



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

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Leadership Team:
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EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) - 27TH FEBRUARY 2022

Carry on growing

In our second reading this weekend we hear: *'keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain'*. On Wednesday we begin the great season of Lent by placing ashes on our foreheads, recognizing that we have not always been doing the Lord's work and over the coming weeks we will seek to change our ways and grow in holiness. We are called to spend this time using spiritual tools such as fasting, prayer and almsgiving to help us in this change. Many of us will also give something up or take something on to help us become closer to God. I would suggest this Lent we especially think about refocusing our lives onto God in the following ways.

Firstly, I would encourage us all to listen carefully to the words of Cardinal Nichols in this weekend's pastoral letter. Here he asks us this Lent to be brave and invite others back to Mass. The numbers coming to our three churches are particularly low at the moment, and whilst there are still some who are understandably being careful due to frailty and ill-health, we all know of others who have simply fallen out of the habit of coming to Mass. Let us this Lent encourage them to come back to encounter God's love and mercy at the Altar, and be renewed in their hope in the promises of Christ.

There are also several things we can also do as a community this Lent, which perhaps we have missed out on over the past couple of years. One of the great traditional prayers we use to help us focus on this season are the Stations of the Cross, which we will be praying together each Friday evening at 7pm. This will be led by different groups within our parishes, with each parish hosting 2 of the evenings. Meditating upon Jesus' journey from his condemnation to his death is a very powerful way to encounter the Lord and share our trials and suffering with him.

Lent is also a time when we seek to grow in our time of prayer. We currently have our Prayer and Life Workshops taking place on three days in the week, which you may wish to join. Each week we also have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday evenings from 5-5.45pm at St John's, Mill End and Sunday evenings from 5-5.45pm at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth. St Teresa of Calcutta once said *"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in heaven, and will help bring about an everlasting peace on earth."* I encourage you to make prayer in front of the blessed sacrament a part of your Lent.

And lastly, Lent is also a time when traditionally we would go to Reconciliation or Confession. Perhaps you have not been since before the pandemic, perhaps you have not been for many more years than that – well now is the time to return to this incredible Sacrament of God's love and mercy. Do not be afraid! Confessions are heard during the weekly times of Exposition, but other times will be added in the last few weeks of Lent and advertised in the newsletter, so everyone will have the chance to go to this life-changing Sacrament.

I wish you all a very blessed and spiritually renewing Lent.

Fr Andrew Gallagher

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 27TH FEBRUARY	9.15am 9.30am 11.30am 4.15pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm	First Holy Communion Class - Hall SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Confirmation Session - 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 Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 28TH FEBRUARY	5.30pm	First Holy Communion Class - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 1ST MARCH	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 2ND MARCH	9.00am 9.30am	Rosary before Mass St John's School at Mass	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
THU 3RD 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 4TH MARCH	10.00am	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 5TH MARCH	10.00am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Prayer & Life Workshop Baptisms Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 26 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm (Vigil) Michael Dixon RIP	
SUNDAY 27 TH FEBRUARY <i>EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Anne McCormack RIP & Tom Stoneman RIP 6pm Eddie McLafferty RIP	10.30am Sarah Meier RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 28 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Patrick Purtill (In Thanksgiving)		
TUESDAY 1 ST MARCH <i>ST DAVID, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Ola & Adam Budzynski RIP		9.30am Fr Des Baker RIP 7.30pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parishes
WEDNESDAY 2 ND MARCH <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	9.30am For the People of the Parishes 7.30pm For the People of the Parishes	9.30am For the People of the Parishes	
THURSDAY 3 RD MARCH	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
FRIDAY 4 TH MARCH	9.30am Fr Seamus McGeoghan RIP		
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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the solemn season of Lent, is on 2nd March. Masses (with the imposition of ashes) across the three parishes will be as follows: 7.30pm Vigil (1st March) at St John Fisher, 9.30am at St John the Evangelist; 9.30am and 7.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians. The 9.30am Mass at St John the Evangelist will also be attended by some members of staff and pupils from St John's School.

Speaking at the end of Wednesday's General Audience, Pope Francis invited everyone to make 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. "I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war,"

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

Friday 4th March and 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).

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2022

HEAT or EAT? Help those facing this choice.

This year, we celebrate 10 years of Caritas Westminster, the social action agency of the Diocese, working with parishes to restore hope, and enable people to lead a life of dignity. Funds raised in this year's Cardinal's Lenten Appeal will be shared between parishes and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic are making daily life harder for all. Price rises mean many families face an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? The Church is responding, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. Please take a donation envelope. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

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

As we slowly start to emerge into a post-pandemic world, mission-minded parish leaders know we have an incredible opportunity to recommit our energies to finding bold and new ways to evangelize. But there are important questions many are wrestling with: Join Fr. James Mallon, Bishop Robert Barron, and Revd. Nicky Gumbel for a conversation on What is God Saying to the Church? This is a FREE online event happening Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 6pm. Visit <https://www.divinerenovation.org/events> to register today for what promises to be an inspiring conversation. Alternatively you could join our "WATCH" PARTY to watch, listen, and discuss a recording of this conversation between these three prominent Christian leaders in the English speaking world today. It will take place on Monday 14th March 7.30pm - 9.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christian's Hall. If you would like to come, please, email Fr Damian damianryan@rcdow.org.uk by Friday 4th March, 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.

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

The WDP service for 2022 has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales & Northern Ireland, with the theme, 'I know the plans I have for you', based on Jeremiah 29:11. The overarching message is one of hope and trust that God's plans, though not always what we expect, bring hope and renewal for a future that we cannot always imagine. The WDP service in our local area will be hosted by Mill End Baptist Church, Field Way, on Friday 4th March at 2.00pm. All are welcome to attend, and we encourage our parishes to support this service which is another opportunity to further our contact with our fellow Christian communities. If anyone is in need of a lift, please contact Geraldine (07725 748490) or Cristina (07470 266284)

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.

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 and Leslie Edwards.

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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

VESTMENT DONATION

We thank those who have made a donation towards our two new vestments in memory of loved ones. These will be added to our Sacristy over the coming weeks.

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 after the 8.30am Mass this Sunday 27th February for our SVP Coffee Morning.

Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends at our coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 6th March. Donations go to the Catholic Worker Farm.

200 CLUB Congratulations to Clare Loose £31, Heather Kean £23.25, John Steele £15.50 and Mary Thomson £7.75.

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH, CHORLEYWOOD AT 10.30AM ON FRIDAY 4th MARCH 2022

This year's service for World Day of Prayer in Chorleywood will be held at Christ Church at 10.30am on Friday 4th March. Everyone is most welcome.

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).