



### 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

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Andrew Gallagher  
[andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan  
[damianryan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest  
[pga.forrest@btinternet.com](mailto:pga.forrest@btinternet.com)

#### Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
[anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)

#### Mill End

Geraldine Page  
[geraldine.page21@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.page21@gmail.com)

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5 Park Road, Rickmansworth  
WD3 1HU  
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 @ChessValleyRC

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572  
[rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841  
[rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:  
[rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk)

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:  
[rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk)

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry  
Leadership Team:  
[rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk)

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) - 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2022

#### *United in our search for Christ*

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is very familiar to us. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity that God desires. The Magi travel from far-off countries, and represent diverse cultures, yet they are driven by the same hunger to see and know the new-born king and are gathered in Bethlehem in the simple act of giving homage. In this we can find a metaphor for Christian unity: that is, of different Christian peoples drawn together in their common search to recognise Christ, to know him and to worship him and witnessing to wider need for unity and to overcome injustice.

This year's text has been chosen by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterized by conflict and strife. The story of the Magi also contains many dark elements, most particularly Herod's despotic orders to massacre all the children around Bethlehem who were two years old or under (Matt 2:16-18). The cruelty of these narratives resonates with the long history and difficult present of the Middle East. It was in the Middle East that the Word of God took root and bore fruit. It was from here that the apostles set out to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. The Middle East has given thousands of Christian witnesses and Christian martyrs. And yet now, the very existence of the small Christian community is threatened as many are driven to seek a more secure and prosperous life elsewhere.

Today, more than ever, the Middle East needs a heavenly light to accompany the people. In this context Christians are called to seek the new-born king, the king of gentleness, peace and love. But where is the star that leads the way to him? By word and through action the Christian people are called to light the way so that Christ might be revealed, once again, to the nations. Yet divisions dim the light of Christian witness and obscure the way, preventing others from finding their way to Christ. Conversely, Christians united in their worship of Christ, and opening their treasures in an exchange of gifts, become a sign of the unity that God desires for all of creation. The Covid-19 global pandemic; the economic crisis that has followed and the failure of political, economic and social structures to protect the weakest and most vulnerable; and the racism that blights our communities have underlined the global need for a light to shine in the darkness.

The star that shone in the East, two thousand years ago still leads us to the manger, to where Christ was born. It draws us to where the Spirit of God is alive and active. After encountering the Saviour and worshipping him together, the Magi return to their countries by a different way. The communion we share in our prayer together must inspire us to return to ourselves, our churches and our world by new ways. But what does this mean in practice? Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to humankind, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalized. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that we can all build a good future according to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love.

*Extract from the message for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January 2022,  
Churches together in England and Wales*

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY</b>	9.30am 11.30am 4.15pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THU 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SUN 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>	11.30am	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall	St John the Evangelist

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 22 <sup>ND</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Fr Des Baker RIP	<b>6pm (Vigil)</b> Edda Ali RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 23 <sup>RD</sup> JANUARY <i>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Philomena Roche RIP <b>11am</b> Joan Townend RIP <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> Paddy & Peggy (Ints.)	<b>9am</b> Sydney Dommersen RIP
<b>MON 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>ST FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP &amp; DOCTOR</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Eugene Maguire RIP (Anniv.)		
<b>TUE 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Fr Eugene Lynch RIP		<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
<b>WED 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>SS TIMOTHY &amp; TITUS, BISHOPS</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Sean Sheehan (Ints.)	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 27 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
<b>FRI 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>ST THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST &amp; DOCTOR</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Fr Des Baker RIP		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 29 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes	<b>6pm (Vigil)</b> Vera Taylor RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 30 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY <i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Tess & Jimmy Logan RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Merwyn Mascarenhas RIP (Anniv.) <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> Mary & Eileen (Ints.)	<b>9am</b> 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 Westthrop, Michael Gaukroger, Molly Gray and Leslie Edwards.

**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 Canon Robert Plourde.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

Do you ever feel like you're not sure how to pray? Do you ever wonder if your prayers will be heard? You can learn some of the most powerful Catholic methods of praying, to grow in greater confidence and a relationship with God, at the Prayer and Life Workshops. It is for everyone, whether you are a beginner or more experienced in prayer. Taster sessions will be held on the following:

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Hall, Rickmansworth 7pm – 9pm**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February at St. John the Evangelist Parish Centre, Mill End 7pm – 9pm**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February at St John Fisher Church, Chorleywood 10am – 12pm**

For those who wish to join them the workshops will then continue for 15 weeks. Before the taster session members from the Prayer and Life Workshop Team will come and speak at all Masses with more information about the workshops and how to register. Both Fr Andrew and Fr Damian have done the workshops, and have benefitted enormously!

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

In Rickmansworth and Mill End we will be uniting with our fellow Christian communities on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 3.30pm at St Mary the Virgin Church for a service of prayer. This will also be available on zoom for those unable to attend - please email the parish office for the zoom link if you wish to join this service. All are welcome to join us for this service to continue to pray that the Lord's desire that 'they may all be one' will be true for all those who profess faith in Jesus Christ in our area.

### NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOMING EVENT

We are aware that over the past two years there are many people who are new to the parish. Please do pick up one of our leaflets in the Church porch and fill in the form so we know who you are. There will also be a Welcome soup lunch with the Parishes' Senior Leadership Team for all new parishioners on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall. Please do come along and introduce yourselves and find out more about how our parishes work together and ways in which you can get involved. To assist with catering please do let Kerry in the parish office know you are planning to attend and if you have any allergies on [rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

### COVID PRECAUTIONS

It is currently mandatory for face coverings to be worn in the church and when moving around our parish halls, unless genuinely exempt. To aid ventilation the church doors and windows will remain open during the celebration of Mass. We encourage parishioners to wrap up warmly, especially as we journey through the colder months.

Anyone with Covid symptoms should refrain from attending Mass, public events, or the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You may have an ordinary cold but equally it is important to ensure a precautionary approach.

### MOTHERS PRAYERS

For mothers who wish to pray together for their children and grandchildren. Mothers Prayers was launched in England in 1995 and is now in over 100 countries. A group will start in our parishes in January, meeting for an hour each week one morning. For more information visit [www.mothersprayers.org](http://www.mothersprayers.org). If you would like to join the group please contact Guyonne at [guyonneberger@yahoo.fr](mailto:guyonneberger@yahoo.fr)

*Lord, give me the eyes to see you in my children, your heart to love them and your gentleness to help them grow. Give me your wisdom to guide them, and your strength when I need to let them go. Amen*

### 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.

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

The annual Mass for the World Day of the Sick will take place at 2pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome to attend.

### 'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL

St Alban's Cathedral Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 from 10.00am to 4.00pm. We will be offering different ways of exploring the Scriptures in prayer, through creative activities and in Bible study. Join us for a joyful and profound experience. Come and join the pilgrimage. Explore the 'tents of encounter with the Word', participate in the times of prayer and reflection, enjoy family friendly activities and much more. To find out what's on see [www.rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival)

### ACCOMPANIMENT FOR THE SEPARATED AND DIVORCED

**Beginning Experience Weekend** - a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. Contact Freda 01322-838415; Maura 07795-498445 or email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com).

**Restored Lives** 8-week online course from 24<sup>th</sup> January <https://www.restoredlives.org/go-on-a-course> RL also provide workshops to support teenagers & young adults coping with their parents separation: 13-18 years Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 5.30pm – 6.30pm; 18 – 30 years Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30pm – 9.00pm, go to <https://www.restoredlives.org/yourdirection>

### 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

### SVP COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall for our coffee morning after 8.30am Mass this Sunday.

### REPOSITORY SHOP

Over the coming weeks we would like to reopen the Repository Shop to sell cards, books and other items. However, we need volunteers who will help to steward this when it is open before and after each Sunday Mass. If you are willing to be involved with this then please email Fr Andrew for more information.

### 11.00AM CHOIR

Would you like to sing in the 11.00am choir? We practise from 10am most Sundays, restarting on 6<sup>th</sup> February, when we'll start working towards Easter. It's a lovely way to contribute to the Mass - no experience needed, and you don't need to read music. Contact Cormac on [cormac.purtill@gmail.com](mailto:cormac.purtill@gmail.com) or 07759 118770, or just turn up!

### THE GARDEN CALVARY

The parish Finance, Operations and Premises (FOP) Committee, is currently working on a plan for the renewal of the Calvary. The cost of this work will be significant at a time when the parish finances are stretched due to the pandemic. The FOP Committee has agreed that when we have finalized the plans and assessed the costs involved, we will appeal to parishioners for specific donations to support the restoration of this iconic, unique and much loved garden Calvary. There will be more details about this soon.

### HELP DECLAN GET A MOTORISED WHEELCHAIR

Declan and his lovely family were very much a big part of Our Lady's parish and Our Father's House, the group set up to help families with children with special needs "singing" along at Mass. It would be lovely if any of the parish who do remember Declan would be happy to donate to this worthy cause however small an amount:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-declan-get-a-motorised-wheelchair>

### STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions, the box is in the church porch. Please keep them coming! *Sheila Harrington.*

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The diocese have featured an article about our Anniversary Mass on their website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/celebrating-50-years-at-st-john-the-evangelist-mill-end/>

Thank you to all who have contributed to the organisation of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with the Cardinal. A special thanks to our welcomers and stewards, musicians, readers and altar servers at the Mass, and to all those involved in preparing and serving at the reception afterwards. Our thanks also to Mr Hall and all at St John's School for their support for this event.

### CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

You will find our new 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 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 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.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### INCLUSIVE PT

Bo Bambridge, a parishioner of St John's Church, Mill End, will be starting her free 30 minute taster sessions for her Exercise Sessions entitled Inclusive PT. These are for all those who want to get moving but do not know where to start. Sessions are for beginners and the more experienced, and will take place on Thursday evenings in St John's Parish Centre. Please do call Bo for more details (07973 311387) or email [boanne@inclusivept.com](mailto:boanne@inclusivept.com)