



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

Parish Priest:

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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
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Fr Damian Ryan - Confirmation:
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Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) - 21ST MARCH 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

In today's gospel two Greeks (certainly not Jews) approach not Jesus but Philip (a Greek name). Up to this point in Jesus' ministry according to the Gospel of John, Jesus has never, not once, interacted with a Gentile (non-Jew). Luke, of course paints a different picture, but today we are reading from the Gospel of John.

Philip listens to the request of these two Greeks who want to see Jesus and, in turn, goes to Andrew (another Greek name) to enlist his help with this unorthodox request. Together the disciples intercede for these two Greeks. Jesus rightly perceives this to be the conclusion of his ministry. If even the Greeks (that is, Gentiles) are now coming to see him, the end is near! Death is at the ready. Jesus then begins an eloquent teaching on the necessity of death for bearing fruit, and no mention is made that the Greeks ever met Jesus. Instead, they serve merely as a narrative tool to usher in the final days of Jesus' ministry.

It's true that the ancients did not have the knowledge about biology that we have today. Upon hearing the metaphor of a seed dying to produce much fruit, many a modern audience might dispute the analogy. For we know that a seed does not truly die, but the soil, moisture, and light cause an organic change. Still we do not want to lose the message in spite of the metaphor. Only by his death will Jesus' ministry truly bear fruit. That is the necessary next step. His death is necessary because this is the purpose for which he came. There is no sidestepping or dodging this inevitable end, which is ratified by a voice from heaven. The end is near.

In this Lenten Sunday preceding Palm Sunday we share a sense of impending doom. But we are reminded of the necessity of death for something to bear fruit. If the seed stays on the countertop, it will never bear fruit. But once 'dead' and planted in the ground, the seed produces. The paschal mystery is presented for us in a simple agrarian, even if scientifically outdated, image.

Do we allow ourselves to die to our own desires, wants, and agenda? From today's gospel reading, it seems Jesus was not quite ready for this moment. But the arrival of the Greeks was a clarion signal that the end was near. Even for Jesus there was no fighting this eternal purpose. This was the reason he came into the world. His example of letting go serves as a model for us. We are not the masters of our own fate. We are not in ultimate control of our own destiny. The illusion that we are somehow planning our own destiny is simply that, an illusion. There are greater forces at work. We are called to discern those forces so we can recognise them when they face us. For Jesus it was the request from two Greeks. What are the signs that encourage us to let go of our own desires and submit to something greater? When we die to ourselves we will see fruit that bears eternal life.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

THUR 25TH MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	via <i>Zoom</i>
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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 20 TH MARCH	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 21 ST MARCH <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	10am Joe Fallon RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Joseph Lee RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Paul White RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 22 ND MARCH	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
TUESDAY 23 RD MARCH	9.30am Martin & Nina Burke RIP		
WEDNESDAY 24 TH MARCH	9.30am Fr Vincent John Crewe RIP		
THURSDAY 25TH MARCH <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	Mary & Aldo de Michiel RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 26 TH MARCH	9.30am Mary & Evandro Girolami RIP (Anniv.)		
SATURDAY 27 TH MARCH	Fr Vincent John Crewe RIP		
SUNDAY 28 TH MARCH <i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	10am For the People of the Parish 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon:	Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Response to Psalm:	A pure heart create for me, O God.
2nd Reading:	Hebrews 5:7-9
Gospel:	John 12:20-30
Communion Antiphon:	Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 -15:47 (Gospel)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes & Ronnie Harper, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Maureen Douglas, Josie Westhrop, 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

We have now launched our new online ministry, *Kairos*, and we were delighted to be joined at the first session 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.

THE VEILING OF CROSSES AND STATUES

From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday the crosses and statues of our churches are veiled in purple cloths. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of “fasting” from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LEAFLET is now available on the parish websites.

EASTER OFFERING

The offering at the Easter Masses is your personal gift to your priests. The Easter and Christmas offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Shaun and Fr Damian. These monies are paid into the respective three parishes’ accounts and are then paid to the priests as a monthly salary or stipend. If you wish to make an Easter offering, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details. Please mark your gift as *Easter Offering*. You can also now make an Easter Offering via Virgin Money Giving, please leave a message to show this donation is for your Easter Offering. You will find the parish bank details and a link to the Virgin Money Giving site on the **Donate to your Parish** tab of your respective parish website. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Easter Offering. Thank you.

NICHOLAS BRADY RIP

The funeral of Nicholas Brady will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Monday 29th March at 11.00am** followed by burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. 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 Nicholas’ family at this sad and difficult time

ONLINE STATIONS OF THE CROSS – LENT 2021

This year, due to the pandemic, Lenten Stations of the Cross are taking place via *Zoom*. Using *Zoom* means that we can play some music as part of meditation on the Stations. We will be using photographs of the Stations of the Cross from St John Fisher, Chorleywood on **Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) – 7.30pm**. 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Although it isn’t currently possible for the priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the confessional, both Fr Shaun and Fr Damian are available for the celebration of the sacrament by individual appointment. Any parishioners wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation should contact Fr Shaun or Fr Damian to arrange a mutually convenient time.

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

CAFOD is most grateful for your support in all the parishes, at what is recognised as a difficult time for many people and with so many competing calls, at home as in other parts of the world. Whatever is donated is being put to good use, especially in places like Ethiopia, and (with the Disasters and Emergencies Committee of which CAFOD is a member) to support the international Coronavirus response. But the need goes on: even in the last few days fighting in the Tigray province of Ethiopia has affected the community of Hagos, one of the people featured as a success in the Lent appeal for water, and much of the good has been undone: the work is not complete, and our Lent donations are needed. It will, of course, be some time before they can be assessed, but the early signs are promising. Thank you for all your support at a time of great need. There are about 2000 people across the country doing the daily Walk of at least 10,000 steps in solidarity with those, especially in Ethiopia, who have no access to proper water supplies. People can still join in, even now, and CAFOD will be most grateful for any contributions they might raise. The link is here <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water>. If anyone not already taking part would like to support the Walk, this link <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cafods-walk-for-water> might be of use!

FRESH START COURSE

The following course will run at Mill End Baptist Church, Field Way, Rickmansworth, WD3 7EJ. This course is free to participants. **8 week Fresh Start Course with one to one coaching and ongoing group support** for those who wish to overcome life-controlling issues (smoking, drinking, gambling). This course starts on **Thursday 8th April 6.00pm** and will be COVID safe. For further information contact Elaine Hawkings 07786 608303.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

BRITISH SUMMER TIME

A reminder that the clocks go forward one hour next weekend (27th/28th March).

DIOCESAN COVID-19 VACCINATION CONFIDENCE EVENT:

With the support of Local Authorities Westminster Diocese is hosting a webinar on **Saturday 27th March 2021 10am-11.30am** to encourage confidence in COVID-19 vaccination among all our communities. There is concern that BAME communities are less likely than White-British ethnic groups to accept vaccination. A group of Catholic clergy from BAME communities and medical professionals will share information on health and wellbeing in the context of COVID-19 and vaccines. All are welcome. You do not have to register to attend. **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/92895192155> ; **Meeting ID: 928 9519 2155** ; **Password: 844612** ; **Or join by phone:** Tel: 0208 080 6591 (and use the meeting ID and passcode above)

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*

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

'MONEY MATTERS' REPORT FOR 2020

The annual 'Money Matters' summary report on the Our Lady's parish's finances in 2020 is now available. If you wish to see a copy please email the Parish Office at rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

'MONEY MATTERS' REPORT FOR 2020

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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.

CHRISTIAN AID 2021

The Chorleywood Christian Aid Committee has decided, sadly, that it will not be able to hold its usual range of activities this year, due, of course, to the COVID 19 restrictions. The only sale will be of hanging baskets and planted tubs. Delivery and collection will be on the morning of **Tuesday 18th May**. Order forms will be sent to existing customers or contact Mary Latimer, on 01923 284975, to obtain one. The order forms need to be returned to Mary by 12th April. Christian Aid, and all charities, are in dire need, so if you wish, you could send a cheque, payable to Christian Aid, to Mary or send directly to Christian Aid on line. Thank you very much.

CALLING ALL MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS

It is time for the March collection but I still cannot do a collection of the boxes. Please could we continue as we did in December? That worked very well. If you wish, and are able to, would you please be kind enough to put some money in an envelope marked with your name and Red Box and either post it or deliver it to me. I can also arrange for it to be collected if you wish. Could you please get it to me by **21st March**. Thank you very much, Mary 284975.