



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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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) - 13TH MARCH 2022

“Let us not grow tired of doing good”

Christ’s resurrection enlivens earthly hopes with the “great hope” of eternal life, planting the seed of salvation in our present time (cf. Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 3; 7). Bitter disappointment at shattered dreams, deep concern for the challenges ahead and discouragement at the poverty of our resources, can make us tempted to seek refuge in self-centredness and indifference to the suffering of others. Indeed, even our best resources have their limitations: “Youths grow tired and weary, the young stumble and fall” (*Is* 40:30). Yet God “gives strength to the weary, he strengthens the powerless... Those who hope in the Lord will regain their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; though they run they will not grow weary, though they walk they will never tire» (*Is* 40:29, 31). The Lenten season calls us to place our faith and hope in the Lord (cf. *1 Pet* 1:21), since only if we fix our gaze on the risen Christ (cf. *Heb* 12:2) will we be able to respond to the Apostle’s appeal, “Let us never grow tired of doing good” (*Gal* 6:9).

Let us not grow tired of praying. Jesus taught us to “pray always without becoming weary” (*Lk* 18:1). We need to pray because we need God. Thinking that we need nothing other than ourselves is a dangerous illusion. If the pandemic has heightened the awareness of our own personal and social fragility, may this Lent allow us to experience the consolation provided by faith in God, without whom we cannot stand firm (cf. *Is* 7:9). No one attains salvation alone, since we are all in the same boat, amid the storms of history; and certainly no one reaches salvation without God, for only the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ triumphs over the dark waters of death. Faith does not spare us life’s burdens and tribulations, but it does allow us to face them in union with God in Christ, with the great hope that does not disappoint, whose pledge is the love that God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom* 5:1-5).

Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives. May the corporal fasting to which Lent calls us fortify our spirit for the battle against sin. *Let us not grow tired of asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation*, knowing that God never tires of forgiving. *Let us not grow tired of fighting against concupiscence*, that weakness which induces to selfishness and all evil, and finds in the course of history a variety of ways to lure men and women into sin (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 166). One of these is addiction to the digital media, which impoverishes human relationships. Lent is a propitious time to resist these temptations and to cultivate instead a more integral form of human communication made up of “authentic encounters”, face-to-face and in person.

Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbours. During this Lent, may we practise almsgiving by giving joyfully (cf. *2 Cor* 9:7). God who “supplies seed to the sower and bread for food” (*2 Cor* 9:10) enables each of us not only to have food to eat, but also to be generous in doing good to others. While it is true that we have our entire life to sow goodness, let us take special advantage of this Lenten season to care for those close to us and to reach out to our brothers and sisters who lie wounded along the path of life (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37). Lent is a favourable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely. Let us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 193).

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

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

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
MON 14TH MARCH	5.30pm	First Holy Communion Class - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 15TH MARCH	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 16TH MARCH	9.00am 9.30am	Rosary before Mass St John's School at Mass	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
THU 17TH MARCH	6.00pm - 8.00pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Prayer & Life Workshop - Church Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 18TH MARCH	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John the Evangelist
SAT 19TH MARCH	10.00am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Prayer & Life Workshop Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
SUN 20TH MARCH	9.15am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	First Holy Communion Class - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist 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 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 Barbara Gibbons (Ints.)
MONDAY 14 TH MARCH	9.30am Fergus McCauley RIP		
TUESDAY 15 TH MARCH	9.30am Eve Clark RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 16 TH MARCH	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	
THU 17TH MARCH <i>ST PATRICK, BISHOP, PATRON OF IRELAND</i>	9.30am James Maguire RIP		
FRIDAY 18 TH MARCH	9.30am Special Intention		
SAT 19TH MARCH <i>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm (Vigil) Hannah Logan RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 20 TH MARCH <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am George Bloom RIP 6pm Raymond Rolston RIP	10.30am Michael Dixon RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our sanctuary lamp burns for the intentions of the Kelly Family		

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

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.

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.

FEEDBACK FROM THE SYNODAL PATHWAY

Recently the diocese released feedback from the collated Synodal listening sessions across our parishes. The report in this feedback can be read on the following link: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/feedback-from-synodal-listening-sessions/> Let us pray that this journey of listening will continue in our parishes and help us to grow in our love and service of Jesus Christ.

MILL END FOOD BANK

Chess Valley SVP will be collecting specific items needed by Mill End Food bank to supplement their food boxes. From next week, there will be a collection box in each of the Church porches for these items. We will be monitoring what is needed by the Food Bank regularly and update this list accordingly both in the Parish newsletter and on the boxes. **Items needed at present are; washing up liquid, washing powder, shower gel, long life juice/squash, long life milk & tinned vegetables.**

CARPET FITTER REQUIRED

We need some carpets to be supplied and fitted. Are you or do you know a reliable carpet fitter? Please contact the SVP by email; chessvalleysvp@gmail.com

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS

Last weekend marked the end of Fairtrade Fortnight though I'm afraid we didn't get our Fairtrade banana costumes out this year! In previous years, there has been an opportunity to order "Real Easter Eggs" via our local Traidcraft rep. If you would like to order an egg for collection from Helen Nolan (near Tesco Express) or local delivery within Rickmansworth, please email helenvnolan@ntlworld.com or ring or message 07980 600549. www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/easter/easter-eggs

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.

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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

PROVISION FOR OUR FAMILIES

Whilst we are waiting for more volunteers to help run Children's Liturgy at our 11am Mass, we will in the coming weeks be providing resource sheets for children to use during Mass to focus their minds on the week's Gospel. We will also now have a 'Family Mass' on each first Sunday of the month at our 11am Mass where the homily will be particularly directed at our children and our young people will play a more active part in the liturgy. The first of these Masses will be on Sunday 3rd April. If you are able to assist in joining our Children's Liturgy team then please speak to Fr Andrew.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

This week I managed to deliver two carrier bags of stamps to the Missions. They were so pleased with them, and a huge thanks to grownups and children who have collected. Imagine every one is a grain of wheat or rice! Each single one from Our Lord with love for his word to the world around us all. Keep them coming please!

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PROVISION FOR OUR FAMILIES

Please do take the resource sheets for children to use during Mass to focus their minds on the week's Gospel. Children's Liturgy will return to the 10.30am Mass from Sunday 24th April. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help with this. We will also now have a 'Family Mass' on each third Sunday of the month at our 10.30am Mass where the homily will be particularly directed at our children and our young people will play a more active part in the liturgy. The first of these Masses will be on Sunday 20th March.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PROVISION FOR OUR FAMILIES

As we gradually welcome back our families to Mass we will in the coming weeks be providing resource sheets for children to use during Mass to focus their minds on the week's Gospel. Once a number of families are attending Mass we will look to restart Children's Liturgy in the parish, if there are adults willing to assist with this.

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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

A SUPPORT MEETING FOR PARENTS OF THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

A Support Meeting for parents of children of **any age** who have Special Needs will take place on Friday 18th March starting at 11.00 a.m. in the Holy Rood Parish Centre, WD18 0PJ. A friendly welcome, tea or coffee, support and help for your needs and those of your child. Gail Williams, Centre Manager of Caritas St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, Hendon will be with us. Any enquiries to Veronica Dyckhoff, 01923 441105. No need to book, just turn up.

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).

THE FRIENDS

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is seeking to recruit a part time Organising Secretary to help administer the charity, assist in recruiting new members and in organising events. The appointment based in Westminster Cathedral Clergy House is for 20 hours per week at a salary in the region of £14,500 per annum. The appointment is for 12 months. Closing date 27th March 2022. For further details please visit <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/the-friends-look-for-an-organising-secretary/>.