



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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PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR C) - 5TH JUNE 2022

Come Holy Spirit!

Jesus promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit, the ultimate gift, the gift of gifts. He uses an unusual and mysterious word to describe the Spirit: *Paraclete*. Today let us reflect on this word, which is not easy to translate, for it has a number of meanings. Essentially, it means two things: *Comforter* and *Advocate*.

The Paraclete is the Comforter. All of us, particularly at times of difficulty, look for consolation. Often, though, we turn only to earthly comforts, ephemeral comforts that quickly fade. Today, Jesus offers us heavenly comfort, the Holy Spirit, who is “of comforters the best” (*Sequence*). What is the difference? The comforts of the world are like a pain reliever: they can give momentary relief, but not cure the illness we carry deep within. They can soothe us, but not heal us at the core. They work on the surface, on the level of the senses, but hardly touch our hearts. Only someone who makes us feel loved for who we are can give peace to our hearts. The Holy Spirit, the love of God, does precisely that. He comes down within us; as the Spirit, he acts in our spirit. He comes down “within the heart”, as “the soul’s most welcome guest”. He is the very love of God, who does not abandon us; for being present to those who are alone is itself a source of comfort.

Dear sister, dear brother, if you feel the darkness of solitude, if you feel that an obstacle within you blocks the way to hope, if your heart has a festering wound, if you can see no way out, then open your heart to the Holy Spirit. Saint Bonaventure tells us that, “where the trials are greater, he brings greater comfort, not like the world, which comforts and flatters us when things go well, but derides and condemns us when they do not” (*Homily in the Octave of the Ascension*). That is what the world does, that is especially what the hostile spirit, the devil, does. First, he flatters us and makes us feel invincible; then he flings us down and makes us feel that we are failures. He toys with us. He does everything to cast us down, whereas the Spirit of the risen Lord wants to raise us up. Look at the apostles: they were alone that morning, alone and bewildered, cowering behind closed doors, living in fear and overwhelmed by their weaknesses, failings and their sins, for they had denied Christ. The years they had spent with Jesus had not changed them: they were no different than they had been. Then, they received the Spirit and everything changed: the problems and failings remained, yet they were no longer afraid of them, nor of any who would be hostile to them. They sensed comfort within and they wanted to overflow with the comfort of God. Before, they were fearful; now their only fear was that of not testifying to the love they had received. Jesus had foretold this: “[The Spirit] will testify on my behalf; you also are to testify” (*Jn 15:26-27*).

Let us go another step. We too are called to testify in the Holy Spirit, *to become paracletes*, comforters. The Spirit is asking us to embody the comfort he brings. How can we do this? Not by making great speeches, but by drawing near to others. Not with trite words, but with prayer and closeness. Let us remember that closeness, compassion and tenderness are God’s “trademark”, always. The Paraclete is telling the Church that today is *the time for comforting*.

*Extract from homily of Pope Francis
on the Solemnity of Pentecost, 23 May 2021*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

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
TUE 7TH JUNE	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 9TH 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 11TH JUNE	11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SUN 12TH JUNE	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 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) Her Majesty, the Queen 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Lawrence & Genevieve (Ints.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 6 TH JUNE <i>THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH</i>	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the parishes		
TUESDAY 7 TH JUNE	9.30am Canon Philip Cross RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 8 TH JUNE	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the parishes	NO MASS TODAY	
THURSDAY 9 TH JUNE <i>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST</i>	9.30am Canon Philip Cross RIP		
FRIDAY 10 TH JUNE	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the parishes		
SATURDAY 11 TH JUNE <i>ST BARNABAS, APOSTLE</i>	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the parishes	6.00pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 12 TH JUNE <i>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY</i>	8.30am Anna and Tilak Khurwal RIP 11am For the People of the Parishes 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Doctors & Staff of Charing Cross Hospital	9am Philip Sanders RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Evelyn Scally RIP (Our Lady's) and for Guidance & Intentions of A' Level Students (Blessed Sacrament)		This week our Sanctuary Lamp burns for Mike Opie RIP (Our Lady's)

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.

INVITATION TO CELEBRATE PENTECOST

'Life in the Spirit' prayer group warmly invite you to celebrate Pentecost with them on Thursday 9th June at Our Lady Help of Christians 8pm - 9.30pm. Join us for cake, drinks, social time, prayer and singing. All are welcome.

JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA – Sunday 10th July 2.30pm

We're pleased to confirm the new date. Join us for a traditional afternoon tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. All welcome! It will be an outdoor event (weather permitting). Tickets £12 per adult and £6 per child are available again at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/326264585157> or by contacting Angela O'Donovan – aodonovan@ntlworld.com. If you purchased a ticket before, it is valid on the new date. If you can't make the new date, please request a refund via Eventbrite or email Angela or the parish office. If you cannot make the new date and do not request a refund, all proceeds will be donated to the SVP.

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*

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.**

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

CORPUS CHRISTI

On Sunday 19th June the 11am Mass will end with a Corpus Christi Procession led by those children of our parish who have recently made their First Holy Communion. All are welcome. At all Masses over this weekend those who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be recommissioned at the Mass that they attend.

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a coffee morning after Mass this Sunday. 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

MASS FOR CORPUS CHRISTI – FOLLOWED BY PROCESSION

On Sunday 19th June at the 10.30am Mass we will all come together for a celebration Mass and procession with the Blessed Sacrament around the grounds of the Church. It is hoped that the children will come dressed in their First Holy Communion dresses and suits and lead the procession. After the Procession we will have a little parish party. Everyone is invited to this parish event. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Could we please ask for donations of homemade cakes on the day. Please bring them to the Parish Centre before Mass. Thank you. *Geraldine and Claire*

At all Masses over this weekend those who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be recommissioned at the Mass that they attend.

FAMILY MASS

As part of our Family Mass that takes place on the third Sunday of the month, we would be looking for teenagers in the parish to become readers. If anyone is interested in this ministry then please talk to Fr Andrew or 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@redow.org.uk and we will be in touch.

MARY'S GARAGE IS OPEN AGAIN.

Please remember the Summer Fair sale in Mary's garage in aid of Cardinal Hume Centre for the Homeless. Open until end of August every Saturday morning and Thursday afternoon or by appointment. Please phone me and/or check the website. Thank you Mary 284975.

MISSIO APF RED BOX HOLDERS

It is June again and time for another quarterly collection. Boxes with cash, envelopes with cash notes or cheques, made payable to MISSIO please, can be brought to church. New donors warmly welcomed. Thank you, 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@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.

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. For more details and for the itinerary of the visit please go to www.stbernadette.org.uk

THE FRIENDS

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is seeking to recruit a part-time Co-ordinator to 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 **19 June 2022**. For further details please see <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/the-friends-seek-an-organising-secretary/>