



St John The Evangelist
Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG



Our Lady Help of Christians
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU



St John Fisher
Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH

Livestreaming: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) - 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Mountains have always been a place for human beings to seek the transcendent. Mountains were considered the realm of the gods from antiquity. We recall the ancient Greeks and Mount Olympus, the home of Zeus. In the Old Testament we know of Mount Sinai and Moses' encounter with God there. In today's gospel we hear of another encounter with the divine on a mountain, the place of the transcendent. This encounter takes place not in front of the crowds, or even the Twelve. This encounter is special; it is unique. For this special event, Jesus takes Peter, James and John.

The language of this encounter is steeped in symbolism, beginning with the mountain itself, but including the white garments, the cloud, the voice from heaven, and the figures alongside Jesus. The garments Jesus wears are turned 'dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them.' Jesus' garments are *really* white. The symbolism should be clear. He is pure. Moses and Elijah appear alongside Jesus, representing the Law and the Prophets. Jesus fulfils both; his ministry is in continuity with Moses and Elijah. He is not doing anything contrary to either.

Rather than rest in the moment, and simply take in the wonderment of it all, Peter breaks into the scene with an idea to make three tents, which would be places of worship, commemorating this event. His response is so typical of our own. He wants to preserve the occasion, mark it in some way. But no sooner had he voiced this proposal than God himself, the voice from heaven, speaks in a way reminiscent of Jesus' baptism. Now the three disciples, not present at Jesus' baptism, hear the voice too. And with that, the episode ends. The three disciples are left alone with Jesus to come down from the mountain, struggling to understand what this experience and Jesus' own admonition meant.

Mountaintop experiences are rare, and we cannot stay there, as much as we would like. The Scriptures give us a glimpse into that reality. Without warning Jesus was transfigured. The encounter with the divine often happens that way, without warning. And it seems that as soon as we have the encounter, it is over and we are left to descend the mountain. We can share Peter's desire to commemorate the event. It seems natural to erect a monument or some marker so that we may return to this place of encounter again and again. But that is not to be. The three disciples are left wondering what the experience means, and what Jesus' saying about rising from the dead might mean. Of course, this experience and Jesus' saying will become clear in hindsight, after the crucifixion and resurrection.

And this is a model for us of how the paschal mystery is lived. We have peak experiences followed by moments of wonder and discernment. The Christian life is not one grand, never-ending peak experience. In fact, such experiences may be rare, even as they were for the disciples. And the Christian life is not all wonder and discernment, as meaning develops gradually and in the light of unfolding events. We stay faithful to Jesus and accompany him in the peak experiences, and also in the struggle to discern meaning.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 28TH FEBRUARY	3.00pm	APM - Our Lady's, Rickmansworth	via Zoom
THUR 4TH MARCH	7.30pm	APM - St John Fisher, Chorleywood	via Zoom
THUR 4TH MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	via Zoom
FRI 5TH MARCH	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross (St John's, Mill End)	via Zoom

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 27 TH FEBRUARY	For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		
SUNDAY 28 TH FEBRUARY <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	10am Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Ivy Bowes RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 1ST MARCH <i>St DAVID, BISHOP, PATRON OF WALES</i>	Fr Jim Duffy RIP		
TUESDAY 2 ND MARCH	Patrick Cauldwell RIP		
WEDNESDAY 3 RD MARCH	9.30am Thelma Malone RIP		
THURSDAY 4 TH MARCH	Bernard Eason RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 5 TH MARCH	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SATURDAY 6 TH MARCH	Special Intention		
SUNDAY 7 TH MARCH <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	10am Mary Dunleavy RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Mary Viner RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon:	Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.
1st Reading:	Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18
Response to Psalm:	I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.
2nd Reading:	Romans 8:31-34
Gospel:	Mark 9:2-10
Communion Antiphon:	This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25 (Gospel)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Maureen Douglas, Josie Westthrop, Peter Knight, Bishop John MacWilliam and Michael Gaukroger.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock and James Clark.

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, Ann Penn, Paddy Goble, Pam Fitzpatrick and Julian Harris.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

KAIROS MINISTRY

Last Tuesday we launched our new online ministry, *Kairos*, and we were delighted to be joined by around 110 people! Registration for Season One is now closed, but we are now open for pre-registration for Season Two of *Kairos*, which will begin on **Tuesday 27th April 2021**. If you would like to join us for Season Two of *Kairos*, please email our Communications Team at Kairos@rcdow.org.uk. If you have registered for Season One you **do not** need to register again for Season Two.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS (APM) 2021

The purpose of the APM is for parishioners to be able to hear about the work of the parish during the previous year. An important element of the APM is the presentation of the annual parish finances, in this case for the year ending on 31st December 2020. The APM also offers the opportunity for parishioners to ask questions of the parish team. Due to the pandemic, this year the APMs will take place online via *Zoom*. The dates will be as follows:

Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth – Sunday 28th February 2021 at 3.00pm

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Thursday 4th March 2021 at 7.30pm

If you would like to attend (virtually) the APM for your respective parish, please email me at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk and, nearer the time, I will send you a *Zoom* invite to the meeting. We hope that many parishioners will join us for these important meetings. *Fr Shaun*

FUNERAL OF EILEEN (NELLIE) MULVIHILL RIP

The funeral of Nellie Mulvihill will take place at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth at **7.00pm on Tuesday 2nd March 2021**. Nellie's body will then be taken to Ireland for burial there. Due to social-distancing restrictions, funerals are currently restricted to a maximum of 30 mourners so it will not be possible for parishioners to attend, unless they have been directly invited by the family. However, people are free to participate via livestream at the following link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

We offer our deepest condolences to Eileen's family at this sad and difficult time.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL

Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, especially throughout the unprecedented events of 2020. Your donations help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in three mission areas which are more critical than ever. **Marriage and Family Life:** enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. **Youth and Evangelisation:** helping young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith. **Caritas Westminster:** putting our faith into action by serving those in need. **Education Service:** supporting our schools. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table. Poverty is deepening across our Diocese and the need for foodbanks and supermarket vouchers has accelerated. Through your generosity we're continuing to provide food for those people most in need. Please visit CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

SVP TWINNAGE LENT 2021 APPEAL - Sudan & South Sudan: the pandemic's impact

In recent years the SVP has helped millions of displaced and starving people in Sudan and South Sudan through baby feeding stations, provision of clean water, medical care and vocational training. Because of the pandemic, annual donations to help provide this assistance have fallen from around **£250,000** to **£85,000**. As a consequence some services will have to be cut in 2021. Adding to this, continuing political instability in both countries is leading to more and more people being displaced without recourse to help other than from the international community. This Lent, can you help? To donate, please visit <https://www.svp.org.uk/twinnage> and click on "Sudan and South Sudan appeal" Thank you for your generosity - every little helps. God bless you and your family, *Chess Valley SVP*.

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Please donate online www.cafod.org.uk/give or via text:

Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5

Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10

Text LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20

Or Telephone: 0303 303 3030 to donate over the phone

*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

For more information, please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

ONLINE STATIONS OF THE CROSS – LENT 2021

This year, due to the pandemic, Lenten Stations of the Cross will take place via *Zoom* on three Fridays during Lent (in the weeks when there is no *Kairos* gathering). We will be using photographs of the Stations of the Cross from our three parishes. Using *Zoom* means that we can play some music as part of meditation on the Stations. The Stations will take place as follows:

Friday 5th March – 7.30pm – using the Stations of the Cross from St John's, Mill End

Friday 19th March – 7.30pm – using the Stations of the Cross from Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) – 7.30pm – using the Stations from St John Fisher, Chorleywood.

Please email Fr Shaun at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk if you would like to be sent a *Zoom* invite to the online Stations of the Cross.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

UPDATED - IMPORTANT INFORMATION - MASS ATTENDANCE STICKERS AND CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE (CCP) OF 2022 SECONDARY TRANSFER AND NURSERY / RECEPTION 2022

With the Sunday Mass Obligation currently suspended and the ability of families to attend Mass in the parish each Sunday being very restricted due to social distancing measures, it is currently not possible to provide Mass attendance cards and stickers to families with a child making secondary transfer in 2022 or seeking a nursery or reception place in a catholic primary school in 2022. There currently seems to be a level of uncertainty about if, and on what criteria, priests are going to be asked to complete CCPs for 2022 admissions. For the time being, all parents with a child who will be seeking a place in a Catholic Secondary school in 2022 or a nursery or reception place in a Catholic primary school (other than St John's, Mill End or St Anthony's, Watford which do not require a CCP) should email me at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk, providing the following information:

Name of the child (first name and surname); Parents/Guardians names (first name and surname); Address at which you reside; Telephone contact details.

I will retain this information and keep a careful eye on Diocesan guidance with regard to the issuing of CCPs for 2022 admissions in the light of the prevailing restrictions caused by the pandemic. *Fr Shaun*

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL ONLINE QUIZ NIGHT

We are excited to announce an online quiz for all the family on **Sunday 7th March** at 5.00pm. It's a way to not only unite as a community but with friends and family far and wide, so please do share and all profits will go towards resources for St John's School. £10 per family, with a raffle with cash prizes, tickets available online - <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/mockingbirdentertainmentltd/484804>

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, MILL END AND MAPLE CROSS

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of St John the Evangelist church in 1971. I am delighted to say that Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be coming to St John's to celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving on **Sunday 27th June 2021**. We can be hopeful that by that time the restrictions will have been eased enough for us to be able to celebrate the day in a fuller way than we can right now. But we will have to wait and see. As part of our celebration of this important anniversary year we are moving forward with our plans to create a Lady Chapel in the side chapel area of the church. The statue of Our Lady from the church has now been removed in preparation for the construction of a new painted reredos which will form a new backdrop for the statue in its new space in the Lady Chapel. The old wooden altar, which has been unused since the church was re-ordered, is being refurbished as the Lady Chapel altar, and will sit beneath the statue and the reredos. We hope that this work will be completed in time for our big celebration in June.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

A number of parishioners who use planned giving envelopes but are currently unable to attend Sunday Mass have contacted us regarding their planned giving and the offering that they make to their parish using them. For any parishioner who is in this situation and wishes to make a Sunday offering, we invite you to either drop your envelopes, together with your donation, at the parish office at the Presbytery at Our Lady's (but only if passing through Rickmansworth – please continue to follow Government guidelines with regard to essential travel) or to post a cheque made payable to St John Fisher, Chorleywood, together with at least one planned giving envelope, to the Parish Office. Alternatively, you could make a donation via an electronic payment to St John Fisher parish using the following details:

Account Name: WRCDT Chorleywood

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Account Number: 21095552

Please annotate the payment as: **Sunday Offering**. Thank you for your continued and valued support.

STAYING COVID-SECURE AT ST JOHN FISHER

With the rapid spread of the new variant of the coronavirus and the lockdown now in force, I asked our St John Fisher Covid19 taskforce to review the COVID secure measures we have in place. This is important given the particular circumstances of the St Fisher building and it's much smaller cubic footage, when compared to our sister parishes. As a result of this review, it has been agreed that it is necessary to increase the ventilation throughout the building by keeping the front and back doors and some windows open during the celebration of Mass. This is obviously not ideal during the cold winter months, but it is necessary to help keep the building COVID secure. If you are attending Mass at St John Fisher you are advised to wrap up warmly. I also remind you that there is currently no obligation to attend Sunday Mass, so if you have underlying health conditions or if you particularly feel the cold, you may wish to join in the celebration of Mass from Our Lady's, either by booking a place there or from your home via our livestream. Other mitigations will be put in place to help ensure everyone's safety. The taskforce will keep the situation under regular review. I am very grateful to the taskforce team for the thoughtful and prudent way in which they are dealing with these challenging issues. *Fr Shaun*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, PREPARED BY THE WOMEN OF VANUATU - FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2021

The service for Chorleywood will not be taking place this year for obvious reasons, but a video of the worship service, led by WDP Vanuatu, has been released on YouTube by the World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edQMgNFdRdo> We are urged by the WDPIC to connect in some way to the service on 5 March and also asked to remember that the annual service is WDP's only source of income. Your generosity in the past has made a massive difference to the charities that WDP can support. If you are able to support WDP again this year, you can donate online at <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/product/make-a-donation/> You can also send a cheque, payable to WDP, to World Day of Prayer, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2RR. Thank you. *Maureen Foggo*