



### 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  
[shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:**

Fr Damian Ryan  
[damianryan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator:**

Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

**Rickmansworth**

Paul Forrest  
[pga.forrest@btinternet.com](mailto:pga.forrest@btinternet.com)

**Chorleywood**

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
[anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)

**Mill End**

Geraldine Page  
[geraldine.page21@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.page21@gmail.com)

Address for all correspondence:  
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth  
WD3 1HU  
Telephone: 01923 773387

### EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION (YEAR A) – 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020

#### A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

*This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad.*

These words, the response to the Easter Sunday Psalm, may at first glance appear somewhat inappropriate for our situation. Are we rejoicing? Are we feeling glad? The strange circumstances in which we are currently living our lives seem to say otherwise. As I write these words early on Holy Saturday morning I, along with you, have been experiencing a Holy Week different from any that we have experienced before. On Holy Thursday, and yesterday on Good Friday, Fr Damian and I celebrated the sacred liturgies of these holy days in a locked and empty church and without the solemnity with which they would normally be celebrated. I know that many of you will have shared in the celebration of these liturgies from your homes through the parishes which are able to offer live-streaming and, where that has not been possible, others of you will have read the readings and prayers of these liturgies either alone or together with others in your household.

I think it would be fair to say that our experience of Holy Week this year may feel like something of an impoverished one, robbed as we are by coronavirus of gathering together for these holy days in the way that we normally would. And yet there is perhaps something in this experience of impoverishment which speaks into the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. I think of these words from St Paul's great hymn in praise of Christ in Philippians Chapter 2:

*His state was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.*

St Paul speaks of that perfect self-emptying that Christ took upon himself in taking on our human flesh. It was a kind of self-willed impoverishment, as he refused to cling on to his equality with God, but instead chose to become as vulnerable as we are. Even that was not enough for him; his impoverishment went even further, leading him to death on the cross. Our impoverishment at this time is, of course, not the same. We haven't chosen the self-isolation and social distancing which prevents us from gathering for worship in these holy days, but we accept it because we know that it is the best way for us to withstand the onslaught of this virus. Nevertheless, perhaps we can, at least in a small way, associate our sense of impoverishment, with that self-impoverishment of Christ in the great sacrifice of his life which he made, once and for all, upon the cross, for our salvation.

There are some words from an ancient homily for Holy Saturday which feel very poignant this year:

*Something strange is happening – there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness.*

Shut away as we are in our homes, with quiet streets around us, a sky above us largely empty of planes and our places of worship locked and silent, we may see a certain irony in these words for us this year. But, of course, these words are not about us nor are they about the situation in which we currently find ourselves; rather they speak into the mystery of the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The author continues:

*The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept since the world began. God died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.*

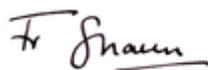
Though out of necessity we do so differently this year, we cannot but celebrate this great mystery of the Resurrection, which stands at the heart of our faith. The great hymn of St Paul, part of which I quoted above, continues:

*But God raised him high  
and gave him the name which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.*

As we stand strong in the power and the truth of these words we can indeed shout out with the Psalmist: *This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.* Despite the current challenging situation, I hope and pray that each one of you will open your hearts to the joy of this Resurrection Day and that you will find ways to share in and celebrate this Easter joy with your immediate household and with those loved ones from whom you are currently separated.

On behalf of Fr Damian and myself, I wish each and every one of you a joyful and peaceful Easter.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun  
Parish Priest

**Christ is Risen!  
Truly, He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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<b>HOLY SATURDAY (EASTER VIGIL)</b> 11 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	For the People of the Parish
<b>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION</b>	Margaret Stevenson RIP For the People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE</b> 13 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	Gordon Starck RIP
<b>TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE</b> 14 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	Viktor Boehler RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE</b> 15 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	John Reid RIP
<b>THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	John Connor RIP
<b>FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	Canon Frederick Miles RIP Fr Bryan Jones RIP
<b>SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	Fr John Helm RIP Fr Eddie Matthews RIP
<b>SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b> <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	For the People of the Parish Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

Even though we are currently unable to publically celebrate Mass, your financial support for our parishes is still very much needed. If you currently make your offering to the parish via planned giving envelopes or by loose plate, and if your personal circumstances allow, we invite you to consider giving to your parish by standing order. If you would like to switch to making your offering via standing order, please send an email to [rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) and a standing order form will be sent to you by email. You would then just need to complete the form and return it to your bank. If you are unable to set up a standing order or would prefer not to, there is also the possibility to financially support the parish via the **Donate to our Parish** tab on our parish websites or you can make a £5 donation via text: For Rickmansworth text: **Parish RICKM** to 70800; For Chorleywood text **Parish CHORL** to 70800; for Mill End text **Parish MILLE** to 70800. Thank you for your support.

*Mark Blayney, Carolyn Opie & Sandra Miller*

*Chairs of the Finance Operations and Premises Committees of the Three Parishes*

### FACEBOOK PAGE

There is a new Facebook page for the three parishes. The name is 'Chess Valley Parishes' – we couldn't fit the full three names into the title! We hope to post weekly videos of scripture readings and reflections, and other things you may find useful. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/Chess-Valley-Parishes-102042071465161/>  
Please, follow us to keep connected, and share with friends.

### PARISH STAFF

In order to protect the finances of the three parishes during this time when there is no public worship in our churches and, consequently, when our income is severely reduced, the Diocese has asked us to consider furloughing our employed staff using the Government's recently announced Job Retention Scheme. We have, therefore, decided to furlough our parish administrator and our parish caretaker. During this time (initially two months) the parishes will directly cover 20% of their salaries, the other 80% will be reimbursed by the Government to the parishes, via the Diocese. This means that from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Kerry, our parish administrator, will no longer be working from home and will be unable to undertake any further work for the three parishes whilst the furlough is in place. Likewise, our caretaker, Danny, will be unable to undertake his duties either in the presbytery or in the facilities of the three parishes. During this period I will take over responsibility for the preparation of the weekly online newsletter, respond to parish emails and undertake other essential administrative tasks.  
*Fr Shaun*

### 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](mailto:pga.forrest@btinternet.com)

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Anne Lorrimer-Roberts – 07887 682943 - [anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)

St John the Evangelist, Mill End – Geraldine Page – 07725 748490 - [geraldine.page21@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.page21@gmail.com)

### FRANCES GARWOOD RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Frances Garwood. We commend her soul to the Lord and pray for her family at this difficult time. Frances' funeral will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at Chilterns Crematorium.

### JOHN REID RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of John Reid. We commend his soul to the Lord and pray for his family at this difficult time. The arrangements for John's funeral are yet to be finalised.

### GORDON STARCK RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Gordon Starck. We commend his soul to the Lord and pray for his family at this difficult time. Gordon's funeral will take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at West Herts Crematorium. When the COVID19 restrictions have been lifted there will be a Memorial Mass for Gordon at Our Lady's.

### JOHN CONNOR RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of John Conner. We commend his soul to the Lord and pray for his family at this difficult time. The arrangements for John's funeral are yet to be finalised.

### MESSAGES FROM THE CARDINAL

The Cardinal continues to issue video messages which are posted on the Diocesan website at <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/>

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### 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](http://us.magnificat.net)

### INVITATION TO PRAY

You are warmly invited to join us every Thursday evening to pray together and have a time of fellowship. Whether you are part of the Parish Community or not we would love you to come along to our online prayer group. The evening will consist of a time for singing, reading and quiet reflection, sharing and intercessory prayer. You are welcome to join in as you feel you would like. Prayer meetings will start at 8.00pm every Thursday and finish at 9.30pm

If you would like to join us simply email the following address and we will add you to the invitation.  
[kenny.family@ntlworld.com](mailto:kenny.family@ntlworld.com)

We are using a platform called 'Zoom' which is very 'user friendly' and we can support you with this if necessary. We look forward to hearing from you.

### 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>

### CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE - STICKERS

Parents who will be seeking a Certificate of Catholic Practice for September 2021 Catholic Secondary Transfer or a September

### 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*

Acts 10:34. 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9 (Gospel)

### *Next Sunday's Readings (Second Sunday of Easter)*

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 (Gospel)

**SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR LINKS TO PARISHES WHICH ARE LIVE-STREAMING THE MASS**

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

#### Weekday Mass

Monday to Friday:

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

\* Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only

Saturday:

10.00am	St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage	<a href="http://www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage">www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage</a>
10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate	<a href="http://www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate">www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate</a>

### OTHER WEBSITES

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

The Diocese of Westminster	<a href="http://rcdow.org.uk">rcdow.org.uk</a>
The Bishops' Conference	<a href="http://cbcew.org.uk">cbcew.org.uk</a>
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham	<a href="http://walsingham.org.uk">walsingham.org.uk</a>
Lent in Isolation	<a href="http://lentinisolation.com">lentinisolation.com</a>