



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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PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A) – 5TH APRIL 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

This Sunday – Palm Sunday – we begin a Holy Week the like of which none of us has ever experienced before. We steel ourselves for a celebration of the holiest days of the Christian year, with empty churches. Who would ever have thought that we would find ourselves in such a situation! I feel a particular sadness for those adults in our communities who have been preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, but who will now have to wait until later in the year to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. Please pray especially for them.

As directed by the Bishops, Fr Damian and I will be celebrating all of the principal liturgies of Holy Week at Our Lady's, albeit in a somewhat adapted form. We encourage you, if you are able, to participate in the celebration of the Sacred Triduum via live-streaming. From phone conversations I have been having with parishioners in recent days, I know that many of you have found the live-streaming of Mass a real spiritual life-line. Details of the parishes which are live-streaming the Mass can be found further down this newsletter.

As I speak to parishioners on the phone each week I am very moved by the stories of the wonderful ways in which families, friends and neighbours are reaching out to those who need to be in self-isolation, making sure that they are well cared for. On Thursday evening, I once again joined others in Park Road for the applause for the NHS and other key workers, whilst Fr Damian rang the church bell. I know we all share in a sense of admiration and gratitude for all those working so hard, and with such courage, in the NHS, Social Care and other essential services (a good number of our own parishioners among them), to save lives and keep us safe.

I am also deeply moved by the various ways in which so many of you are using this strange time to deepen and sustain your spiritual life. As a church family we are definitely in a 'desert experience', deprived as we are of each other's company and the opportunity to worship and praise the Lord together. But we know too that, although we may sometimes feel alone and separated, we are in fact united with each other in the great communion of saints.

Holy Week is going to be very different for all of us this year. Yet, the mysteries which we celebrate - the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ - are eternal and unchanging. They are at the heart of all that we believe, do and are, as Christian people. I encourage you, in whatever ways you can, to enter into the mystery of these Holy Days:

Palm Sunday – Even if you do participate in Mass "virtually" via live-streaming, maybe also spend some time, either with your Missal or Bible, sitting with the Passion Gospel for this day (Matthew 26:14 – 27:66). Reflect on Matthew's account of the passion, death and burial of our Saviour. I encourage you, too, to take up Fr Damian's suggestion about palms, which you will find further down this newsletter. Fr Damian has also created a Facebook page called 'Chess Valley Parishes' on which he intends to post reflections for Holy Week and beyond. Details of this can be found further down the newsletter.

Holy Thursday – As you recall how Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, call to mind his commandment that we should love one another as he loves us, and how we are to express that in acts of humble service. In what ways might you be able to offer service to others in need in these difficult days? Don't forget that even taking time to hold others in prayer before the Lord, can be a real act of service. Take time to ponder and give thanks for the great gift of the Eucharist which Christ instituted on this holy night. When so many are deprived of the physical reception of Christ in Holy Communion, let us spiritually long for the day when once more we can physically receive the Lord in his Eucharistic Presence.

Good Friday – On this day when we contemplate the supreme sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, perhaps place a crucifix somewhere prominent in your home where you will be reminded of it throughout the day. Maybe accompany it with a lit candle or two. Take time to read St John's account of the Passion (John 18:1- 19:42).

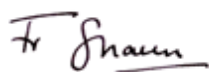
Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday – On this of all days try to make an extra special effort to share in the celebration of Mass via live-streaming if at all possible. Easter Sunday is *the* great feast of the Christian year. Our celebration of it this year will inevitably be simpler and different, but let us try our best to be filled with the joy of the Risen Christ and let his light fill our hearts and our lives.

At the moment we wake up each morning to a stream of bad news, as the coronavirus pandemic tightens its grip upon our world. These are difficult days for all of us, but we must not despair. For we have the **Good News!** The Good News is that Christ has conquered darkness and death with his resurrection light. So in this Holy Week, which we now begin, let us offer our worship and praise to the Lord in whatever ways we can. Let us spiritually sing our *Hosannas* to the Lord on Palm Sunday; on Holy Thursday let us renew both our commitment to the service of others and our reverence for the Lord’s Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist; on Good Friday let us look at the crucifix and know with grateful hearts the price the Christ has paid to redeem us; on Easter Sunday let us rejoice that Christ has overcome death and darkness and so let us stand in his risen light and sing our *Alleluias!*

As we each prepare ourselves, in different ways, for the celebration of the great Triduum of the Lord’s Passion, Death and Resurrection, let us draw strength from words from today’s Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

May the Lord bless and protect you all



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK	
SATURDAY 4 TH APRIL	Isabel Montesdeoca (Ints.)
SUNDAY 5 TH APRIL <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>	Maria Martin RIP For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 6 TH APRIL	For a swift end to the Coronavirus
TUESDAY 7 TH APRIL	For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 8 TH APRIL	For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
THURSDAY 9 TH APRIL <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i>	For a swift end to the Coronavirus
FRIDAY 10 TH APRIL <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
SATURDAY 11 TH APRIL <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>	For a swift end to the Coronavirus
SUNDAY 12 TH APRIL <i>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION</i>	Margaret Stevenson RIP For the People of the Parish

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 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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

PALM SUNDAY

On Sunday 5th April, we invite you to put a branch on the door of your house or on the window to celebrate Palm Sunday. It could be any green branch or a drawing of some palm leaves. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into Holy Week. I would love to see some photos of your displays! Please email me a photo at damianryan@rcdow.org.uk We hope to upload them on our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/chess.valley.12>

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.12> 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 6th 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

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

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 17th April at Chilterns Crematorium.

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. This coming Thursday is Holy Thursday so we will meet at 7.00pm for 45 minutes so that those who would like to can join in church services at 8.00pm. **All other 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

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be a meditation on the 'Stations of the Cross' **this Saturday 4th April at 12.00 and Good Friday 10th April at 12.00.** We will be using the platform called 'Zoom' and all that is required is that you email me in advance informing me that you would like to join us; you will then be emailed back an invitation with the necessary details. My email address is: owengilmore@gmx.com We look forward to you joining us on this journey.

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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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 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.

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

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

Next Sunday's Readings (Easter Sunday Morning)

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

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