATUS

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettledstatus Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.