



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

Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga.forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
anne@themessagemachine.com

Mill End

Geraldine Page
geraldine.page21@gmail.com

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 19TH APRIL 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

On Thursday of this past week we heard the not unexpected news that the lockdown will remain in place for at least another three weeks. Whilst we were probably all bracing ourselves for such an announcement, it is still very hard news for everyone. We have to take a deep breath and prepare ourselves for more weeks separated from many of our loved ones, from our church communities, from the physical reception of the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion. For children it will mean more uncertainty about their schooling, for many adults there will be increasing worries about work and possible unemployment. We are probably all asking ourselves, ‘When will this end?’

At such a time, more than ever, we need to hear and receive into our hearts the words which Jesus speaks, not once but three times, in this Sunday’s Gospel: ‘Peace be with you’. Earlier in St John’s Gospel Jesus spells out for his disciples the nature of the peace he brings and gives: ‘Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you’ (Jn 14:27). With the assurance of this peace the Apostles were able to accomplish extraordinary things. Christ’s peace, the peace that only he can give and which is his gift to us too, can also give us the strength to do extraordinary things in these extraordinary times: to find the strength to endure

times of isolation and loneliness; the courage to do extraordinary acts of kindness and love to and for those in so many different kinds of need at this time.

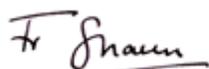
Our first reading today, from the Acts of the Apostles, begins with these words: ‘The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.’ St Luke points us to what are sometimes called the ‘four marks of the church’: the apostles teaching, the common life of those who believe, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers. Our enforced isolation and social distancing deprives us of the physical expression of these marks, at least in their communal aspects. For this reason I want to commend to you a new online initiative which Fr Damian and I want to introduce in the coming weeks. It is our hope to have a season of online bible study and reflection, using the lectionary readings for the Easter Season from the Acts of the Apostles. I will lead a bible study each week, looking in some depth at these passages and on another day of the week Fr Damian (using the same passage of scripture) will lead a session of *Lectio Divina*, that ancient and beautiful practice of meditating on the word of God and reflecting on what the Lord is saying to us through it right now. We will be using ‘Zoom’, which I am sure many of you have become familiar with in recent weeks, either for work or for keeping in touch with family members and friends. Further down this Newsletter you will find more details of what we are planning and how you can register for it. This will be a great way for us to stay connected with our brothers and sisters in our parish communities and to explore the scriptures together in this Year of the Word. I commend it to you and hope that many of you will join us for the coming weeks. There is no requirement to attend every session, just come along (virtually) to as much of it as you want or are able.

Each week of the lockdown Fr Damian and I are ringing our most vulnerable parishioners, making sure that they are well and safe. From conversations we have had with them, we know that many of you are doing the same thing and that, where you are able and where it is safe to do so, you are offering all sorts of practical help and support to your fellow parishioners and neighbours as well, of course, as to your vulnerable families and loved one. In such acts as these we see that second mark of the church; the brotherhood (and sisterhood) of the community of the faithful. We recognise that we are bound together by the bonds of love and mutual service and I thank you for, and encourage you in, all the ways in which you are reaching out to those in most need in these challenging days.

In the second reading for this Sunday from the First Letter of St Peter, the apostle reminds his readers that, even though they have been plagued by all sorts of trials, when Jesus Christ is revealed their faith will have been tested and proved like gold and then they will have praise and glory and honour. No one can doubt that as individuals, as a community, as the world, we are undergoing a testing greater than anything we have experienced before but we do so always with hope, always with the peace of Christ alive and active in our hearts.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus, that peace which is the gift he longs to share with us in these difficult days, be yours now and always.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK	
SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE 18 TH APRIL	Fr John Helm RIP Fr Eddie Matthews RIP
SUNDAY 19TH APRIL <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	For the People of the Parish Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP
MONDAY 20TH APRIL	Sylvia Jubber RIP (Anniv)
TUESDAY 21ST APRIL	Peter Impett RIP
WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL	Mgr. John Coghlan RIP
THURSDAY - ST GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND 23 RD APRIL	Theresa Ryan RIP
FRIDAY - SS ERKENWALD & MELLITUS 24 TH APRIL	Fr John Seabrook RIP
SATURDAY – ST MARK 25 TH APRIL	For the sick and housebound of the parish
SUNDAY 26TH APRIL <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	For the People of the Parish

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

Even though we are currently unable to publically gather to 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. Thank you for your continuing support.

Mark Blayney, Carolyn Opie & Sandra Miller

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

FEELING DISCONNECTED?

Are you feeling disconnected from parish life? Do you miss your community, and priests? We are missing you! Please, join us, and your parish community, in our new **online parish bible study programme and prayer (Lectio Divina) group**. The programme will be divided into two sessions each week. Ideally you would attend both Sessions each week, but even if you can only attend one, we hope that you will find it helpful in this time when we cannot gather physically as a Church community.

Online Bible Study programme

In Session One each week we will take a look at short passage of scripture (from the Acts of the Apostles) and delve into its historical and biblical context, how it would have been understood by the Early Church, what it says about God, and what it has to say to us today. No previous experience of bible study is necessary. Fr Shaun will lead this via 'Zoom', following up-to-date security measures. It will last between 45 minutes to an hour, with the day and times are to be decided. Please, contact Fr Shaun as soon as possible if you would like to attend (shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk).

Online Bible Reflection and Prayer

In session Two we will practice the beautiful and very ancient technique of praying with the scriptures known as **Lectio Divina**, using the same passage already looked at in Session one. No previous experience of bible prayer is necessary. Fr Damian will lead this also via 'Zoom', following up-to-date security measures. Similarly, it will last between 45 minutes and an hour, with the day and times to be decided. If you are interested, please, contact Fr Damian (damianryan@rcdow.org.uk) as soon as possible.

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.

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

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/>

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 21st April at West Herts Crematorium. When the COVID19 restrictions have been lifted there will be a Memorial Mass for Gordon at Our Lady's.

HAZEL REILLY RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Hazel Reilly. We commend her soul to the Lord and pray for her family at this difficult time. Hazel's funeral will take place on Friday 24th April at West Herts Crematorium. When the COVID19 restrictions have been lifted there will be a Memorial Mass for Hazel at Our Lady's.

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. John's funeral will take place on Tuesday 28th April at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. When the COVID19 restrictions have been lifted there will be a Memorial Mass for John at Our Lady's.

MARIA FIALHO RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Maria Fialho. We commend her soul to the Lord and pray for his family at this difficult time. Maria's funeral will take place on Wednesday 29th April at Chilterns Crematorium.

JOHN CONNOR RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of John Connor. We commend his soul to the Lord and pray for his family at this difficult time. John's funeral will take place on Friday 1st May at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. When the COVID19 restrictions have been lifted there will be a Memorial Mass for John at St John's, Mill End.

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

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.

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

Next Sunday's Readings (Third Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:14.22-33; 1Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35 (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	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