



### 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:**

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**Parish Administrator:**

Kerry Van Rensburg  
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**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)

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

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 24th MAY 2020

#### A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

Sometimes important things go unnoticed for a while. When Jesus died on the cross, his death seemed just another in a long line of brutal executions in a distant and unimportant province of the Roman Empire. Even when Jesus rose from the dead, he made himself only known to a few, and the truth of his resurrection was cherished by a small number of disciples. These disciples pondered the meaning of these extraordinary events but without understanding them.

On this Seventh Sunday of Easter we await the great Solemnity of Pentecost. On the first Pentecost day the Holy Spirit made sure that the most important event in all of history would not go unnoticed. The Spirit, like a brilliant light, illuminated the cross and the tomb so that people of faith could begin to see their meaning. The disciples, filled with wisdom, were moved to penetrate the deep mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. They came to recognise that Jesus by his cross and resurrection had set us free from sin and death, and that by dying he had destroyed our death and by rising had restored our life.

The life which Jesus offered to his Father in the sacrifice of the cross was restored to him in a glorious manner in his resurrection. From the cross the life which was manifested in the resurrection flowed into the Church, the people of

God. The Church, born from the side of Christ as he was dying on the cross, was brought to light on the day of Pentecost.

To understand the death of Jesus is to see that he opened his arms on the cross to embrace in unity and love all of God's people and to form them into his body, the Church. God's will is that we stand before him, not as isolated individuals (even though that maybe how we perceive ourselves in this time of lockdown) but as a united people, the universal Church. As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost next Sunday we pray for a 'new Pentecost' in which our eyes, our hearts and our very lives might be open to the great plan and mission that Christ has for all who have the honour of bearing the name 'Christian' – namely that, empowered by the same Holy Spirit, who emboldened the Apostles, we might be given the courage and the strength to be his witnesses to anyone who might be willing to listen.

The call to be Jesus' missionary disciples will almost always push our comfort-zones to the limit. We might have to face ridicule, hostility and rejection, but the blunt truth is that was ever so! Let us find strength and encouragement in the words of Peter from today's Second Reading: 'If anyone should suffer for being a Christian then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.'

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During this past week, all the priests of the Diocese received a letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols. In his letter the Cardinal explained that it is now time for us priests to begin to prepare for the reopening of our churches.

He was very clear that exactly when that opening may be is not yet known. The government have given an indicative date of 4<sup>th</sup> July, but the Cardinal intimated that some limited opening for private prayer might be possible before then.

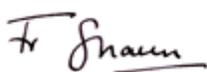
For many, the possibility of reopening churches for individual prayer, and at some point Mass, will come as a great relief and consolation. However, some may feel apprehensive about gathering while social-distancing, especially those over 70 years of age, or those who have underlying health conditions. I understand your different feelings. In any case, there will be much to do before we can safely open any church, and even more before we can resume the celebration of Mass. We have a duty to ensure that our churches are as free as possible from the risk of spreading the virus.

I have already begun discussions and consultation on these important issues with my Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Our discussions are informed by guidance from the Diocese, which is working with the Government's 'Places of Worship Taskforce'. In the coming weeks, as more information becomes available, I intend to broaden discussion and consultation to include the three Parishes' Core Groups, and the Finance Operations and Premises Committees of the three parishes. I want to assure you that every step we take will be within the Government approved guidance.

We look forward with joy to a time when we are able not only to come into a church building for individual prayer, but to gather safely to celebrate publicly our faith through the liturgies of the Catholic Church. However, I need to be frank with you and say that, as long as social distancing remains in place, it is likely that we will not be able to return to the way of celebrating the Mass which we have been used to. Like every other part of society – workplaces, schools, and social institutions – we will have to adapt to a “new normal”. Sacrifices will have to be made, compromises accepted and new challenges embraced. It may have become something of cliché, but it is true to say that we are in unprecedented times and we have to accept that reality.

I am sure you will appreciate the need for safety, adaptability, patience, and unity when it comes to the reopening of our churches. As the Cardinal wrote to his priests this past week, “We are in this together ... we will make [this journey] together, with a clear sense of our duty to keep people safe and to give them the longed for opportunity to practice their faith more fully.”

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun  
Parish Priest

#### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY</b>	John & Margaret McGuinness RIP (Anniv)
<b>SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b> <b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	For the People of the Parish Kevin Synnott RIP
<b>MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	Stewart Charlton RIP
<b>TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b> <b>ST PHILIP NERI</b>	Mavis Livingston RIP (Anniv)
<b>WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	For the continuing spiritual renewal of our parishes
<b>THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	Tony McConway RIP (Anniv)
<b>FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	Ernie Thorpe RIP
<b>SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	Diana Faller RIP
<b>SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b> <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	For the People of the Parish Michael Fields RIP (Anniv)

## EMAIL SCAM

Unfortunately a number of parishioners have recently received an email purporting to be from me but which is actually a scam. If you have received such an email please report it here: <https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse>. Please be aware that we will only ever email you from a Diocesan email address ending in **rcdow.org.uk**.

*Fr Shaun*

## 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*

## PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING – SUNDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT 5PM VIA ‘ZOOM’

You are warmly invited to join us this coming Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 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.

## 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)

## 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.

## **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.

## **ELVIRA SHIELDS RIP**

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Elvira Shields. Elvira's funeral will take place at Chilterns Crematorium on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. We offer our deepest condolences to Elvira's family at this sad and difficult time for them.

## **BRENDA GEOGHEGAN RIP**

It is with sadness we share the news of the death of Brenda Geoghegan. Brenda was a parishioner of St. Bede's, Croxley Green, but would be known to quite a few people at Our Lady's, as her husband Des is the chairman of our scouts. We offer our deepest condolences to Des and to all of Brenda's family at this sad and difficult time.

## **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.

## **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](mailto: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:

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](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 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11 (Gospel)

## Next Sunday's Readings (Pentecost Sunday)

Acts:2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13; John 20:19-23 (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>