



### 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  
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#### 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)

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5 Park Road, Rickmansworth  
WD3 1HU  
Telephone: 01923 773387

### PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR A) – 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2020

#### A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

Pentecost Sunday celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. The faith and unity present in our Christian communities today is made possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The First Reading today, from Acts, narrates the initial events associated with the descent of the Holy Spirit onto the Apostles. Luke, in his Gospel, foreshadowed this with words of John the Baptist: "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than me is coming ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). The association of the image of fire with the Holy Spirit is significant. In the Old Testament, fire symbolizes God's presence in the covenant at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:18). In the New Testament, fire symbolizes the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. As the fire came to rest on the Apostles, 'they were all filled with the Holy Spirit,' transforming them and enabling them to proclaim the resurrected Christ to the large crowds gathered in Jerusalem.

We hear in the Second Reading, from Paul, how the presence of the Holy Spirit brought the gift of faith and unity to the new-born Church. Paul tells the Christian community in Corinth that no one professes faith that "Jesus is Lord" without the Holy Spirit. It is this common profession that unites and benefits the community: "The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose."

In the Gospel reading for today from John, we hear how Jesus, on Easter Sunday, gave the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The risen Christ "came and stood among them." and spoke to them saying: "Peace be with you." Then Jesus breathed on them saying "Receive the Holy Spirit." From the beginning, the peace of the community was linked to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit who unifies us in the Body of Christ, gives us Jesus' love of God and of neighbour, frees us, and makes us God's own. The challenge for each of us to try to discover more deeply each day how the receiving of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and Confirmation is meant to strengthen and empower us in the mission that Christ himself us given to us: namely to become and be his missionary disciples in the world.

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On Tuesday of this past week, in my capacity as Dean of Watford, I attended a "Zoom" meeting of the Westminster Diocesan Deans with the Cardinal and the Auxiliary Bishops. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the procedures we will all need to put in place for the re-opening of our churches for **individual prayer**. As I write this on Friday afternoon we are still awaiting a decision from the government as to whether and when places of worship might be allowed to re-open for individual prayer. Any decision about the re-commencement of public worship (Mass) is still some time away.

In advance of a decision about the re-opening of churches **solely** for individual prayer, the Cardinal has asked all priests to make a risk assessment of their churches and to purchase the necessary social-distancing and hygiene equipment which we will need in order to safely re-open churches for individual prayer.

It has been made clear to us that social distancing and hygiene guidelines must be strictly adhered to. Whenever a church is open for individual prayer stewards must be present, and at the end of each opening period the church will have to undergo a very thorough domestic clean. You will realise from this that we are going to need a lot of help from parishioners in order to safely re-open even for periods of individual prayer.

Once a decision has been made by the government and the diocese as to when churches can re-open for individual prayer, it is my intention - and only after I am confident after all the social distancing and hygiene measures are in place - to re-open Our Lady's, Rickmansworth, for some periods for individual prayer. At this stage I cannot tell you which days or for how long. This will largely depend upon decisions made at a deanery level and upon the level of response we have from parishioners with regard to stewarding and cleaning of the church.

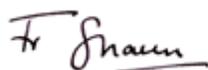
St John Fisher, Chorleywood and St John Evangelist, Mill End, will not be opening for individual prayer. You will be aware that neither of these churches are usually open outside of Mass times, and with no resident priest on-site, the logistics of opening either of these churches for individual prayer would be extremely challenging.

I stress again that at this stage we are only talking about re-opening for individual prayer and, as yet, we do not know for sure if or when the government will allow us to do so. Once permission is given we will need to be sure that all social-distancing and hygiene measures are in place before we move to re-open Our Lady's for some periods of individual prayer.

This is going to be a very challenging exercise and we ask for your patience and support as we prepare to take these steps. Our primary concern is for the safety of our parishioners and for everyone visiting our church for individual prayer. As things become clearer I will be appealing for help with stewarding and cleaning from those who are not in vulnerable groups and I will be providing more specific information about how these times for individual prayer will work in practice.

As this weekend we celebrate the great Solemnity of Pentecost, let us each ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with the spiritual fruits of the Spirit which we all need in these challenging days: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun  
Parish Priest

#### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK	
<b>SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	Diana Faller RIP
<b>SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY</b> <i>PENTECOST SUNDAY</i>	For the People of the Parish Michael Fields RIP (Anniv)
<b>MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE</b> MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH	Debbie Owens (Intensions) Mary Keeler RIP (Anniv)
<b>TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE</b>	Robert Middleton RIP Anne Roche (Intentions)
<b>WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE</b> ST CHARLES LWANGA	Joan O'Flynn (Intentions)
<b>THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b> OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST	For the priests of the Watford Deanery
<b>FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b> ST BONIFACE	For a swift discovery of a vaccine to combat the coronavirus
<b>SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b>	Peter Kelly RIP
<b>SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b> <i>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY</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](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. 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](mailto: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](mailto:damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)) by the evening of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

## **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](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)

## **TRY ALPHA ONLINE WITH US!**

Alpha is a space where everyone – wherever you are in terms of your beliefs and faith (or not) – can explore the big questions of life, faith and meaning in a relaxed, non-judgemental, and fun way. People can say whatever they want (seriously!). Alpha online is from the comfort of your own home and takes up less than an hour and half per week! We are starting a new Alpha series from Tuesday 9th June, 8 - 9:15 pm. It will use the internet platform "Zoom", which is very easy to use.

Please, register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alpha-online-at-chess-valley-rc-parishes-tickets-104322962790>

Feel free to invite as many friends as possible, near or far! If you want to know a bit more about Alpha, check out the parish Facebook and Instagram pages where you'll see some great videos from parishioners sharing a bit about their experience. You can also share these with anyone you'd like to invite to Alpha!

### **ALPHA - INVITATION TO PRAY**

Alpha on line will be launched for our three Parishes on Tuesday 9th June and run until 18<sup>th</sup> August. We are inviting all parishioners to join some of the Alpha Intercessory Prayer Team to either pray from home or to join the online Zoom platform over eleven Tuesdays from 8.00-9.15pm to pray for the guests and team attending Alpha. In addition to this we would also love to invite you to pray daily for our parish community and its ongoing formation. Maybe you could consider praying the following prayer:

*Thank you loving Father for all those you have called to participate in Alpha; we ask your blessing upon all, both team and guests. Without you we can do nothing, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pour out your Holy Spirit and abundant blessings and gifts during this Alpha. May Alpha ignite or re-ignite the flame of faith in all hearts so that we may experience the wonder, joy and hope that being in relationship with you brings. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen*

Thank you, the Alpha Service Team.

## **PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – SUNDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 5PM VIA ‘ZOOM’**

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, for a short Praise and Worship gathering at 5pm. We will be using Zoom to sing a few uplifting hymns, listen to a short prayer and a reading or reflection, as well as catch up with fellow Parishioners. Please do not worry if you have not used Zoom before, it is very simple to set up, and pick up and we will be happy to walk you through the process ahead of time and on the day. If you would like to attend, please email Katy Pione ([cepione@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cepione@hotmail.co.uk)) before Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June so she can send you a link with the meeting invitation on it, as well as the song words. Please feel free to invite anyone who might like to attend! Look forward to seeing you then.

## **INTERWEB PARISH QUIZ – SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 7.30PM VIA ‘ZOOM’**

Come along and join us for an evening of fun (and friendly competition)! It's been a while now since we've all been able to see each other at mass, so we will be putting everyone into teams based on the church/mass you usually attend to allow you to have a chat and catch up with those friendly faces you may not have seen for a while! The purpose of the evening is simply to have some fun and socialise with each other, so we would love to see as many of you there as possible! Feel free as well to invite any family and friends - the more the merrier! We will be emailing the Zoom link to all those who confirm they will be attending, so please can you email Yasmin ([Yasmin.lakin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Yasmin.lakin@hotmail.co.uk)) and Jess ([jesskenny716@gmail.com](mailto:jesskenny716@gmail.com)) by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. To help the quizmasters plan teams, please can you include the following information in your email:

- Name(s) [*including any family/friends if they are not emailing us separately*]:
- Church:
- Usual Mass Time:

We will then email you all the Zoom link and your teams the night before the quiz. We look forward to seeing you at the quiz!

## **THE CARDINAL'S PENTECOST MESSAGE**

The Cardinal has recorded a video of a pastoral message in preparation for Pentecost. In it, he reflects on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, particularly in the context of the circumstances in which we are living at the moment. The video is available online at <https://vimeo.com/421046273> and on the diocesan website.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **CAFOD – UNITE AGAINST CORONAVIRUS**

As we cope with coronavirus in the UK, we think of our sisters and brothers in developing countries who are facing this pandemic with fragile health systems, some of which have almost no intensive care beds or ventilators. Food prices have already risen with borders closing the poorest are losing their jobs and income with wholesale shutdowns. Furthermore, inadequate healthcare, lack of access to washing facilities and limited ability to social distance will result in loss of life on an intolerable scale. The likely impact will be devastating. We are one global family. In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers, gifts and voices are needed now more than ever. Please visit [cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](http://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus) to find out ways you can give, act and pray in response to this crisis.

## This Sunday's Readings

Acts:2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23 (Gospel)

## Next Sunday's Readings (Trinity Sunday)

Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9; 2 Cor. 13:11-13; John 3:16-18 (Gospel)

## 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 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

## MASS ONLINE

### MAKING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*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>