



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

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) – 29TH MARCH 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

It has been a strange week, as Fr Damian and I adapt to a different kind of ministry, not least to celebrating Mass together (something which rarely happens due to us serving a cluster) but without a congregation. We continue to offer Mass for the intentions that you have given us and we want to assure everyone that you, our parishioners, are very much in our prayers as we offer the Mass each day.

I express my thanks to all those across our parishes who have contacted us with offers of help and I am grateful, too, to our SLT members who are coordinating these offers. If you would be willing to help someone with their shopping or even something as simple as offering to call a self-isolating or lonely parishioner for a regular chat, please do let us know. Equally, if you need some help, whatever it may be, please contact the SLT member for your respective parish. You will find their details further down this Newsletter.

It's wonderful to see acts of kindness and generosity from so many people in these difficult days. However, whilst such a crisis can bring out the best in us, it can also sometimes bring out the worst. We have all witnessed the phenomenon of empty shelves at supermarkets and the sense of fear and panic that this so easily produces in us. Again, as Christian people, we are called to act responsibly and selflessly. We know that there will be enough food for everyone, as long as we don't panic-buy and hoard food and other essentials unnecessarily. We also need to be respectful of those shopping times set aside specifically for the vulnerable and for NHS and other essential workers. Let us not give in to fear!

As we know, the advice around coronavirus is changing day by day. On Monday evening the Prime Minister announced the new measures now in force with regard to social distancing. Later that evening, we received a message from the Cardinal to say that, difficult as it is, in the light of these new instructions our churches must now be closed.


This means that Our Lady's, which we had been keeping open during the day for private prayer, is also now closed until further notice. We all have a duty to take the new instructions from the government seriously and responsibly, remembering that our failure to do so might not just be putting ourselves at risk, but endangering the lives of others. If you have received advice to self-isolate or to stay in your home because you are in a vulnerable group, then please do so.

On Thursday evening at 8.00pm, as I am sure many of you did too, I joined those standing in their doorways and at open windows to applaud all those working in our NHS in these challenging days. It was an emotional experience to hear so many people recognising, with immense gratitude and admiration, the doctors and nurses, hospital staff and carers who are literally risking their own lives, in very difficult circumstances, to look after us. Such solidarity and community spirit, along with the incredible number of people signing up for the *national help service* initiative are signs of hope in these difficult days.

The Gospel for this Sunday is St John's account of the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45). In these challenging days, maybe you perhaps feel that you are, metaphorically, in the tomb with Lazarus. Maybe you have a sense of feeling abandoned by God, which makes you want to cry out with Martha and Mary, 'Lord, if you had been here...' As always, Jesus has words of life and hope to comfort and encourage us: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live.' The darkness of the tomb is conquered by the bright light of the Resurrection. Jesus asks Martha, 'Do you believe this?' 'Yes Lord', Martha replies, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Do **you** believe this? Now, more than ever, we need to stay close to Jesus and to put our trust in his power to save. As St Paul reminds us in the Second Reading for today, '...if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.'

When Jesus called forth Lazarus from the tomb he said, 'Unbind him, let him go free'. May Christ, unbind you from all the anxiety and fear which might be holding you tightly bound in these challenging days, so that you may walk in the freedom and peace which he alone can bring to our lives.

May God bless and protect you all.



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 28 TH MARCH	Melina Carion RIP
SUNDAY 29TH MARCH FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	For the People of the Parish Mary & Evandro Girolami RIP (Anniv.)
MONDAY 30 TH MARCH	Esme Sawyer RIP
TUESDAY 31 ST MARCH	Malcolm Stacey RIP
WEDNESDAY 1 ST APRIL	For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
THURSDAY 2 ND APRIL	For a swift end to the Coronavirus
FRIDAY 3 RD APRIL	Mary Robinson RIP
SATURDAY 4 TH APRIL	Isabel Montesdeoca (Ints.)
SUNDAY 5TH APRIL PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	For the People of the Parish

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY

This Sunday it was planned to publicly rededicate England as the dowry of Mary. With the suspension of the public celebration of Mass, we invite you privately to make this rededication in your homes. The first dedication was made by King Richard II in Westminster Abbey as he sought the protection of Our Lady in the face of great political turmoil. At this point, England received the title 'Mary's Dowry'; meaning that England was 'set aside' as a gift, a dowry, for Our Lady under her guidance and protection. This Sunday the Re-dedication will take place throughout our country. As King Richard II once gave England as a gift to Our Lady for her guidance, so we, too, seek Mary's protection and prayers, especially in the challenging times, giving ourselves through this act of dedication. We respond to this invitation renewing the vows of dedication made to Mary by King Richard II, praying the Act of Entrustment:

*O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and our most gentle Queen and Mother,
look down in mercy upon England, thy Dowry, and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.*

*By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope, was given unto the world;
and he has given thee to us that we might hope still more.*

Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother, intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son.

Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith, fruitful in good works, we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee in our heavenly home. Amen

WILLIAM GRIFFIN RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of William Griffin this past week. We commend his soul to the Lord and pray for his wife Eileen and for all his family at this difficult time. The details of William's funeral arrangements are not yet known.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

DO YOU NEED HELP? CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you to all the parishioners who have given generous offers of help to those in need in our local communities. These offers are being coordinated by our lay Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members. If you are willing to help in any way, please do contact the SLT member for your parish. Even more importantly, if you need any kind of practical help, for instance help with shopping etc or would just appreciate someone calling you for a chat and/or to pray with you on the phone from time to time, please do let us know, via the SLT member for your respective parish:

Our Lady's Rickmansworth – Paul Forrest – 07585 661573 - pga.forrest@btinternet.com

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Anne Lorrimer-Roberts – 07887 682943 - anne@themessagemachine.com

St John the Evangelist, Mill End – Geraldine Page – 07725 748490 - geraldine.page21@gmail.com

MESSAGES FROM THE CARDINAL

The Cardinal continues to issue video messages which are posted on the Diocesan website at

<https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/>

MAGNIFICAT PRAYER RESOURCE

During this challenging time, the publishers of *Magnificat* are offering complimentary access to the online version of the resource to help people pray at home. *Magnificat* contains the readings for Sunday and daily Mass, together with simplified versions of morning and evening prayer, as well as lovely reflections and meditations. The online version of *Magnificat* can be accessed at us.magnificat.net

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ONLINE

If you have young children you might want to check this out. The person behind this initiative plans to post a video every Saturday evening of her leading Children's Liturgy, which you might like to use at home on Sundays, perhaps at your usual Mass times. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/144030995645383/permalink/2741737595874697/>

PODCASTS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

We would like to share with you two podcasts which you might find helpful. The Cardinal was interviewed recently on the Today programme about the Church's response to the coronavirus outbreak. You'll find the segment that includes his interview at 8.45am (or 1 hr and 45 min in). Here is the link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gdsw>

The Bishops' Conference have recorded a podcast with Prof Jim McManus, who has prepared the guidance for the Church, in which he explains the current situation in greater detail and offers some useful, practical advice. Here is the link: <https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/coronavirus-and-catholics>

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Due to the Coronavirus, there will be no baptism preparation on Saturday 28th March.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE - STICKERS

Parents who will be seeking a Certificate of Catholic Practice for September 2021 Catholic Secondary Transfer or a September 2021 place at a Catholic Nursery or in Reception year may be concerned about what will happen with regard to our sticker system during the suspension of the public celebration of Mass. **Please do not be anxious about this.** Each Sunday during the period of the suspension of the public celebration of Mass will be removed from our assessment of Sunday Mass attendance. We will only take account of the Sundays when Sunday Mass has been publically celebrated. This will mean that the suspension of Sunday Mass will have no effect upon the issuing of Certificates of Catholic Practice.

THE PASSAGE

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give until 12 midnight **Tuesday 31st March** to support its work Helping Homeless People to move away from the street to during the present Coronavirus situation and to provide support to keep them off the street both immediately and in the longer term.. 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 7592 1886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk. Donate at <https://bit.ly/334RmGH>

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

This Sunday's Readings

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (Gospel)

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 (Gospel)

MASS ONLINE

We know that many of you are sharing in the celebration of Sunday (and weekday) Mass online, via parishes which have the facility to livestream. There is a link to all the livestreams in our Diocese on the Mass Online page of the parish websites. We invite you to participate as fully as you are able in the celebrations and at communion time to make an act of spiritual communion.

MAKING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Church teaches that a deep spiritual communion is possible even when we do not share together the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. So, as you participate in Mass via live-stream, or as you have some quiet time with the scriptures of the Sunday and think of us celebrating Mass, you might like to pray this prayer based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Ligouri:

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of altar.

I love you above all things

and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

The following churches in the diocese are live streamed and can be visited online at any time using the relevant website address. Mass will be celebrated for online participation at the times listed below:

Sunday Mass

6.00pm (Sat.)	St Luke, Pinner	www.churchservices.tv/pinner
6.00pm (Sat.)	St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood	www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood
6.30pm (Sat.)	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate
7.45am	St Monica, Palmers Green	www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen
9.00am	St Joseph and English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford	www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford
10.00am	St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood	www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood
10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate
10.30am	Holy Apostles, Pimlico	www.churchservices.tv/pimlico
10.30am	St James, Spanish Place	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_QES_fHotyQ0tA0pH8dTsg
11.00am	St Luke, Pinner	www.churchservices.tv/pinner
11.00am	Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar	www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar
11.30am	St Mary, Hampstead	www.churchservices.tv/hampstead
12 noon	St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields	www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields
12.30pm	Holy Apostles, Pimlico (Spanish Mass)	www.churchservices.tv/pimlico
3.30pm	St Monica, Palmers Green (Polish Mass)	www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen
6.30pm	St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage	www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage

Weekday Mass

Monday to Friday:

7.00am	St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage	www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage
9.15am	St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood	www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood
9.30am	St Monica, Palmers Green	www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen
10.00am	St Luke, Pinner	www.churchservices.tv/pinner
10.00am	Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar	www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar
10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate
12.30pm*	St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields	www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields
6.00pm	St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields	www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields

* *Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only*

Saturday:

10.00am	St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage	www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage
10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate