



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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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 26TH APRIL 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

One of the things of which I have become much more aware in these days of lockdown is birdsong. With the largely lovely weather we have been having and with the windows open and traffic (on the roads and in the skies) so much lessened, the singing of the birds comes so much easier to the ear. It is a joyful sound. It is, of course, spring – personally, my favourite time of the year – and the birdsong and the trees coming into full leaf are signs of new life, growth and hope.

Of course, this year it is a rather bitter-sweet experience as, apart from a brief period each day for physical exercise, we are largely stuck indoors unable to fully enjoy the joys and beauty of this spring season.

It seems so very appropriate that, at least here in the northern hemisphere, we get to celebrate the immense joy of the Easter season in springtime. The readings for this Third Sunday of Easter present to us the basic *kerygma* (proclamation) of the early Church, that they were all witnesses to the Resurrection.

Our First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, is the first half of a speech that Peter delivers after the disciples' experience of Pentecost. In this speech we hear two very important points about Jesus. First, everything about Jesus – from his mighty works and signs to his resurrection from the dead – was accomplished by God. Second, Jesus' resurrection from the dead fulfils God's "oath" to King David. According to Acts' portrayal of Peter's preaching, the disciples experience of the resurrected and ascended Christ had led them to identify God as the author of every movement of their story.

In the Second Reading, directed to the Gentile churches of Asia Minor, Peter knows the recipients of this letter as believing Christians, must break with their past way of thinking and embrace what God has offered them in the Resurrection of Jesus. Peter, too, points to God as the source of the Gentiles' faith and hope.

So, today's readings tell us how Peter and the disciples brought the Good News of the Resurrection to both Jews and Gentiles. Despite the lockdown, self-isolation and social distancing which currently shapes the pattern of our daily lives, we know that in this Easter season, we are called to tell others the Good News of what God has done in the Resurrection of Christ. I know that many of you are doing this every day through quiet acts of loving service to your neighbours. As people who profess the Christian faith you are doing these things in the name of Christ, who teaches us to serve one another. Others among you are reaching out in different ways to bring the Good News of Christ's Resurrection to others. I think especially of our Alpha Service Team who have completed online the Alpha season which we began before the lockdown and of those who are meeting on various online platforms to worship, pray together and share faith. I thank all of you who, in so many different ways, are witnessing to the faith and hope we have in the risen Christ.

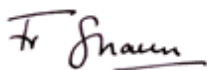
Finally, Fr Damian and I have been overwhelmed by the response to our online Bible Study and Reflection and Prayer initiative. At the time of writing this message 60 parishioners have signed up for the Bible Study and over 30 for the Bible Prayer session. Details of how to register are available further down this newsletter. It is not too late to join us. Even if you miss the first week you can perhaps join us for week two and beyond. The more the merrier! I think we can host up to 300 on 'Zoom' at any one time. Wouldn't that be something! We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible online in these sessions this week.

Even though we are largely stuck indoors in these beautiful days of spring, let us rejoice in the new life that we see all around us in this lovely season of the year. And just as the eyes of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (today's Gospel) were opened to the presence of Christ with them, may be reminded, that where things seem dark and barren God, through Christ's resurrection, always brings new life, light, joy and peace – so that to paraphrase St Peter, *we will have faith and hope in God.*

I am reminded of some words from a beautiful hymn of Eastertide

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days have lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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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 Margaret Connor RIP
MONDAY 27TH APRIL	Sam Gibbs RIP
TUESDAY 28TH APRIL	For frontline NHS and Care workers
WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL ST CATHERINE OF SIENA	Debbie Owens (Intentions)
THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 23 RD APRIL	For a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic
FRIDAY 1ST MAY	For all key workers during the pandemic
SATURDAY 2ND MAY ST ATHANASIUS	Fr Tony Conlon RIP
SUNDAY 3RD MAY <i>FOURTH 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 – Monday evenings at 7.30pm

Beginning on **Monday 27th April**, 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. Please, contact Fr Shaun as soon as possible if you would like to attend (shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk).

Online Bible Reflection and Prayer – Friday Evenings at 7.30pm

Beginning on **Friday 1st May**, 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. If you are interested, please, contact Fr Damian (damianryan@rcdow.org.uk) by Tuesday 28th May.

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 (whatever your age or family circumstances), 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/>

LIVESTREAMED MASSES FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS IN NHS AND CARE HOMES

The Bishop of England and Wales have agreed that each Thursday evening, at 7pm, one of them, in turn, will celebrate Mass in his cathedral, live streamed, for all those frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families. The dates, locations and live-streaming information (link in the name of the cathedral) for the next five Masses have also been announced. They are as follows:

30 April: Bishop Richard Moth, [Arundel Cathedral](#)

7 May: Bishop Marcus Stock, [Leeds Cathedral](#)

14 May: Bishop Robert Byrne CO, [Newcastle Cathedral](#)

21 May: Bishop Mark Davies, [Shrewsbury Cathedral](#)

28 May: Bishop Terence Drainey, [Middlesbrough Cathedral](#)

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

Next Sunday's Readings (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:14.36-41; 1Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10 (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