



### 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  
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#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan  
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#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
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#### Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest  
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#### Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
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#### Mill End

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 @ChessValleyRC

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

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#### Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
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#### Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337  
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#### Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:  
[rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk)

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:  
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Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry  
Leadership Team:  
[rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk)

### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) - 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022

### "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15)

These words of the Psalmist are glad tidings, a true "gospel" that we can proclaim to all on this 2<sup>nd</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. They run counter to what the world thinks about this stage of life, but also to the attitude of grim resignation shown by some of us elderly people, who harbour few expectations for the future.

Many people are afraid of old age. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared for, lest we have to deal with their problems. This is the mindset of the "throw-away culture", which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from "them" and their troubles. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives! Blessed is the family that honours the elderly!

Old age is not a time of life easily understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it. Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise. The more developed societies expend large sums on this stage of life without really helping people to understand and appreciate it; they offer healthcare plans to the elderly but not plans for living this age to the full. This makes it hard to look to the future and discern what direction to take. On the one hand, we are tempted to ward off old age by hiding our wrinkles and pretending to be forever young, while on the other, we imagine that the only thing we can do is bide our time, thinking glumly that we cannot "still bring forth fruit".

The recognition that our strength is ebbing or the onset of sickness can undermine our certainties. The fast pace of the world – with which we struggle to keep up – seems to leave us no alternative but to implicitly accept the idea that we are useless. We can resonate with the heartfelt prayer of the Psalmist: "Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent" (71:9).

Yet that same psalm – which meditates on how the Lord has been present at every stage of our lives – urges us to persevere in hope. Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still. We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!

For this reason, we ought to take care of ourselves and remain active in our later years. This is also true from a spiritual standpoint: we ought to cultivate our interior life through the assiduous reading of the word of God, daily prayer, reception of the sacraments and participation in the liturgy. In addition to our relationship with God, we should also cultivate our relationships with others; affectionate concern for our families, but also for the poor and those who suffer, by drawing near to them with practical assistance and our prayers. These things will help us not to feel like mere bystanders, sitting on our porches or looking out from our windows, as life goes on all around us. Instead, we should learn to discern everywhere the presence of the Lord.

*Extract from the message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the  
2<sup>nd</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, 24 July 2022*

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	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
<b>TUE 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	10.00am 7.00pm	Rosary after Mass Life Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>WED 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	9.00am	Rosary before Mass	St John the Evangelist
<b>THU 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY</b>	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY</b>	11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
<b>SUN 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b>	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	SVP Coffee - 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
<b>SATURDAY</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes	<b>6.00pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> JULY <i>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes <b>11am</b> Margaret Townsend RIP <b>6pm</b> Patrick Rooney RIP (Anniv.)	<b>10.30am</b> Fr David Wilson RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>MONDAY</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	<b>9.30am</b> Fr David Wilson RIP		<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 20 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	<b>9.30am</b> Andrew Dumughn RIP	<b>9.30am</b> For staff & families of St John's School	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 21 <sup>ST</sup> JULY	<b>9.30am</b> Francis Crowley RIP		
<b>FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY</b> <i>ST MARY MAGDALENE</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		
<b>SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY</b> <i>ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Jack Crowley RIP	<b>6.00pm</b> Fr David Wilson RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 24 <sup>TH</sup> JULY <i>SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Tom, Agnes & Thomas Feely RIP <b>11am</b> John Finnegan RIP (Anniv.) <b>6pm</b> Jad Damouni RIP	<b>10.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for the Gallagher Family (Blessed Sacrament) and Fabby Montesdeoca Ints. (Our Lady's)	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for the deceased members of the Viner Family 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, Leslie Edwards and Pauline Williams

**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 and Julian Harris

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### **A SUMMER OF MOVES**

As has been announced Fr Damian will sadly be leaving our parishes at the end of August and will be replaced by Fr Matteo di Giuseppe who has recently been ordained to the priesthood. We are now pleased to announce that Fr Damian has been appointed Parish Priest of the parish of Our Lady of the Holy Souls, Kensal New Town. We congratulate Fr Damian on his new appointment and assure him of our prayers. Fr Damian will have one leaving Mass which will take place on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7.00pm as a joint parishes event. We are hoping, weather permitting, that this will take place in the field at Our Lady Help of Christians and will be followed by a social event to say thankyou to Fr Damian for all his hard work. Please keep all of our priests in your prayers as they take up their new appointments over the summer.

### **FAREWELL GIFT FOR FR DAMIAN**

If you would like to make a contribution towards a gift for Fr Damian, as an expression of thanks for all his work in the parishes over the past five years, then you can do so by using one of the special envelopes available in the parishes this weekend. These envelopes can either be placed in the offertory collection or delivered to the parish office at Our Lady's by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Alternatively you could make a BACs payment using the reference 'Fr Damian's Gift' - bank details are on each parish website under the 'Donate' tab.

### **MAUREEN PALMER RIP**

The funeral of Maureen Palmer will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

### **LOURDES PETITIONS**

From Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July Fr Andrew will be on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you would like him to take a petition to the grotto with your intentions then please drop them into the parish office by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

### **JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA**

We thank Our Lady's Parish Social Committee and all those who contributed to the parish jubilee afternoon tea on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July. It was wonderful to see so many people from across our three parishes enjoying the fantastic spread that had been prepared, whilst being entertained by our live musicians. A big thank you also to the Sea Scouts for providing their support and setting up their marquees to keep us out of the warm sunshine.

### **YOUTH CHOIR**

In the autumn we will welcome to the parish Jaison Jeyaventhana as our new Youth Choir Director who will work with our young people aged 8-13. The Youth Choir will sing on a Sunday once a month at Our Lady's and once a month at St John's, Mill End. There will be a rehearsal for the choir one evening each week from 4.30-5.45pm. If your child is interested in joining the choir please could you contact the parish office and let us know what evenings your child will be free to rehearse each week. The rehearsal day will be set at the end of August based on these responses. If there are any adults willing to assist Jaison in supervising the children during the rehearsals then please also contact the parish office for more details.

### **BLESSING OF SCHOOL BAGS**

On the first weekend of September at Mass we will be offering a blessing of school bags marking the start of the new academic year. Please do encourage families to come and join us with their new or trusted old school bags on this weekend to ask for the Lord's blessing on their studies.

### **CAR PARK**

Due to Health and Safety concerns the car park at Our Lady's will be managed by Creative Car Parks from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August. The camera and signage for this will be installed on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, with each building on the site having a touch pad for us to enter our car registrations when using the car park. This system will not be operated on Sundays or Monday - Saturday 9.15-10.15am to allow us to attend our scheduled Masses as usual without interruption. Once installed we do encourage those parking in the car park outside those times Monday-Saturday to use the touch pads provided in the buildings so we can begin to get used to this new system. For further information about why this is necessary please do take a copy of the leaflet available in each of our churches. We thank you for your patience and understanding with this challenging but necessary change for our parishes.

### **SVP NATIONAL RAFFLE**

SVP members will be selling tickets for the SVP National Raffle at all Masses for the next few weekends. The National Raffle is the biggest annual fundraising event held by the SVP, and 50% of the proceeds will go to your local Chess Valley SVP Group. Books are just £5 each; please support us in helping the people who need it most.

### **PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS**

A new season of Prayer and Life Workshops will take place on Monday evenings at the Parish Hall of Our Lady Help of Christians. These workshops offer us a possibility of a deeper relationship with Christ in prayer, learning different models of prayer over a period of 15 weeks. A taster session will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm and 7pm. Do consider this life-changing and spiritually enriching workshop to help you grow in faith.

### **JUSTICE AND PEACE CONTACT**

Each of our parishes are in need of a Parish Contact for the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. This involves receiving communications relevant to peace and justice work from the diocese, and to encourage and support the involvement of the clergy and parishioners in prayer, action and reflection on peace and justice. If you would be interested in being the Parish Contact for this then please contact Fr Andrew.

### **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.

### **SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

If you know someone who is sick and housebound in our parishes who would like to receive Holy Communion, please let the parish office know so that we can be in contact with them.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)

Our new family catechesis for all those with children aged 5-11 has now begun. The sessions are engaging, spirit-filled and fun, and they are for all the family. We celebrate Mass, enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshment before sharing catechesis and activities. As part of GIFT we will also hold Faith Formation for parents on one evening each month online (Zoom). 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](mailto: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.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.

Please note that there will be no formal application process for First Holy Communion classes as in the past. Applications will now be discerned via the GIFT catechesis in our parishes over the coming years.

### 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 Fr Andrew an email and to find out what is involved and how our parishes can help you to take the next step.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### CALVARY CROSS UPDATE

The restoration of the Calvary Cross is taking longer than we had hoped due to the difficulty in finding the right contractors to carry out this specialist work, at a time when they are in high demand. It is hoped that this restoration will be completed in the next few months so we can once again have this important image at the heart of our parish.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We have one team of three people who have volunteered to lead Children's Liturgy at our 11am Mass on Sundays. To start with this will take place once a month starting on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like to volunteer to assist with Children's Liturgy in a second group so that this can take place more regularly then please contact Fr Andrew.

### COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass next Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July for our SVP Coffee Morning.

### CATHOLIC WORKER FARM

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £100. We at The Catholic Worker Farm Community are deeply grateful for your support. We could not finish our new Mary House without you and the help of others. We opened Mary House 1<sup>st</sup> April and at present there are two families from Ukraine living there with their children. We are waiting for more families (also from Ukraine) as soon as they get their Visas. We, at the farmhouse and Mary House, wish you all the very best and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### SCHOOL ACCESS

St John's School have now moved into the new temporary building behind the Church. In order to access this an entrance and drive have been added onto the back of the Church Car Park. Please keep the parking bays in front of the entrance clear during the week, but they can be used on Sundays for Mass. Thank you for your understanding and support for the school over these challenging months.

### 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 FAMILY PICNIC

Due to Health and Safety concerns with the extreme heat forecast for this weekend this event is postponed until a later date. We apologise for any inconvenience and disappointment.

### MARY'S GARAGE IS STILL OPEN IN THE HEAT!

On Saturdays 10.30am - 12 noon and Thursdays 2-4pm. Many beautiful, interesting and useful items available.

**Breaking News** we will be holding a **Silent Auction** in the Church Lounge on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August all for **The Cardinal Hume Centre for the Homeless**. For any information or appointments phone Mary on 284975 . 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. For more details and for the itinerary of the visit please go to [www.stbernadette.org.uk](http://www.stbernadette.org.uk)