



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

Parish Priest:

Fr Andrew Gallagher
andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga.forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
anne@themessagemachine.com

Mill End

Geraldine Page
geraldine.page21@gmail.com

Address for all correspondence:

5 Park Road, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU



Telephone: 01923 773387

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572
rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk

Fr Damian Ryan - Confirmation:
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 3RD OCTOBER 2021

Right to Life to the end of life

In the next weeks, we face an unprecedented attack on the sanctity of life with Baroness Meacher's 'Assisted Dying Bill 2021' which received its First Reading in the House of Lords, and is due its Second Reading with full debate on Friday 22nd October. The term 'Assisted Dying' is euphemistic; the truth is that this bill seeks to introduce Assisted Suicide. If legalised, this Bill would allow a terminally ill adult with less than six months to live to be assisted in committing suicide.

Those in favour of the bill are making good use of language to confuse the issue and call it a compassionate and caring approach in order to redefine the question and obscure the actual reality and consequences of such legislation. As Pope Francis has said, *'Physician-assisted suicide is part of a "throwaway culture" that offers a "false compassion" and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalize anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude – much less considers the disappearance of a person as a good thing.'* He criticised *'those who hide behind an alleged compassion to justify and approve the death of a patient.'*

Importantly, at this stage we need to argue the dangers of the introduction of Assisted Suicide, which include the safety of people who are vulnerable due to external pressures, and the later liberalisation of the law which is evidenced by other countries which have introduced Assisted Suicide. Many voices from the world of disability rights and other allies are also very fearful and fighting this bill.

There are a number of important actions in the next weeks. First, to ask you to pray that the Bill will be defeated. Second, to ask that people write to the Peers from their personal experience and share stories which will argue the reasons for opposing the Bill as well as narrate the importance of precious time during the final stages of life. Healthcare and legal professionals should write giving reasons why they oppose the Bill. This needs to be done before the Second Reading on 22nd October. Third, to engage and share stories and reasons against the Bill on social media. Personal stories can be uploaded at <https://righttolife.org.uk/mystory>; Right to Life UK will ensure these stories are distributed widely to Peers.

Briefing papers will be available on the bishops' conference website (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>) to assist you as this work develops.

*Message from Bishop John Sherrington,
(Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster)
Lead Bishop for Life Issues
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 3RD OCTOBER	11.45am	First Communion Parents' Meeting - Hall	St John the Evangelist
MON 4TH OCTOBER	7.30pm	First Communion Parents' Meeting - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 5TH OCTOBER	7.30pm	Kairos	<i>Via Zoom</i>
WED 6TH OCTOBER	7.30pm	Alpha - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 7TH OCTOBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 10TH OCTOBER	12 noon 4.15pm	Baptisms Confirmation Information Session - Hall	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
SAT 2ND OCTOBER <i>THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS</i>	9.30am Special Intention	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER <i>27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Nalene Nixon (Ints.) 11am For the People of the Parishes 6pm In Thanksgiving (Life in the Spirit Group - 28 years)	10.30am Kathleen & Percy Matthews RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MON 4TH OCTOBER <i>ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI</i>	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER	9.30am In Thanksgiving (Ana Cojoc)		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER	9.30am Joan Harbird RIP (Anniv.)	9.30am Mike Tighe (Ints.)	
THU 7TH OCTOBER <i>OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY</i>	9.30am In Thanksgiving		
FRIDAY 8TH OCTOBER	9.30am John Hollingsworth RIP		
SAT 9TH OCTOBER <i>ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, PRIEST</i>	9.30am Stephen Norton RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) Seamus Fagan RIP	
SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER <i>28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Patrick Mantle RIP 6pm Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Antoinette Moss (Ints.)	9am For the People of the Parishes



Mass Intentions

At the Altar the priest offers Mass for the good of the whole Church and for a particular intention. Do you want a Mass offered for a particular intention? Perhaps you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered, or you would like a Mass said for someone who is sick or for your own intention. For Mass to be offered it is the tradition that a stipend is donated to contribute to the upkeep of your priests. Please contact the parish office if you would like a Mass offered over the coming weeks.

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 Westhrop and Michael Gaukroger.

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

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 Robert Plourde.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

PATRICIA MARY TYDEN RIP

The funeral of Patsy Tyden will take place at St John Fisher on **Monday 11th October** at 11am followed by burial at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

RONALD KERR RIP

The funeral of Ron Kerr will take place at St John Fisher on **Friday 15th October** at 11.30am followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

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.

ORGANIST WANTED

The Chorleywood parish are in need of an organist to help support our choir at the Sunday 9am Mass. If you have the gift of being an organist and are able to assist please speak to Fr Andrew as soon as possible.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY (FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER) – CLIMATE CRISIS APPEAL

Please return your CAFOD envelope this weekend, with your donation. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. You can also add your voice to our online petition calling for our Prime Minister to show leadership in tackling the climate crisis, cafod.org.uk/climate. For further information see www.cafod.org.uk

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS' MEETINGS

Parents who have registered their children for the First Holy Communion programme, are reminded that there will be a Parents Information Meeting this week. For those who have registered at St John's, Mill End – Sunday 3rd October at 11.45am. For those who have registered at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – Monday 4th October at 7.30pm.

RCIA

If you are an adult wishing to enter fully into communion with the Roman Catholic Church then please contact Fr Andrew for more information regarding our RCIA course that will begin soon. If you know of any member of your family or a friend who this may be suitable for, please do pass on the message and encourage them to seriously consider this life-changing process.

ALTAR SERVERS

If any young person who has made their First Holy Communion would like to be an Altar Server, please could their parents email Fr Andrew stating which Mass and parish you attend for further information.

CONFIRMATION

For those parishioners in Year 9 and above interested in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in 2022, parents and young people are invited to an information session on 10th October at 4.15pm at Our Lady's hall.

KAIROS

Kairos is the parish online ministry where all people are invited to connect, belong, and grow in faith. A trained and dedicated team will welcome you, provide stimulating input, facilitate open and honest discussion in small groups, and guide simple but powerful prayer. It is every fortnight from 5th October to 12th December. Registration is open now, so please, register ASAP to guarantee your place. To register, please, email: kairos@rcdow.org.uk

ALPHA - INVITATION TO PRAY

This year Alpha launched on Wednesday 22nd September. We are inviting all parishioners to join some of the Alpha team at Our Lady Help of Christians church for one or more alternate Wednesdays from 7.30-8.30pm to pray for the guests and team attending Alpha. In addition to this we would also love to invite you to pray daily for our parish community and its ongoing formation. Maybe you could consider praying the following prayer:

Thank you loving Father for all those you have called to participate in Alpha; we ask your blessing upon all, both team and guests. Without you we can do nothing you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pour out your Holy Spirit and abundant blessings and gifts during this Alpha. May Alpha ignite or re-ignite the flame of faith in all hearts so that we may experience the wonder, joy and hope that being in relationship with you brings.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit... Amen

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT.

This year, the service in our local area is due to be hosted by St Thomas' Church, West Hyde.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 39 hours later. Because of Covid 19 restrictions, we were unable to hold it on the first Friday in March., but we are planning to hold it on **Friday 29th October at 2pm**. The theme of the service this year is 'Build on a Strong Foundation'. It has been prepared by women of the Republic of Vanuatu (located in the South Pacific Ocean). The black and white sandy beaches, coral reefs with coloured fishes, lovely birds, fruits and nuts in the forest, all make the islands a pristine environment; but they are vulnerable to frequent tropical storms, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis and active volcanoes. Cyclones in March 2015 and April 2020 flattened many buildings and destroyed crops. In this service, based around a passage from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 7, women, men and children are called to 'Build on a strong foundation' and live in unity, peace and love in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity, like Vanuatu and so many other places around the world. Although the service is planned and prepared by women, everyone - women, men and children - is invited to attend. Please do come and take part.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

THANK YOU TO OUR CHAIRS

This week sees the departure of Mark and Sharon Blayney from our parish. Over the last few years Mark has been the Chair of the Parish Finance, Operations and Premises Committee, and Sharon has been the Chair of the Joint Parish Pastoral Council. We thank them for their commitment and for sharing their skills with the parish in these important roles and assure them of our prayers as they move away from the area.

200 CLUB

The 200 Club begins again in October and if you are interested in joining (or cancelling your membership) please contact Kerry on 01923 773387 for further details. The membership fee is due soon for those who prefer to pay their annual subscription (£60) by cheque.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE CHURCH AND BLESSING OF OUR LADY ALTAR

It has now been confirmed that Cardinal Vincent Nichols will come to Mill End to celebrate Mass for the 50th anniversary of the opening of the church and to bless our new Lady Altar on **Sunday 16th January 2022** at our 10.30am Mass. Please add this date to your diary and look out for more details regarding this celebration in the coming weeks.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are planning to restart the Children's Liturgy group at the 10.30am Sunday Mass as soon as possible. We really need extra volunteers to help run the sessions. All materials are prepared by Liz and Regina, volunteers are needed to help on the day. New volunteers will always be paired initially with an existing member of the team. We have a team of 4 at the moment, 2 people are needed each week. Ideally we need a minimum of 6 volunteers therefore each person would only need to help once per month. If you are interested, please email me on liztownsenduk@gmail.com or speak to Fr Andrew or Fr Damian. All volunteers need to complete a DBS check arranged by the parish Safeguarding officer.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

COVID PRECAUTIONS

Following a meeting of the COVID task force, seating in the Church has been returned to the pre-pandemic set up, and the one-way system removed. Hymn books have also been distributed as we welcome the return of the choir and congregational singing. However, we would request that Parishioners continue sanitising their hands on entering the Church and wear a mask throughout Mass. Good ventilation continues to be a key safeguard against the spread of the virus and so the front and side doors will remain open throughout. However, recognising that we are now in autumn and temperatures are dropping, the back door in the main Church will be closed just as Mass commences should the weather and temperature in the Church require it. We also recognise that parishioners will have differing thoughts with regard to what they feel is a comfortable social distance to maintain between households and will provide notices that enable someone to request that the seat directly next to them is kept free. While it isn't appropriate to remove all restrictions at this time, we hope this is seen as a welcome step along that road

SCRAP METAL AND TIN CANS

So sorry, I am no longer collecting scrap metal as the market has collapsed. Thank you so much for your support over the years. Love and blessings, Mary 284975

MARY'S MINI ART GALLERY (GARAGE)

We now have nearly 50 artworks for sale: oils, watercolours, prints, a batik, cigarette cards, pewter, china, bamboo and embroidery. Also greetings cards. New items are being given every week. We have so far raised £702 for the **Cardinal Hume Centre** for the homeless in Westminster. Do call me to come and see. Mary 284975 xx

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC SCHOOL - Open Evening 7th October & Open Morning 8th October 2021

We are very pleased to announce that we will be able to hold our Open Evening and Open Morning for prospective students and parents who are looking for Year 7 places in September 2022. The dates and times are as follows:

Open Evening to take place on Thursday 7th October from 6.00pm until 9.00pm

Open Morning to take place on Friday 8th October from 9.00am until 11.30am

Details of our Open Events together with our Admission Policy and Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can also be found on our school website. NB: Should regulations surrounding Covid 19 alter, then details of any possible cancellations, or change to an online event, will be detailed there for parents to view.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES - please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>