



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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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) - 6TH FEBRUARY 2022

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”

Thirty years ago, Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick to encourage the people of God, Catholic health institutions and civil society to be increasingly attentive to the sick and to those who care for them.

The theme chosen for this Thirtieth World Day of the Sick, *“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”* (Lk 6:36), makes us first turn our gaze towards God, who is “rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4); he always watches over his children with a father’s love, even when they turn away from him. Mercy is God’s name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force, expresses God’s very nature.

The supreme witness of the Father’s merciful love for the sick is his only-begotten Son. How often do the Gospels relate Jesus’ encounters with people suffering from various diseases! He *“went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people”* (Mt 4:23). We do well to ask ourselves why Jesus showed such great concern for the sick, so much so that he made it paramount in the mission of the apostles, who were sent by the Master to proclaim the Gospel and to heal the sick (cf. Lk 9:2).

One twentieth-century philosopher suggests a reason for this: *“Pain isolates in an absolute way, and absolute isolation gives rise to the need to appeal to the other, to call out to the other”*. When individuals experience frailty and suffering in their own flesh as a result of illness, their hearts become heavy, fear spreads, uncertainties multiply, and questions about the meaning of what is happening in their lives become all the more urgent. How can we forget, in this regard, all those patients who, during this time of pandemic spent the last part of their earthly life in solitude, in an intensive care unit, assisted by generous healthcare workers, yet far from their loved ones and the most important people in their lives? This helps us to see how important is the presence at our side of witnesses to God’s charity, who, following the example of Jesus, the very mercy of the Father, pour the balm of consolation and the wine of hope on the wounds of the sick.

Jesus’ invitation to be merciful like the Father has particular significance for healthcare workers. I think of all those professionals, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer. Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission. Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails.

I would like to remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit! The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: *“I was sick and you visited me”* (Mt 25:36).

Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Infirm, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust.

Extract from the message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the thirtieth World Day of the Sick, February 11th 2022

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 6TH FEBRUARY	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 10TH FEBRUARY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 11TH FEBRUARY	10.00am 10.00am	Burial of Ashes - Monica Clatworthy RIP Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 12TH FEBRUARY	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 13TH FEBRUARY	11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	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
SAT 5TH FEBRUARY <i>ST AGATHA, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP	6pm (Vigil) Maureen O'Connor (Ints.)	
SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Joe Grove RIP (Anniv.) 11am Vincent RIP 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Pascal Rock RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 7TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Jad Damouni RIP (Anniv.)		
TUESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Frank Rice RIP (Anniv.)		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WEDNESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Special Intention	NO MASS TODAY	
THU 10TH FEBRUARY <i>ST SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Private Intention		
FRIDAY 11TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Monica Clatworthy RIP		
SATURDAY 12TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm (Vigil) Frances Keating RIP	
SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Mary & Jack Casey RIP (Anniv.) 11am Shon Thomas (Ints.) 6pm James Byrne RIP	10.30am Eve Clark RIP	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, Michael Gaukroger, Molly Gray and Leslie Edwards.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray 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

ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING

The APM this year will take place online via Zoom and will be a combined meeting across the parishes. It will take place on Saturday 26th February at 2pm. All parishioners are encouraged to join us if possible to hear what is going on in our parishes. The details for the APM on Zoom are as follows: Meeting ID: 896 3738 9440 Passcode: 958771.

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.

THIS YEAR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY IS ON 13TH FEBRUARY

Our theme *In the Image and Likeness of God* celebrates presentations of the Holy Family from different cultures. To mark the day, the Bishop's Conference have produced a series of posters, which highlight the rich diversity of our Catholic community and encourage reflection upon how all peoples are made in the image of God. To see the posters and more follow <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/rjs22> On Racial Justice Sunday we are encouraged to mark the day by praying the words of Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti*:

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God so loves.

Amen.

MONICA CLATWORTHY RIP

The ashes of Monica Clatworthy will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 9.30am Mass on Friday 11th February.

JOSIE WESTHROP RIP

The funeral service of Josie Westhrop will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Monday 14th February. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

SKILLS AUDIT

Thank you to all those who completed the skill audit form. We have some very talented people in our parishes! This information will be collated over the coming weeks and used to help the SLT when seeking certain skills to help the parishes to run efficiently. Forms are available in the Church. Please do fill them in and pass them to one of the priests to be added to the audit database.

PETITIONS TO LOURDES

As part of his role as Assistant Director for the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Fr Andrew will be in Lourdes from 9th-13th February on the International Pilgrimage Directors' Conference. If you would like him to drop off a petition of prayer at the grotto whilst he is there then please put it in an envelope marked 'Lourdes Petition' and drop it off at the Presbytery before Monday 7th February.

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:

- Tuesday 15th February at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Hall, Rickmansworth 7pm – 9pm
- Thursday 17th February at St John the Evangelist Parish Centre, Mill End 7pm – 9pm
- Saturday 19th 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 on 6th and 13th February with more information about the workshops and how to register. Both Fr Andrew and Fr Damian have done the workshops, and have benefitted enormously!

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Each week in the newsletter there is a list of parishioners who need our prayers. This list has not changed much for many years. If you know anyone whose name should be removed please let me know. If you would like to add someone on to this list, please make sure they are happy for their name to be published. Thank you, Kerry.

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)

SVP NATIONAL UPDATE - THANK YOU!

As winter is now established please don't forget the homeless - give the **Gift of Warmth** (<https://www.svp.org.uk/shop>). £20 will provide warm, nutritious meals, food parcels and vital 'Vinnie Packs' containing essential winter items, including hats, gloves and socks, to people suffering homelessness at this time of year. Thank you!

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS

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.

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 6th 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 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.

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

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 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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2022

Plans for a **Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 22nd to 29th July 2022** are taking shape! The town of Lourdes and the Grotto await the return of larger groups of international pilgrims this year. For more details please go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> and complete the *Expression of Interest* Form so that organisers may have more of an idea of *who* is considering travelling with Westminster and in *what capacity*.

MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes on the World Day of the Sick will take place at 2pm on Saturday 12th February in Westminster Cathedral. The decision has been taken that this year the Sacrament of the Sick will not be administered as in previous years. The Mass will also be available on the Cathedral's livestream, which can be accessed at www.westminstercathedral.org.uk

GENERAL NOTICES

SOLID TO THE CORE PILATES CLASSES

Jo McNaughton-Smith, a parishioner at St John's church Mill End, runs small friendly Pilates classes suitable for all ages and ability at St John's Church Hall on a Monday and Wednesday morning at 9.15am to 10.15am. First class is free! Please contact Jo on 07801 218550 or www.solidtothecorepilates.co.uk