



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:

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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 15TH MARCH 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Today's readings pose two questions that bring our Lenten journey into focus: "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" and "What are you looking for?" The First Reading comes from the Book of Exodus, the early stages of Israel's forty-year journey in the desert. The Israelites had begun quarrelling among themselves and grumbling against Moses, complaining about a lack of food and water. They tested God, asking whether he was even in their midst. Moses pleads to God for intervention, and God responds by empowering Moses to draw water from the rock for the people to drink. Even though the Lord was indeed in the midst of the community during their desert journey, the Israelites' fears, intensified by their grumbling and complaining, blinded them to the Lord's presence.

In today's Gospel reading from John, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well. With the simple request for her to give them a drink, Jesus initiates a dialogue that intrigues and transforms her. Just as she has come to believe in Jesus, the disciples return from their errand to a nearby town. John tells us in an aside that on seeing the woman, they fail to ask her what she is looking for – the very question Jesus had asked the first disciples, the question that had initiated their conversion. In the Gospel according to John, true discipleship involves first and foremost bringing others to Christ. The distracted disciples fail to evangelize – in contrast to the Samaritan woman, who once, she believes that Jesus is the Christ, hurries to her town to bring others to him.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, we are challenged to overcome fears and distractions, to find the Lord in our midst, and to bring others to him.

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:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

1st Reading:

Exodus 17:3-7

Response to Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

2nd Reading:

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Gospel:

John 4:5-42

Communion Antiphon:

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Next Sunday's Readings

1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (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 £479.78; Loose £351.04; S/Orders £647.01; **Total £1477.83**

Mill End: Envs: £290.50; Loose: £203.06; Standing Orders: £219.85; **Total: £713.41**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of February - **£2371.97**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 15TH MARCH	9.15am	First Communion Class - Hall	St John the Evangelist
MON 16TH MARCH	10.30am - 12.30pm 5.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall First Communion Class - Hall RCIA Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 17TH MARCH	7.30pm 7.30pm	Alpha - Invitation to pray - Church Alpha - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 18TH MARCH	7.30pm - 9.00pm	First Communion Parent's Meeting - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 19TH MARCH	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 20TH MARCH	7.30pm	Lenten Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 21ST 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 14 TH MARCH	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Private Intention	6pm (Vigil) Don Williamson RIP
SUNDAY 15 TH MARCH <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Mary Phillips RIP 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm Lina & Grimaldo Torrini RIP	10.30am P J Conway RIP (Anniv.)	9am Don Williamson RIP
MONDAY 16 TH MARCH	9.30am John & Margaret McGuinness RIP (Anniv.)	9.30am For a swift end to the Coronavirus	
TUESDAY 17 TH MARCH	9.30am Joe Fallon RIP (Anniv.)		9.30am For a swift end to the Coronavirus
WEDNESDAY 18 TH MARCH		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	
THURSDAY 19 TH MARCH	9.30am For a swift end to the Coronavirus		
FRIDAY 20 TH MARCH	9.30am For the work of the SVP		9.30am Archbishop Peter Smith RIP
SATURDAY 21 ST MARCH	10.00am Eileen McConway RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) Hannah Logan RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) Don Williamson RIP
SUNDAY 22 ND MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Archbishop Peter Smith RIP 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Kathleen Dempsey RIP	9am Melina Carion 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 – IMPORTANT UPDATE

We have been advised by the Diocese that we have now moved into **Stage 2** of the Guidelines produced by the Bishops Conference. This will mean the following:

- **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. For the foreseeable future communion will be under one kind only (i.e. no communion from the chalice). When receiving communion please keep your hand as flat as possible. This helps us to give you the sacrament in the most hygienic way possible.
- **Holy Water stoups** in each parish have been removed until further notice.
- **Hymnbooks**: We will cease to use hymnbooks during the time of the outbreak, as these could help transmit the virus
- **Newsletter & Missalettes**: Please **do not** put Newsletters or Missalettes back into the pile after Mass. Please take them home with you. Extra copies of the Newsletter will be printed.
- **Those most vulnerable**: The elderly, people with weakened immune systems and long term conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease) should refrain from large parish gatherings (including Mass) and stay at home.
- Anyone with cold or flu symptoms should refrain from attending Mass, public events, or the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You may have an ordinary cold but equally it is important to ensure a precautionary approach.
- **The Offertory Collection**: The collection baskets/bags will not be passed around at the Offertory. Instead there will be a retiring collection as you leave Mass. We invite you to place your Sunday offering into the basket which will be held by the exit(s) to the church
- **Tea and Coffee after Mass**, the Sunday Brunch and the AfterParty are all suspended during the time of the outbreak.
- As is the case in general society, everyone should ensure they maintain good hand hygiene, especially at Mass and parish gatherings. It is, of course, very important that we listen carefully to and act upon the guidance given by the authorities, but it is equally important that we don't do anything that contributes to a sense of panic in our communities. Thank you for your understanding in these important matters. The Diocese has created a page on all parish microsites (i.e. our parish websites) with the current advice on coronavirus. You will find this updated information on the page titled **Advice on Coronavirus (COVID 19)**.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2020/21

Are available for collection this weekend. Please make sure that the address on your box of envelopes is correct.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

The minutes and supporting reports for the Annual Parish Meetings of the three parishes are now available on the respective parish websites.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

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

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

Friday 3rd April – St John Fisher, Chorleywood – 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.

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.

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.

CANCELLED SVP COFFEE MORNING

Due to the continued concern regarding the Coronavirus the SVP Coffee Morning scheduled for Friday 20th March is cancelled. We hope to reschedule at a later date.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH - please note that the SVP Community Lunch on Sunday 15th March has been cancelled.

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).

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Spring Jumble Sale & Nearly New will be held on Saturday 21st March at 10.30am.

Book Sale & Quality Items will be held on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th March from 7 to 9pm. Any suitable items can be left at the Scout HQ behind Our Lady's Church Thursday/Friday Evenings or collection can be arranged by telephoning – 246169 / 776035. Parents and Supporters are reminded that help is needed to run these events.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

PARISH CORE GROUP (PCG) MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Our Lady's PCG on **Saturday 21st March**, prior to a meeting of the Joint Parish Pastoral Council (JPPC). If you have any matters that you would like to be raised concerning the spiritual, pastoral or social life of the parish would you please pass them to Judy Gordon at rickmansworthpcg@rcdow.org.uk, who is the Our Lady's Vice-Chair of the JPPC.

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.

CRECHE

There is a creche for small children under the age of 5 during the first half of the 11.00am Mass. Everyone is welcome! We would be very grateful for any parents willing to volunteer to join the rota. The Sunday School liturgy group runs at the same time for children of Reception age upwards. Both groups are a brilliant way for your children to make friends and enjoy church! If you would like to volunteer (you will need to undergo a DBS check), please contact Henry Egbu at hegbu3@gmail.com. Thank you.

EASTER CARDS

Easter cards available in the repository.

REMINDER

The books on display in the porch have been donated and are for people to take and read. If you find them helpful please keep them or pass them on.

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*

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.

HALL BOOKINGS

Please contact Kerry at the parish office if you would like to book the hall.

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).

RED MISSIO/APF BOXES

Hello all box holders. Please could you bring your boxes to church this weekend. 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.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	MoC		
14&15 March	M Bychawski	A Roberts		M Calvert	A Opie		Peter & Kate	C Steet
21&22 March	C Pierce	E O'Sullivan		M Calvert	T D'Urso		Marguerite & Yasmin	A McReynolds

DIOCESAN NOTICES

CORONAVIRUS – LET'S NOT FORGET THE VULNERABLE

In light of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus, it is understandable that we want to ensure our kitchen cupboards are well stocked. However, we must not forget that this can leave foodbanks struggling. Hundreds of people rely on generous donations from our parishioners. This includes the need for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc, as well as sealed packages of dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. Foodbanks also welcome donations of money - please give what you can.

Please also consider if you could spare some time to volunteer – perhaps by driving to collect food for a foodbank – or simply by looking out for your neighbours. Contact cfc@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7931 6077 to add your name to a list of people who would be willing to help respond

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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