



St John The Evangelist

Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG
<https://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>

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

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) - 6TH MARCH 2022

Sowing and reaping

Lent is a favourable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (kairós), let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10).

In these words, the Apostle evokes the image of sowing and reaping, so dear to Jesus (cf. Mt 13). Saint Paul speaks to us of a kairós: an opportune time for sowing goodness in view of a future harvest. What is this "opportune time" for us? Lent is certainly such an opportune time, but so is our entire existence, of which Lent is in some way an image. All too often in our lives, greed, pride and the desire to possess, accumulate and consume have the upper hand, as we see from the story of the foolish man in the Gospel parable, who thought his life was safe and secure because of the abundant grain and goods he had stored in his barns (cf. Lk 12:16-21). Lent invites us to conversion, to a change in mindset, so that life's truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and sharing goodness.

The first to sow is God himself, who with great generosity "continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family" (Fratelli Tutti, 54). During Lent we are called to respond to God's gift by accepting his word, which is "living and active" (Heb 4:12). Regular listening to the word of God makes us open and docile to his working (cf. Jas 1:21) and bears fruit in our lives. This brings us great joy, yet even more, it summons us to become God's co-workers (cf. 1 Cor 3:9). By making good use of the present time (cf. Eph 5:16), we too can sow seeds of goodness. This call to sow goodness should not be seen as a burden but a grace, whereby the Creator wishes us to be actively united with his own bountiful goodness.

What about the harvest? Do we not sow seeds in order to reap a harvest? Of course! Saint Paul points to the close relationship between sowing and reaping when he says: "Anyone who sows sparsely will reap sparsely as well, and anyone who sows generously will reap generously as well" (2 Cor 9:6). But what kind of harvest are we talking about? A first fruit of the goodness we sow appears in ourselves and our daily lives, even in our little acts of kindness. In God, no act of love, no matter how small, and no "generous effort" will ever be lost (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 279). Just as we recognize a tree by its fruits (cf. Mt 7:16, 20), so a life full of good deeds radiates light (cf. Mt 5:14-16) and carries the fragrance of Christ to the world (cf. 2 Cor 2:15). Serving God in freedom from sin brings forth fruits of sanctification for the salvation of all (cf. Rom 6:22).

In truth, we see only a small portion of the fruits of what we sow, since, according to the Gospel proverb, "one sows, while another reaps" (Jn 4:37). When we sow for the benefit of others, we share in God's own benevolent love: "it is truly noble to place our hope in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus to initiate processes whose fruits will be reaped by others" (Fratelli Tutti, 196). Sowing goodness for the benefit of others frees us from narrow self-interest, infuses our actions with gratuitousness, and makes us part of the magnificent horizon of God's benevolent plan.

Extract of part 1 of the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2022

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| SUN 6TH MARCH | 9.15am 9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm | First Holy Communion Class - Hall Coffee Morning - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions | St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians |
| MON 7TH MARCH | 5.30pm | First Holy Communion Class - Hall | Our Lady Help of Christians |
| TUE 8TH MARCH | 7.00pm - 9.00pm 7.30pm | Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall Online Parents FHC Session | Our Lady Help of Christians Via Zoom |
| WED 9TH MARCH | 9.00am 9.30am 10.00am | Rosary before Mass St John's School at Mass Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall | St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians |
| THU 10TH MARCH | 6.00pm - 8.00pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm | Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall | St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians |
| FRI 11TH MARCH | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross | Our Lady Help of Christians |
| SAT 12TH MARCH | 10.00am 5.00pm - 5.45pm | Prayer & Life Workshop Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions | St John Fisher St John the Evangelist |
| SUN 13TH MARCH | 9.15am 11.30am 4.15pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm | First Holy Communion Class - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Confirmation Session - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions | St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians |

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

| | Our Lady Help of Christians | St John the Evangelist | St John Fisher |
|---|---|---|---|
| SATURDAY 5 TH MARCH | 9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes | 6pm (Vigil) Edward Connolly RIP | |
| SUNDAY 6 TH MARCH <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i> | 8.30am Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) 11am Sean Gallagher RIP 6pm Nora Davies RIP | 10.30am Mary Viner RIP | 9am For the People of the Parishes |
| MONDAY 7 TH MARCH | 9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes | | |
| TUESDAY 8 TH MARCH | 9.30am Special Intention | | NO MASS TODAY |
| WEDNESDAY 9 TH MARCH | NO MASS TODAY | 9.30am Michael Dixon RIP | |
| THURSDAY 10 TH MARCH | 9.30am Ola & Adam Budzynski RIP | | |
| FRIDAY 11 TH MARCH | 9.30am Maureen Scully RIP | | |
| SATURDAY 12 TH MARCH | 9.30am Fr Seamus McGeoghan RIP | 6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parishes | |
| SUNDAY 13 TH MARCH <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i> | 8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Phylis Gossin RIP 6pm Stanislaus Stephen RIP (Anniv.) | 10.30am Patrick Conway RIP (Anniv.) | 9am For the People of the Parishes |

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, Michael Gaukroger, Molly Gray, Leslie Edwards and Bill Graham.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Alfredo Rock and Paul O'Connor.

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, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, Paddy Goble, Pam Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris and Canon Robert Plourde.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING

Thank you to all those who attended our annual parishes meeting last Saturday. It was encouraging to have such a good turnout across our three parishes to share information and to answer any questions that members of the parish had. At the meeting the Chairs of each of our parish Finance, Operations and Premises Committee went through the financial position of their respective parishes. Copies of these reports are on the noticeboard for anyone who missed the meeting. If you have any questions please do ask Fr Andrew.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will once again circulate around the three parishes as follows:

Friday 11th March – Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – 7.00pm

Friday 18th and 25th March – St John's, Mill End – 7.00pm

Friday 1st April and 8th April – St John Fisher, Chorleywood – 7.00pm

The devotions will be led by parishioners. We hope that many parishioners from across the three parishes will come and join us for this important aspect of our Lenten spirituality.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions are heard at St John the Evangelist Church, Mill End on Saturdays 5-5.45pm and Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Rickmansworth on Sundays 5-5.45pm. Confessions in Chorleywood are by appointment. Further dates and times of Confessions with visiting priests during Lent will be advertised in the coming weeks.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

The Lenten Walk With Me booklets are now available (£1 per booklet).

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

This Family Fast Day, we remember that there are many people who need our love and support all around the world. Children experiencing malnutrition like Amie's daughter Lombeh did in Sierra Leone or as we are seeing now in Ukraine, families affected by conflict. Your small act of love can make big things happen. Donations to CAFOD this Lent will reach families around the world, enabling local experts to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/lent

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Aid to the Church in Need is set to despatch €1 million in immediate emergency aid as Ukraine descends into a state of war. With project partners reporting a deepening catastrophe, the ACN aid will help the Church in Ukraine as it ministers to a country invaded by Russian troops. The emergency aid will meet the essential needs – including heating, lighting, water and food – ensuring 6,229 priests and members of religious congregations across the country receive subsistence aid to help them carry on their pastoral work. Donations can be made via ACN's website www.acnuk.org Please join us in support and prayers for the Church in Ukraine at this very critical and difficult time.

SPONSORED SANCTUARY LAMPS.

In each of our churches 2 sanctuary lamp candles burn throughout the week – one by the tabernacle indicating the Lord's presence, and the other by the statue of Our Lady. Would you like one of these to burn in memory of a loved one, or for a particular intention? If so, we are asking for a donation of £10 per week, for your intention to be remembered and recorded in the weekly newsletter. Please hand your donation into the Parish Office or to one of the priests marked 'Sanctuary Lamp Donation', together with a note stating your particular intention, and the Church and the location of the lamp that you would like to burn for that intention.

MICHAEL DIXON RIP

Michael Dixon's family would like to thank everyone who attended his funeral and who sent Mass and sympathy cards. We appreciate all your prayers and support at this difficult time.

PARISH NOTICEBOARDS

If you would like to put a poster / leaflet on the parish noticeboards, please first speak to Fr Andrew.

ONLINE EVENT TO ENCOURAGE PARISH RENEWAL, MISSION AND EVANGELISATION

You are invited to a "watch" party to watch, listen, and discuss a recording of a conversation between three of the most prominent Christian leaders in the English speaking world today. It will take place on Monday 14th March 7.30-9.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christian's Hall. If you would like to come, please, email Fr Damian damianryan@rcdow.org.uk to register your place. Book early to avoid disappointment! Our hope is that this event can help us discern how God might be affirming what we are already doing, and other ways God might be inviting us to share in the building of His kingdom.

INVITATION TO COME AND EXPLORE OUR CELTIC PAST

Starting on 10th March for five consecutive Thursdays we warmly welcome you to join us and watch a 20 minute DVD which considers the immense wisdom and inspiration of our Celtic heritage and how this can help us find renewed faith and vision together. The DVDs are produced by the Catholic agency for Evangelisation and you are free to come to as many as you would like. Topics include; Building Welcoming Communities, Growing in Faith Together, Renewed in the Holy Spirit, Caring for God's Creation and Evangelising with Love and Action. The evening will start at 8.00pm in Our Lady Help of Christian's hall and finish at 9.30pm. In addition to watching the video there will be time for discussion and sharing if you wish, prayer and singing and of course a hot drink to warm you! If you want to find out more please email Deidre Gilmore; owengilmore@gmx.com. We look forward to seeing you, the prayer group.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

If you know someone who is sick and housebound in our parishes who would like to receive Holy Communion, please let the parish office know so that we can be in contact with them.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive the weekly parish newsletter by email then please email the parish office with your contact details so that you can be added to the distribution list.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are in need of a team of volunteers to assist as leaders and helpers so that we can revive our Children's Liturgy at the 11am Sunday Mass. All volunteers would need to have DBS Check and will receive training. If you are interested in this role, please contact Fr Andrew for further information.

GARDENING GROUP

We would like to create a group who will meet once a month to work in the garden behind the parish hall, so that it could be used more regularly in the summer months for tea and coffee and other social events. If you have a passion for gardening and clearing leaves then please come to an initial meeting on Saturday 12th March at 10.30am in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

THE CALVARY CROSS

The parish Finance, Operations and Premises (FOP) Committee, is currently working on a plan for the renewal of our much loved and iconic Calvary Cross which had to be taken down just before Christmas. Initial estimates for this work are currently up to £25,000. This is a significant cost at a time when the parish finances are stretched due to the pandemic. Work will not be able to begin on restoring the Calvary until this money is raised specifically for this project, and this could of course take some time. Fundraising for the project will begin in the coming months, but if you would like to make a donation towards this restoration, perhaps in memory of a loved one, then please contact the parish office. There will be more details about further fundraising opportunities for this project soon.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends at our coffee morning after Mass this Sunday. Donations go to the Catholic Worker Farm.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

You will find our digital collection plate (Dona) in the church porch. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/device to make a donation. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%. If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING

Over the last two years, many parishioners have altered their planned giving arrangements and no longer use planned giving envelopes. As we are just about to place the order for next year's envelopes, it's a good time to ask all parishioners to consider how they wish to make their planned giving going forwards. Standing orders are the simplest and safest method for the parish as it reduces the amount of cash that needs to be handled and taken to the bank. It also allows parishioners to gift aid their donations if they are able. Planned giving envelopes can also be a tax efficient method of giving as each set of envelopes has a unique number that can be linked back to an individual and therefore allows donations to be gift aided.

If you wish to set up a standing order and/or register for gift aid, please contact either the parish office (rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) or Carolyn Opie (carolynopie@rcdow.org.uk). If you wish to order a set of planned giving envelopes for the financial year beginning in April 2022, please contact the parish office. If you are an existing user of planned giving envelopes, and have used them over the last year, a set will be ordered for you unless you inform us otherwise. Thank you.

APF MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS

Another March is here and it is time, if it is possible for you, to make another donation to help our hard pressed missionary Priests and Nuns. Now that we are back in Church I can take donations either by cash in your boxes or you can continue by putting a beautiful bank note or cheque in an envelope and bringing it to church or my letter box. Thank you so much for your continued help - new donors very much welcomed and needed. Love to all, Mary 284975.

CHORLEYWOOD CHRISTIAN AID COMMITTEE

We are sorry to have to inform you that the Chorleywood Christian Aid Committee has been disbanded. In great part due to the difficulty in obtaining house to house collectors. Mary had hoped to continue a separate operation selling hanging baskets etc and found that the nursery had closed!! Thank you so much for your amazing support through the years, it has been wonderful working with the other Churches. Watch for ways we can still work together. Love and prayers from Maureen and Mary 284975.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3.00pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).