



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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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Diocesan Safeguarding

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
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Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
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Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:
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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C) - 22ND MAY 2022

The Ascension of The Lord

This Thursday we celebrate Jesus' Ascension, a Holy Day of obligation. The following is an extract by Pope Francis in 2013 about the Ascension:

“Let us contemplate the mystery of Jesus who leaves our earthly space to enter the fullness of the glory of God, taking our humanity with him. In other words, our humanity enters heaven for the first time. The Gospel of Luke describes the reaction of the disciples before the Lord who “parted from them and was carried up into heaven” (24:51). They had no sorrow nor dismay, but “they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (v. 52). It was the return of those who no longer feared the city that had rejected the Master, who had seen Judas’ betrayal and Peter’s denial; who had seen the dispersion of the disciples and the brutality of a power that felt threatened. Since that day, the Apostles and every disciple of Christ have been able to live in Jerusalem and in all cities of the world, even in those most afflicted by injustice and violence, because above every city there is the same heaven and every inhabitant can lift his or her gaze with hope. Jesus, God, is true man, with his human body, he is in heaven! This is our hope, it is still ours, and we are firm in this hope if we look to heaven....

... Before departing from his friends, Jesus, referring to the event of his death and Resurrection, said to them: “You are witnesses of these things” (v. 48). In other words the disciples, the Apostles, were witnesses of the death and Resurrection of Christ, on that day, also of the Ascension of Christ. In fact, after seeing their Lord ascend into heaven, the disciples returned to the city as witnesses joyfully proclaiming to all the new life which comes from the Crucified and Risen One, in whose name “repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations” (cf. v. 47). This is the witness — born not only with words but with everyday life — the witness that every Sunday should flow from our churches so as to enter during the week into homes, offices, schools, meeting and recreational places, hospitals, prisons, homes for the elderly, in places crowded with immigrants, in the peripheries of the city.... We must bear this witness every week: Christ is with us: Jesus rose to heaven, he is with us: Christ lives!

Jesus assured us that in this proclamation and in this witness we shall be “clothed with power from on high” (v. 49), that is, with the power of the Holy Spirit. Here is the secret to this mission: the presence among us of the Risen Lord, who with the gift of the Holy Spirit, continues to open our minds and our hearts, to proclaim his love and his mercy even in the most resistant areas of our cities. The Holy Spirit is the true artisan of the multiform witness that the Church and every baptized person renders in the world. Therefore, we must never neglect to meditate in prayer in order to praise God and invoke the gift of the Holy Spirit. This week, which leads us to the Feast of Pentecost, let us remain spiritually in the Upper Room, together with the Virgin Mary, to receive the Holy Spirit.

Taken from: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2016/documents/papa-francesco_regina-coeli_20160508.html

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 22ND MAY	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	SVP 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
TUE 24RD MAY	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 26RD MAY	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 27TH MAY	7.30pm	Youth Group	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 28TH MAY	11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SUN 29TH MAY	11.30am 2.30pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Jubilee Afternoon Tea - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 21 ST MAY	9.30am Canon Philip Cross RIP	6.00pm Holy Souls	
SUNDAY 22 ND MAY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Jad Damouni RIP 6pm Jerzy Mazurkiewicz RIP	10.30am Private Intention	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 23 RD MAY	9.30am Verna Kendrick RIP	7.30pm For those being Confirmed	
TUES 24TH MAY <i>PATRONAL FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS</i>	9.30am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP		9.30am Canon Philip Cross RIP
WED 25TH MAY <i>ST BEDE THE VENERABLE</i>	9.30am Canon Philip Cross RIP	9.30am Michael Massey RIP	7.30pm For the People of the Parishes
THU 26TH MAY <i>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am For the People of the Parishes	7.30pm For the People of the Parishes	
FRI 27TH MAY <i>ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY</i>	9.30am Jackie Clackson RIP		
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
SANCTUARY LAMPS			This week our Blessed Sacrament Sanctuary Lamp burns for Philip Sanders 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 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

RETURN OF THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION

Recently the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales announced the return of the obligation for all Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy days of Obligation to be united in our worship of God. This begins from Pentecost Sunday. The understanding that those who are sick or caring for the sick are not able to attend Mass continues, as it did before the pandemic. We thank God that the challenges of the past two years have lessened significantly and we are able to come together again to rejoice in our love of God. The Bishops' statement can be read at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/spring-plenary-2022-resolution-returning-to-mass-at-pentecost/>

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday 26th May is the Feast of the Ascension of The Lord. Masses across the three parishes will be as follows: St John Fisher - 7.30pm Vigil (Wednesday 25th May); Our Lady Help of Christians – 9.30am; St John the Evangelist – 7.30pm

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 – A Three Parish Event - next Sunday 29th May at 2.30pm - 5.00pm Jubilee Tea

Come and have some fun celebrating the Queen's Jubilee with afternoon tea, Pimms and live music at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth. We're planning for an outdoor event so lots of space for the kids to run around leaving the adults to tap their toes to some live Jazz whilst debating whether its cream on jam or jam on cream!

All proceeds to the SVP, tickets £12 adult, £6 child, under 5's come for free available at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/326264585157> or by contacting Angela O'Donovan – aodonovan@ntlworld.com

YOUTH

Come and join us for an evening of fun, food and friends. For those in school year 6 and above. May 27th 7.30pm - 9.00pm at Our Lady's. Can we ask parents to text names, contact details, and how many attending to either Toni or Belinda on 07788 721222 or 07802 750243. We look forward to meeting you all. *Belinda, Toni and Margaret*

HOSTING A UKRAINIAN FAMILY

If anyone is open to hosting a Ukrainian family in their home but is yet to find someone to host via the government system, then please do let Fr Andrew know.

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.

COULD YOU SPARE A LITTLE TIME TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE?

Rickmansworth Care was started 50 years ago as a Churches Together initiative and is still working to provide our neighbours in Rickmansworth, Croxley, Mill End and Maple Cross transportation to hospital and doctors appointments etc. It isn't a big commitment and is surprisingly rewarding. If you can help contact Rose Tolley on 01923 776930 and for more information see our website www.rickmansworthcare.org.uk

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

ST JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

We will be welcoming students from St Joan of Arc School to the 9.30am Mass on Monday at Our Lady's Church.

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 MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass this Sunday 22nd May for our SVP 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.

APF MISSIO

Would promoters please collect the Spring Magazines from the church porch and start collecting monies. Thank you.

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

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 FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND COST OF LIVING

One-stop information for people in Herts

Useful links and resources for people living in Herts <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/help-to-manage-the-cost-of-living>

Herts Help

Call 0300 123 4044 to speak to an adviser, email info@hertshelp.net or visit <https://www.hertshelp.net/hertshelp.aspx>

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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