



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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Chorleywood

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT LAETARE SUNDAY (YEAR B) - 14TH MARCH 2021

SUNDAY THOUGHT

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called ‘Laetare Sunday’, from the Latin ‘to rejoice’ or ‘to be joyful’. It might seem a little odd to ‘rejoice’ in Lent but that exhortation is a reminder or rather a foreshadowing of Easter. It is as though Easter itself is breaking into the Lenten season this Sunday.

The Gospel today contains the famous verse: *Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life* (John 3:16). But prior to that verse we hear Jesus tell Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up (crucified). Only by means of his death is eternal life opened. For the Gospel of John, Jesus on the cross is a moment of glory, almost devoid of specific suffering.

Ultimately, John does not focus on Jesus’s pain. Instead, the cross is glory and the path to eternal life. As we journey through Lent, it might be fruitful for us to focus on Jesus and our belief in him. He represents and is himself the incarnation of God’s love for our world. As followers of Jesus how do we represent God’s love for the world?

MESSAGE FROM FR SHAUN – HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week and Easter last year we were living under the first national lockdown and no public worship was permitted. This year another national lockdown will still be in operation during Holy Week and Easter, but there is one important difference. This year public worship is permitted and we will be able to gather, albeit in a restricted way, to celebrate the most important Christian festival of the year.

Just as at Christmas last year, we are obliged to follow strict social distancing and other COVID secure procedures. This will mean that it will be necessary to limit the number of places available and so online booking will be in place for all of our Holy Week and Easter Sunday celebrations. We plan to celebrate with the same number of liturgies across the three parishes as we would in a normal year:

Palm Sunday: Our Lady’s 10am and 6.00pm; St John Fisher 9.00am; St John the Evangelist 10.30am

Holy Thursday: Our Lady’s 8.00pm; St John Fisher 8.00pm

Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion: 3.00pm in all three parishes

Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday): Our Lady’s 8.00pm; St John the Evangelist 8.00pm

Easter Sunday: Our Lady’s 8.30am and 11.00am; St John Fisher 9.00am; St John the Evangelist 10.30am.

Online booking for our Holy Week/Easter liturgies will open on the respective parish websites on Monday 15th March. You are encouraged to book early. All of the celebrations at Our Lady’s will be livestreamed.

The way in which we celebrate Holy Week this year will inevitably feel very different: no singing, no washing of feet, no altar of repose, no kissing of the cross and other differences too. Nevertheless, we should give thanks that this year we are able to gather to celebrate publicly the mystery of Our Lord’s Passion, Death and Resurrection. We shall do as fittingly and as worthily as the circumstances allow.

With prayers and warmest wishes

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

THUR 18TH MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	via Zoom
FRI 19TH MARCH	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross (Our Lady's, Rickmansworth)	via Zoom

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 13TH MARCH	Mgr Mark Langham RIP		
SUNDAY 14TH MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	10am Patrick James Conway RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Phillip Page RIP	10.30am Debbie Brown RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 15TH MARCH	Kirsten Gibson Saxty (Ints.)		
TUESDAY 16TH MARCH	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
WED 17TH MARCH <i>ST PATRICK, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Fr Jim Duffy RIP		
THURSDAY 18TH MARCH	John D'Cruz RIP		
FRIDAY 19TH MARCH <i>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am Verna Kendrick RIP		
SATURDAY 20TH MARCH	For the sick and housebound of the parish		
SUNDAY 21ST MARCH <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	10am Joe Fallon RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Paul White RIP	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

1st Reading: Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

Response to Psalm: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-30 (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 Westrop, 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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We wish all mothers and grandmothers a wonderful Mothering Sunday. At the end of all the Masses this weekend there will be a special blessing for all the mothers and grandmothers present.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LEAFLET

The Holy Week and Easter leaflet giving the times of all the Masses and liturgies over Holy Week and Easter is 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.

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 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.

GIFT AID

Thank you to everyone who has Gift-Aided their offering. Gift Aid adds 25p to the value of every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your offering please speak to Fr Shaun, Fr Damian or Kerry. We will then be able to provide you with a Gift Aid form and, if necessary, planned giving envelopes, if you are not already using them. It is also possible to set up a standing order, if you prefer. ***Please let us know if your tax circumstances have changed (2020/21 tax year) so that we do not ask for a tax refund if you haven't paid the associated tax.*** We also need to know if you have changed your address since you signed your Gift Aid declaration.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSON)

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.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL

Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which helps to fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities, strengthening and advancing the Catholic faith throughout the church, and putting faith into action. Thanks to your generosity we are able to continue this work throughout our Diocese. You can view two short films about the impact of your donations on the website CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk. Thank you

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*.

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS

Last weekend marked the end of Fairtrade Fortnight (for the first time for years we didn't manage to dress up as bananas and run our usual stall at Our Lady's) which this year focussed on the growing challenges that climate change brings to the farmers and workers in the communities fairtrade works with. In previous years, there has been an opportunity to order "Real Easter Eggs" via our local Traidcraft rep. If you would like to order an egg for socially distanced collection from Helen Nolan (near Tesco Express) or local delivery within Rickmansworth, please email helenvnolan@ntlworld.com or ring or message 07980 600549 by Monday morning www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/easter/easter-eggs

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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

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.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Teresa Dinsey (£32), Sean Godfrey (£24), Clare Loose (£16) and Richard Dumughn (£8).

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

'MONEY MATTERS' REPORT FOR 2020

The annual 'Money Matters' summary report on the St John the Evangelist 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.

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.

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.