



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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Chorleywood

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT LAETARE SUNDAY (YEAR A) – 22ND MARCH 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

‘We are living in unprecedented times!’ I have used these words a lot in the past few days, perhaps you have too. We are coming to the realization that this outbreak of the coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact on the way that we all live our lives in the coming months. The Church is not immune to this impact. On Wednesday of this past week the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales advised us that the public celebration of Mass is suspended until further notice. This means that we will not be able to gather together as the Lord’s family for quite some time.

However, it is important that you know that Mass will continue to be celebrated each day by Fr Damian and myself. We will offer Mass each day for the intentions that have previously been arranged, and you and your families will be the focus of all our prayers.

Although you will not be able to join us for Mass for the foreseeable future, there are a number of parishes around the diocese which live-stream the celebration of Mass. You will find the details of some of these live-streams further down this Newsletter and also on the parish websites. I encourage you, both as individuals and as families, to make time each Sunday to share in the celebration of Sunday Mass and to make a spiritual communion. Even though you may not be able to receive ‘sacramental’ Communion, all are united in some way by the Holy Spirit.

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 Fr Damian and I 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 Cardinal has written a special Pastoral Letter about coronavirus and the suspension of the public celebration of Mass. He has also recorded a video message offering a word of encouragement to the faithful. I commend these to you. Both of them are being made available on our parish websites and you will find details about where you can find them elsewhere on the Newsletter.

These are without doubt anxious times for many people. Many of you will be very worried about your own safety, especially if you are elderly or vulnerable; many more will be concerned for vulnerable loved ones. There is also the growing concern over the impact that this outbreak will have on businesses, jobs, livelihoods and people’s ability to support themselves and their families when so many aspects of the daily life which we take for granted are so threatened.

It is important that we take seriously the advice of public health officials and follow their instructions to protect ourselves and our loved ones, but now is also a great time to rely on the Lord more deeply and to care for the needs of the people around us. It is important that our actions are prudent, but our decisions don't have to be based on panic or fear. They can be based on love. We rely on the knowledge that our God is a God who loves us and cares for us, and he's inviting us right now to love and care for others. So let's stay close to the Lord.

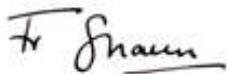
If we allow it to be, this can be a time of grace and opportunity for us. Many events have been cancelled, and that means we may perhaps have more time to pray and reflect on the Scriptures, to praise God, and to intercede for his people. Wouldn't this be a blessed way for us to spend the rest of Lent?

Although we know that we have to look after ourselves, it's also important that we remember, too, that God wants us to be Christ to the people around us. Even if you can't go out, you can still call someone and encourage them. You can devote more time to interceding for other people's needs. If you aren't in a high-risk age or health group and if you're feeling healthy, maybe you can do the shopping for a relative, friend or neighbour. It's important that we all care for one another even if we can't do it in person.

In the Gospel for this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we hear the account of the healing by Jesus of the man born blind (John 9: 1-41). Before healing the man, Jesus says to him (and to us): *I am the light of the World*. I am sure that we are all feeling the darkness of these challenging days, but let us all draw strength and encouragement from these words of Jesus. They remind me too of some words from the prologue of St John's Gospel – words which were the inspiration behind the design I commissioned for the stained glass window at St John's, Mill End. St John speaks of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, as '*a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.*' (John 1:5).

The days ahead will be challenging for all of us, but we do not journey through them alone. Christ who is the Light of the world walks with us and illumines the path for us, so that we go forward with courage, hope and faith.

May God bless and protect you all.



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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SATURDAY 21 ST MARCH	Eileen McConway RIP (Anniv.) Hannah Logan RIP (Anniv.)
SUNDAY 22 ND MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	For the People of the Parish Mary Robinson RIP
MONDAY 23 RD MARCH	Fr John Reid (50 th Anniversary) Don Williamson RIP
TUESDAY 24 TH MARCH	Bill O'Shea (Ints.) Kathleen Dempsey RIP
WEDNESDAY 25 TH MARCH <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	Patricia Cahill (Ints.)
THURSDAY 26 TH MARCH	Valerie D'Cruze (Ints.)
FRIDAY 27 TH MARCH	Barry O'Shea RIP Anne Gray RIP
SATURDAY 28 TH MARCH	Melina Carion RIP
SUNDAY 29 TH MARCH <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	For the People of the Parish Mary & Evandro Girolami RIP (Anniv.)

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

DO YOU NEED HELP? CAN YOU HELP?

If you need some help in these challenging times, be it with food shopping, transport or just someone to have a chat with on the phone, our parishes want to support you as much as we can. Equally, if you feel that you can offer some help to others in need, we want to help facilitate that, too. If you need help or you can offer help to someone else please, in the first instance, contact the Senior Leadership Team 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

MOTHERING SUNDAY (MOTHER'S DAY)

We celebrate Mother's Day today in exceptional circumstances. We give thanks to God for our mothers and grandmothers, and for all that mean to us and for all that they have done for us and continue to do for us. We pray that the Lord will give them his special blessing and protection today, and in the challenging days ahead.

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.

RICKMANSWORTH PARISH CORE GROUP (PCG) MEETING

Please note the PCG and JPPC Meeting scheduled for Saturday 21st March has been cancelled.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

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

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

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

We regret to inform due to the Corvid 19 pandemic and based on the advice being issued by Government, we have taken the decision now to formally cancel this gathering. At the present moment we are unable to say whether this can be rescheduled to a later date, due to the very fluid nature of the current crisis. In the light of this we will begin to investigate ways in which we can help mark your anniversary, at the local level, once it is safe to do so. This annual event is a source of great joy and witness to the vocation of marriage within our diocese and is one that is very close to the heart of Archbishop Vincent. He deeply regrets not being able to share this day with you and so extends his prayers and blessing both to you and your families. Although we are unable to gather this year, we remain united with you through prayer. May the God who has walked with you along the path of your married journey, continue to pour down His blessings upon you. May your love be deepened and, with His assistance, remain ever close to one another.

Reverend Roger Carr-Jones, MFL Coordinator

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Please note that the **Book Sale & Quality Items** scheduled for Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th March has been cancelled.

This Sunday's Readings

1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (Gospel)

Next Sunday's Readings

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

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

MASS ONLINE

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

OTHER WEBSITES

There are many websites offering information and support at this time. Among them are:

The Diocese of Westminster	rcdow.org.uk
The Bishops' Conference	cbcew.org.uk
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham	walsingham.org.uk
Lent in Isolation	lentinisolation.com