



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:

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Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
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Parish Administrator:

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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
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Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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 @ChessValleyRC

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C) - 29TH MAY 2022

Why an obligation?

Next Sunday as we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, we also see the return of the obligation for all Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation, unless they are sick or caring for someone who is sick. We are asked to share this news and encourage those who have not yet returned to Church to rediscover the joy of having Christ in their lives and of coming together to praise God each week. Across our three parishes at the moment there are around 250 - 300 people who attended in 2019, who have not returned regularly since our churches reopened in July 2020. But how does the reintroduction of the obligation encourage them?

Well here we have to remind ourselves and those we are journeying with about why there is an obligation in the first place. The word obligation sounds like we are being told what to do, which in our modern society we find uncomfortable. But in attending Mass on a Sunday we are not responding to a man-made rule, but a Commandment of God. The third of the Commandments is very clear – ‘You must keep holy the Sabbath Day’, and this is of course follows on from the first of the Commandments – ‘You must love the Lord your God and him alone’. Attending Mass on the day of the Lord’s resurrection is part of our identity as Catholic Christians. We read throughout the New Testament that from the earliest days of the Church, coming together on this day, to give praise to God through word and song, reflecting on the scriptures, prayers and the breaking of bread, was a key part of living the faith. Some of the earliest historical records of the Church also comment on the centrality of this weekly gathering, despite the consequences that so many faced in times of intense persecution of anyone who was identified as Christian. And this led to the obligation being confirmed in the Code of Canon Law of the Church:

‘On Sundays and other holydays of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. They are also to abstain from such work or business that would inhibit the worship to be given to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s day or the due relaxation of the mind and body’ (CCL 1247)

The reinstatement of the obligation to attend Mass after the last couple of years of the pandemic is a call to each of us – to make our gathering together each Sunday to joyfully give God worship and praise a priority in our week. To not put sports, shopping or even seeing our family and friends above our commitment to come to Mass, but to see our attendance as an opportunity to give thanks to God that he has blessed us with these things in the first place.

It is fitting that the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales have chosen this feast of Pentecost - the day of the birth of the Church – to reinstate this obligation. Let us pray for the gift of wisdom that we will make attending Mass on a Sunday a priority, that we will have the understanding to recognise God’s love for us, and that we will have the courage to encourage those around us to rediscover this love for themselves.

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

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

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 29TH MAY	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
TUE 31ST MAY	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 2ND JUNE	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
SAT 4TH JUNE	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 5TH JUNE	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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 28 TH MAY	9.30am James Anthony McConway RIP (Anniv.)	6.00pm Cojoc Family (Ints.)	
SUNDAY 29 TH MAY <i>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Michael O'Connor RIP (Anniv.) 11am For the People of the Parishes 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Doctors & Nurses of Watford General Hospital	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 30 TH MAY	9.30am Irene Kane RIP		
TUES 31ST MAY <i>THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am Mary Lazar RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WED 1ST JUNE <i>ST JUSTIN, MARTYR</i>	9.30am Canon Philip Cross RIP	9.30am Michael Dixon RIP	
THURSDAY 2 ND JUNE	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the parishes		
FRI 3RD JUNE <i>ST CHARLES LWANGA & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the parishes		
SATURDAY 4 TH JUNE	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the parishes	6.00pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 5 TH JUNE <i>PENTECOST SUNDAY</i>	8.30am Nuala & Gerry Corr RIP 11am (Family) For the People of the Parishes 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Lawrence & Genevieve (Ints.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS		This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for the Cojoc Family Ints (Our Lady's) and for the Protection of Unborn Babies and the Stillborn (Blessed Sacrament)	

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 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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

RETURNING TO NORMALITY

The reintroduction of the Sunday obligation marks a significant moment in our return to some form of normality in our churches. The wearing of masks during our services is now a personal choice, but we do ask that you continue to be considerate to those around you who may be nervous in returning to Church over the coming weeks. We will continue to have doors open over the coming months to ensure our buildings are well ventilated.

ALTAR SERVERS

If there is anyone who would like to join our growing team of Altar Servers across our three parishes please could they email Fr Andrew for a registration form and details about training that will take place over the next couple of months. New servers must have received their First Holy Communion before they can begin this ministry.

COME AND SING!

We are very blessed in each of our three parishes that we have adults who are willing to lead and support our singing in our choirs and music groups to enhance our Sunday worship. These are always open to new members. If you enjoy singing (even as a beginner!) then please do approach the groups or Fr Andrew to find out how you can get involved.

FUNERAL OF CANON PHILIP CROSS

Canon Philip was parish priest of St Bede's in Croxley Green for several years and will have been known to many in the area. His funeral will take place on Tuesday 31st May at 11.30am at St Bede's Church. **Booking is required**, please email croxleygreen@rcdow.org.uk or phone 01923 445163 if you wish to attend. There is also a Requiem Mass for Canon Philip on Monday 30th May at 7.30pm (no booking required) for those who are unable to attend the funeral. May he rest in peace.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

This Sunday is World Communications Day when we pray in a particular way for the very valuable work being done on behalf of the Church by the communications office of the Bishop's Conference. If you would like to support this work please donate online at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/donate-world-communications-day/>

PARISH NEWSLETTER - please send notices for next weekend's newsletter to Kerry by Tuesday 31st May.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT).

This will be a new style of family catechesis to help support parents to live out their promises at their child's baptism, to train them in the practice of the faith and to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us. Whether you are already engaged with your faith and the Church, looking for a way to become more engaged or seeking the sacraments for your child, GIFT is for you. This catechesis will be the gateway to bring your child towards First Holy Communion as well as an opportunity to continue to grow in faith together afterwards.

Initially this family catechesis will be available in two ways:

• Saturday family sessions

Families will be invited to come along on one Saturday morning a month. The sessions will be engaging, spirit-filled and fun, and they are for all the family. We will celebrate Mass, enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshment before sharing catechesis and activities. Each month we will explore a different topic such as the Saints, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week.

• Faith Formation for parents

On one evening each month we will gather online (Zoom) with parents to explore our faith. These sessions are designed to help parents grow in their own faith, enabling them to lead their family on their journey of faith.

We pray that GIFT will be a new way of approaching family catechesis across our parishes that will give all our families encouragement and strength in journeying together in faith. If your family would like to sign up for GIFT then please email the parish office (rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) with the names of each of your family, the children's ages and a contact phone number. Further details will then be sent to you.

We ask that everyone in our parishes prays for this new and exciting venture, and if you would like to assist the team as a catechist or helper, then please also contact the parish office for further details.

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Have you, or someone you know, been thinking about becoming a catholic? Are you a baptised catholic but have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would now like to complete your initiation? If the answer to either of these questions is 'yes', please drop me an email and we can have a chat about what is involved and how our parishes can help you to take the next step. *Fr Andrew*

JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA – POSTPONED

Unfortunately, the Jubilee Tea at Our Lady's has been postponed. A new date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

GIFT AID

Thank you to everyone who has Gift-Aided their offering. Gift Aid adds 25p to the value of every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your offering please contact Fr Andrew, Fr Damian or Kerry. Please let us know if your tax circumstances have changed so that we do not ask for a tax refund if you haven't paid the associated tax. We will also need to know if you have changed your address recently.

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; **dog food, deodorant, toilet rolls, washing up liquid, washing powder, shower gel, long life juice/squash, long life milk & tinned vegetables.**

WATFORD, HEMEL AND ST. ALBANS NHS HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

On admission to hospital, please ensure that your religion is registered and ask for a visit from hospital chaplaincy team. Chaplains visit the wards during the week and will organise sacramental and pastoral care for you; they also provide an 'on-call' service in case of emergency. Please let Fr Andrew or Fr Damian know if you or a close relative are in hospital. Our Catholic Chaplain is Theresa Taylor-Brookes and the contact number for the chaplaincy is 07776 598 704 or 01923 217 994; email: westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

REPOSITORY NOW OPEN

The Repository Shop contains lots of cards for all occasions, crosses, icons, Bibles and religious books to buy. It will be open before and after each of our Sunday Masses and run by a team of volunteers who are ready to welcome you. Currently purchases can only be made in cash, but a cashless option is being investigated for the future. Please only purchase items when the shop is open or via the parish office. If you would like to join our team of volunteers please contact Fr Andrew.

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 5th June. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Thank you for your donations, we have raised £100 which will be sent to the Catholic Worker Farm 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 H.*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

RED MISSIO BOXES

I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who contribute towards the Missio/Mill Hill Missionaries with your Red Boxes. In 2021 you raised a total of £530.15. This is an amazing amount and the charities are so very grateful. If you do not have a Red Box at home and would like one please see me or ring me on 07725 748490. Thank you. *Geraldine*

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

ST JOHN FISHER SOCIAL COMMITTEE

In order to plan future social events at St John Fisher we need parishioners willing to join us on the Social Committee. If you would like to serve your Parish in this way please see Francis or Maureen (Fields) after Mass on Sunday, let Fr Andrew or Fr Damian know or email Kerry on rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk and we will be in touch.

MARY'S GARAGE IS OPEN AGAIN.

The **St John Fisher Charity Summer Sale** from now until 31st August. In aid of **The Cardinal Hume Centre** for the **Homeless** in Westminster. It will be the Mini Art Gallery, a general Bring and Buy and a Donation Basket and possibly other surprises later! Please give me a ring to come and have a look or bring something amazing from the back of your cupboard. The garage will be opened during the summer on Thursday 2.00pm - 4.00pm and Saturdays 10.30am to noon. Fantastic pictures to see on the website. Thank you and love from Mary 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@rcdow.org.uk) or Carolyn Opie (carolynopie@rcdow.org.uk). If you wish to order a set of planned giving envelopes, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

NIGHT OF LIGHT

On Friday 10th June, between 8 and 10pm Holy Rood Church, Watford will be hosting a Night of Light. On this evening the church will stay open to 10pm, to invite those, who may have never crossed the threshold of a church, to come in, light a candle, perhaps access the sacrament of reconciliation, but, above all, to be still in the presence of the Lord. The Night of Light concludes with Benediction which is being given by Cardinal Nichols. All are welcome.

UK VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE

In September and October 2022 the relics of St Bernadette will be travelling across the UK for veneration and to help us focus on the message and mission of Lourdes. The relics will be in Westminster Cathedral for veneration on Saturday 3rd - Sunday 4th September, the Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayes on Monday 5th September, and then on their return to France, will be in the parish of St Joseph's, Bedwell, Stevenage on Monday 17th October. More information will follow in the coming months about this visit.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR (Part-Time)

Required at St Helen's Church, North Watford. Full details of the position and application process are available on the Westminster job site at jobs.rcdow.org.uk. Please apply directly to the diocese and **NOT** through the parish. Closing date for applications is 30/05/2022.

CARITAS

Firm Foundations

If there is anyone in our parish keen to train as a Money Champion, providing practical and effective support to people facing financial difficulties, and building up resilience in the community, please contact Sr Silvana Dallanegra silvanadallanegra@rcdow.org.uk

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.