



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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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 10th MAY 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

Today in the Sunday readings we hear the theme of God’s universal salvation offered to all people who profess faith in the Resurrection of Christ. The Second Reading is taken from 1 Peter. Today we find images such as “precious cornerstone,” “chosen race,” “royal priesthood,” and “consecrated nation,” which are traditionally attributed to Israel but now they are appropriated by Peter as language for the evangelization of the Gentiles. In the verse just after this passage, Peter says “Once you were a non-people and now you are the People of God.” With the death and resurrection of Jesus, Peter is now able to understand this. God’s raising of Jesus from the dead extends the invitation of salvation beyond Israel to include all people.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is an excerpt from Jesus’ farewell discourse in John 13:1 – 17:26. This reading contains another “I am” saying from John’s Gospel. Today Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” Of all the “I am” sayings (of which there are seven in total), this may be the most significant one, since it summarizes John’s understanding of the essence of Jesus’s identity as the Word Incarnate. The saying also points to the importance John places on *believing*. One must believe that

Jesus is the way to the Father’s house “no one [neither Jew nor Gentile] comes to the Father except through me.” God generously offers his gift of salvation to all people who profess faith in the resurrected Christ as “the way, the truth and the life”.

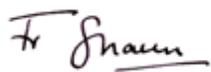
We are reminded that Jesus has revealed to us that heaven is more a relationship than a place – it is a deep and abiding eternal relationship with God and all those who have gone before us and will follow after us. Perhaps at this difficult time especially, when many of us are physically separated from our loved ones, this message can challenge us to reflect on prioritizing the relationships in our lives.

Neither must we forget or neglect the relationship that it is meant to be at the heart of all we are – our relationship with God. At this time when we can’t physically gather as a community to express together the importance of this relationship in our lives, it is perhaps especially difficult to keep focused on this central relationship, which is meant to inform and influence all the other relationship in our lives. I encourage you to not neglect this aspect of your life. In our three parishes we are trying to offer different ways to help you feel “connected” to this aspect of your life – you can find out more about them further down this newsletter. During this pandemic we are naturally focusing on our physical well-being and trying to ensure that we and our loved ones are as safe and well as is possible. With so much energy directed into this aspect of our lives it might be easy to forget that we also have to look after and nourish our spiritual self as well.

St Peter reminds us (Second Reading) that we are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation,

a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called [us] out of darkness into his own wonderful light.” There are certainly many challenges for each of us as to how we live-out that high vocation and calling in these days of lockdown and isolation, but we can never stop asking ourselves “How do I live a life that announces the Lord’s praises?”

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 9TH MAY	Martin Coyne RIP
SUNDAY 10TH MAY FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	For the People of the Parish Patricia Montesdeoca (Intentions)
MONDAY 11TH MAY	Andrew Dumughn RIP
TUESDAY 12TH MAY	Don Williamson RIP
WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY	Vincent Postlewaite RIP
THURSDAY 14TH MAY ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE	Michael Taggart RIP
FRIDAY 15TH MAY	For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 16TH MAY	Carmel Barry (Intentions) John Barry RIP
SUNDAY 17TH MAY SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	For the People of the Parish Fabbi Montesdeoca (Intentions)



I am the the
way, truth



AND THE LIFE
JOHN 14:6

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 runs in two sessions each week. We invite you to attend both Sessions each week, but even if you can only attend one or the other, 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

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

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 the evening of Tuesday 12th 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

EASTER OFFERING

A number of parishioners have been asking us about the Easter Offering collection, which we were unable to take up this year. Once the public celebration of Mass has resumed we will make Easter Offering envelopes available for anyone who wishes make an Easter Offering retrospectively.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10-16 MAY 2020

Although there won't be any house-to-house collections or market at St John Fisher this year, Christian Aid Week is still happening! Donations can be made online at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation> or you can telephone 020 7523 2046 to make your donation. Please do not send cheques to Christian Aid HQ as there is a delay in processing postal donations due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. Please remember in your prayers those people whom Christian Aid continues to support in some of the world's poorest countries.

VINCENT POSTLEWAITE RIP

It is with sadness we share the news of the death of Vincent Postlewaite. Vincent's funeral will take place on Monday 18th May at Breakspear Crematorium. We offer our sincere condolences to Vincent's family at this sad time.

MICHAEL TAGGART RIP

It is with sadness we share the news of the death of Michael Taggart. Michael's funeral will take place on Monday 18th May at Breakspear Crematorium. We offer our sincere condolences to Michael's family at this sad time.

MICHAEL CHANG RIP

It is with sadness we share the news of the death of Michael Chang. Michael moved away from the area in the mid 1980s but before that regularly attended St John Fisher and Our Lady's. Michael's funeral will take place in Surrey on Tuesday 2nd June. We offer our sincere condolences to Michael's family at this sad time.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 2020 RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

A limited number of places are likely to be available for Reception starting in September through the continuing interest process. If you have been allocated another school and would like to apply for a place at St John's please contact **both** the local authority and the St John's office on 01923 774004 or admin@stjohns704.herts.sch.uk.

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:

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

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

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

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: David Cook, 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 Townsend 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 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14: 1- 12 (Gospel)

Next Sunday's Readings (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 8:5-8. 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21 (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