



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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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – 17th MAY 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN

In the readings for this Sunday we hear how all who believed in Jesus – Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans alike were sustained by the presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst.

In the Gospel reading, which continues Jesus' great farewell discourse from last Sunday, Jesus tells the disciples about "another Advocate" (often translated as "Counsellor" or "Comforter"). In John's Gospel account, Jesus was the first Advocate, sent from the Father in heaven. Jesus now reveals the second Advocate to his disciples as he prepares them for his suffering and death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Advocate is "the Spirit of truth", the "Holy Spirit", who represents the continuing presence of Jesus on earth among his disciples. Jesus assures the disciples, "I will not leave you orphans," a promise fulfilled when Jesus ascends into heaven and the Holy Spirit descends onto the community of believers.

In the First Reading, we hear of Philip's successful evangelization among the Samaritans. Luke tells us that Philip performed signs (exorcising demon-possessed people and curing those who were paralyzed or crippled).

Because of this, the Samaritans listened to Philip as he "proclaimed 'the Christ to them' and they were "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." As a result, Peter and John were sent to lay hands on the Samaritans so that they too would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate.

When Peter wrote his letter to the Gentile churches of Asia Minor, the gift of the Holy Spirit was a visible sign and a reason to hope. The same Spirit that brought Jesus to life was now present in their Gentile communities. Peter saw that the presence of the Holy Spirit fulfilled what Jesus promised to his disciples and would not leave them orphans. Jesus remained and remains fully present to all Christians.

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Although this week we have seen the beginnings of a loosening of the restrictions around the lockdown, we all know that we still have a way to go before we will be able to think about gathering for Sunday Mass in our churches once again. From the government guidelines, it seems that the possibility of allowing public worship will be under consideration from July onwards. There are many factors, both national and local, which will have to be taken into account before we can safely start gathering in our churches again to worship the Lord. Until then we all have to be patient. I am greatly encouraged by the numbers of you who are sharing in the celebration of Sunday (and often weekday Mass) via livestreaming from parishes in the UK and around the world. If you have not yet taken the opportunity to attend Mass via livestreaming, and you have the facility at home to do so, I strongly encourage you to give it a go. It is important in this time of lockdown, that we don't lose touch with the practice of our faith, with the discipline of setting aside a dedicated time each Sunday to share in the worship

of God and participate (albeit remotely) in the celebration of Mass.

Although we do not have the facility to be able to live-stream from our any of our three parishes, we are using online technology to engage with our parishioners via *Zoom* and *Facebook*. I am delighted that we have over 70 parishioners each week taking part in our Online Bible Study and nearly 50 taking part in online prayer through *Lectio Divina*. I encourage you to come and join us in these initiatives. The more the merrier! You will find more details about how to do so further down this newsletter.

In the second reading today St Peter exhorts us all to ‘Reverence the Lord Christ’ in our hearts. I encourage you to do all that you can, within what is possible for you in your own particular circumstances, to make room for Christ, to be still in his presence, so that you may receive the gift of his peace which he longs to share with you – as his heart speaks to yours.

With every prayer and blessing



Fr Shaun
Parish Priest

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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SATURDAY 16 TH MAY	Carmel Barry (Intentions) John Barry RIP
SUNDAY 17 TH MAY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	For the People of the Parish Fabbi Montesdeoca (Intentions)
MONDAY 18 TH MAY	Ann Roche (Intentions)
TUESDAY 19 TH MAY	Pat O’Neill RIP
WEDNESDAY 20 TH MAY	Alphonse Mongoue RIP
THURSDAY 21 ST MAY THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	Peggy Dunphy RIP
FRIDAY 22 ND MAY	Anne Gorman RIP
SATURDAY 23 RD MAY	John & Margaret McGuinness RIP (Anniv)
SUNDAY 24 TH MAY <i>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	For the People of the Parish Patrik Biel (Anniv)

EMAIL SCAM

Unfortunately a number of parishioners have received an email this past week 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 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 19th 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

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.

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.

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 Friday 22nd May at Breakspear Crematorium. 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:

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.

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 to find out ways you can give, act and pray in response to this crisis.

CHORLEYWOOD FINANCE OPERATIONS AND PREMISES COMMITTEE

After serving on the Parish Finance Committee for some six years, Kieron Johnson has decided that it is time for him to step down from this role. I am deeply grateful to Kieron for his dedicated service on this committee, where his wisdom, professionalism and financial expertise have been invaluable. Keiron has made a very significant contribution to the work of the Finance Committee and on behalf of the committee, and of the whole parish; I would like to express my sincere thanks to him.

Fr Shaun

This Sunday's Readings

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

Next Sunday's Readings (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Acts 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11 (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	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