



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

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

 @ChessValleyRC

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

Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) - 3RD APRIL 2022

Entering a pathway of prayer

The moment of the meeting between the Archangel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary, is much beloved of artists throughout the centuries. In their art, taken from the words of the Gospel, they strive to depict the momentous significance of Mary's acceptance of God's purpose in her life, an acceptance that opens the way, chosen by God, to bring the light of Jesus Christ into this world. Almost invariably the artists have portrayed Mary as a person lost in prayer and astonished at the coming of this messenger.

This evening is, for us, an invitation to prayer. It is not a time for comment or condemnation. Simply a call to pray.

Three words about prayer, for us.

The first: prayer is simply the raising of the mind and heart to God. Each of us can do so in a way that is consistent with the thoughts of our minds and the movements of our hearts. It is not complicated, just a reaching out to the mystery of God, to the One from whom all being comes and who is our ultimate fulfilment, a fulfilment for which we long, intuitively and ceaselessly.

The second word: in our Christian faith we know that this mystery of God, and the purpose of human life, has been made known in Christ Jesus. He is given as our Way, Truth and Life. Christian prayer in, through and with him. He carries our prayer to the ear of our Heavenly Father. The moment of great disclosure of purpose and prayer is given in his death, and his rising again. It is this moment, his self-sacrifice on the Cross, which is made present here in this celebration of the Holy Mass. This is the highest form of prayer and we are taken up in its action again this evening.

The third word: at that moment of his dying, Jesus said to each of us that Mary, his mother, standing at the foot of the cross, is to be our mother also. His words, 'This is your mother', spoken in the great pain of his last agony, touch our hearts and shape our daily prayer. This evening, then, we turn to our heavenly Mother in this great worldwide act of Consecration, the words of which express and explore so much of our faith and of our trust in her.

The pathway of our prayer this evening is clear: in raising our minds and hearts to God, we do so in union with the death and resurrection of Jesus, turning fervently to the one who is given to be a Mother of us all.

I invite you all into this pathway of prayer. Let the prayer of each one of us be a prayer for peace in our broken and troubled world. Amen.

Homily of Cardinal Vincent Nichols given at Mass and Act of Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Westminster Cathedral on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, 25th March 2022

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 3RD APRIL	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
MON 4TH APRIL	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Lent Holy Hour and Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 5TH APRIL	10.00am - 11.00am 7.00pm - 9.00pm	Lent Holy Hour and Confessions Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 7TH APRIL	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 8TH APRIL	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John Fisher
SAT 9TH APRIL	10.00am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Prayer & Life Workshop Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
SUN 10TH APRIL	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
SATURDAY 2 ND APRIL	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm (Vigil) Mary & John Gibbs RIP	
SUNDAY 3 RD APRIL <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Mary & Evandro Girolami RIP (Anniv.) 11am (Family) John Reid RIP (Anniv.) 6pm John Connor RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Bill Graham RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 4 TH APRIL	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
TUESDAY 5 TH APRIL	11am Funeral - Brenda Reynolds RIP		9.30am Fr Kevin McDevitt RIP
WEDNESDAY 6 TH APRIL	11am Funeral - Bill Graham RIP	NO MASS TODAY	
THURSDAY 7 TH APRIL	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
FRIDAY 8 TH APRIL	9.30am Fr Kevin McDevitt RIP		
SATURDAY 9 TH APRIL	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 10 TH APRIL <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am For the People of the Parishes (<i>beginning with blessing of Palms at Calvary Cross Garden</i>) 6pm Barrie Pride RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Martin Ryan RIP (<i>beginning with blessing of Palms from top of Field Way</i>)	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our sanctuary lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for the intentions of Shon Thomas & Family	This week our sanctuary lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Tom & Maureen Daly RIP	

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, 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, Paul O'Connor and Michael Massey

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

THE VEILING OF CROSSES AND STATUES

From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday the crosses and statues of our churches are veiled in purple cloths. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of “fasting” from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

EASTER OFFERING

The offering at the Easter Masses is your personal gift to your priests. The Easter and Christmas offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Andrew and Fr Damian. If you wish to make an Easter offering, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details, please reference this as ‘Easter Offering’. You will find the parish bank details on the Donate to your Parish tab of your respective parish website. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Easter Offering. Thank you.

LENT HOLY HOUR AND THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard each Saturday 5pm - 5.45pm at St John’s, Mill End and each Sunday 5pm - 5.45pm at Our Lady’s, Rickmansworth. The following extra opportunities for a Holy Hour with the individual celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available, with visiting priests specified.

Monday 4th April – Our Lady’s, Rickmansworth

7.30pm to 8.30pm – Fr Gerard O’Brien from Holy Rood, Watford + Fr Tom Montgomery, St Matthew’s, Northwood

Tuesday 5th April – St John Fisher, Chorleywood, 10.00am to 11.00am

Monday 11th April – Our Lady’s, Rickmansworth, 10.00am to 11.00am

Wednesday 13th April – St John the Evangelist, Mill End, 10.00am to 11.00am (*please note change from leaflet*).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will take place at St John Fisher at 7pm on Friday 8th April. 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.

BRENDA REYNOLDS RIP

The funeral of Brenda Reynolds will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Tuesday 5th April at 11.00am followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

BILL GRAHAM RIP

The funeral of Bill Graham will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Wednesday 6th April at 11.00am 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.

YOUTH CHOIR

Over the coming months we are looking to start a Youth Choir for those aged 8-13 from our parishes who will sing once a month at St John’s, Mill End and once a month at Our Lady’s, Rickmansworth. Further details to register children for the choir will follow after Easter but we are currently advertising for a director for the choir who can lead this initiative. Please do pass on any details to anyone who may be interested in this role: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>

YOUTH

We would like to invite everyone aged 11-16+ (Secondary school) to join us at our celebratory youth launch on the evening of Friday 27th May. Please, put the date in your diary and watch this space... We look forward to meeting you all. Belinda, Toni and Margaret

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES are available for collection from the sacristy this weekend.

UKRAINE APPEAL

The Ukraine Catholic Cathedral and community organisations have united to work with accredited and registered Ukrainian charities to provide medicines, food and critical services to support the most vulnerable to overcome the consequences and trauma of war. Donations can be made by cheque payable to AUGB LTD – Central Appeal Fund and sent to Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, Chancery Office, 21-22 Binney Street, London, W1K 5BQ, directly to the central appeal fund – AUGB LTD, Account Number: 80038237, Sortcode: 20-65-89 with reference HelpUkraine or online <https://gofundme.com/f/helpukraine> Alternatively donations can be made to Cafod, who are a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee www.cafod.org.uk or to Aid to the Church in Need <https://acnuk.org> who are working particularly with the Christian communities in the Ukraine.

If you are looking to offer your home to a refugee fleeing from the Ukraine and applying via the government scheme, please also let Fr Andrew know, so that the parishes may support you in whatever way you and your guest need over the coming months.

MILL END FOOD BANK

Chess Valley SVP will be collecting specific items needed by the food bank to supplement their food boxes. There are now collection boxes 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; **toilet rolls, washing up liquid, washing powder, shower gel, long life juice/squash, long life milk & tinned vegetables.**

SVP NATIONAL - LENTEN APPEAL FOR SOUTH SUDAN

Great things can be achieved in South Sudan with a relatively small amount of money! SVP England & Wales supports five projects - the Njarjwa baby feeding centres, Be In Hope street boys programme, SVP Public Health Care Centre, basic food supplies to thousands in displaced persons camps, and vocational training centres for young people to secure employment and support their families. During Lent please give what you can to help these people who have endured a violent and turbulent past and who struggle to survive. To donate, go to <https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/page/101291/donate/1>

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

THE CALVARY CROSS

As you will be aware 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. Last month we announced that initial estimates for this work are currently up to £25,000 and work will not be able to begin on restoring the Calvary until this money is raised. We are delighted to announce that some very generous benefactors have stepped forward and this sum has now been raised and so work can begin on the restoration of the cross over the coming month. We thank all those who have contributed for your great generosity to the parish.

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.

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a coffee morning after 8.30am Mass this Sunday. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to the Catholic Worker Farm.

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

SR KATHLEEN CLAPHAM RIP

Sr Kathleen Clapham, a former headteacher of St John's Primary School (1970 – 1985) died peacefully on Wednesday 23rd March, at St Michael's Care Home, Westgate on Sea. After retiring from St John's, Sr Kathleen was appointed as a Religious Advisor for Primary Schools within the Hertfordshire Area of the Westminster Diocese. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

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.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

GOOD FRIDAY AT 11.00AM

All welcome at the Chorleywood Crossroads gathering for a Walk of Witness for Good Friday. Unfortunately this year we are not able to host our usual coffee and hot cross buns after the walk.

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.

MISSION/APF/REDBOX HOLDERS for our MISSIONARIES.

Very many thanks to you all for your generous donations for this quarter, which amounted to £158.62. Not only are our Missionaries hard pressed, did you see in the Magazine that 22 priests, Religious and Lay people were killed last year while abroad? Would you like to join our group of supporters? You would every welcome. Love to all, Mary Latimer 284975

PLANNED GIVING

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@redow.org.uk) or Carolyn Opie (carolynopie@redow.org.uk). If you wish to order a set of planned giving envelopes, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

CROXLEY GREEN COMMUNITY CHOIR

Croxley Green Community Choir will be performing the Mozart Requiem in Holy Rood Church on Friday 8 April, 7.45pm. Tickets are £12 including cheese and wine in the parish centre and £3 for under 18s. Call 07858 210168 or email choir.cgcc@gmail.com. All proceeds from this event go to the St Vincent de Paul Society and the The Peace Hospice.