



### 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](mailto:andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Matteo Di Giuseppe  
[matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz  
[p.matarewicz@gmail.com](mailto:p.matarewicz@gmail.com)

#### Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
[anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)

#### Mill End

Geraldine Page  
[geraldine.page21@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.page21@gmail.com)

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 @ChessValleyRC

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

#### A light to enlighten the Gentiles

The celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life, is intended to help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels and, at the same time, is intended to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervour which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord.

The purpose of such a day is threefold: **in the first place**, it answers the intimate need to praise the Lord more solemnly and to thank him for the great gift of consecrated life, which enriches and gladdens the Christian community by the multiplicity of its charisms and by the edifying fruits of so many lives totally given to the cause of the Kingdom. We should never forget that consecrated life, before being a commitment of men and women, is a gift which comes from on high, an initiative of the Father "who draws his creatures to himself with a special love and for a special mission" (VC 17). This look of special love profoundly touches the heart of the one called, who is urged by the Holy Spirit to place himself or herself in the footsteps of Christ, in a particular way of following him, by means of assuming the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. A stupendous gift! "What would become of the world if there were no religious?" St. Teresa rightly asked herself. This is a question which brings us to give unceasing thanks to the Lord, who by this singular gift of the Spirit continues to enliven and sustain the Church in its demanding journey through this world.

**In the second place**, this day is intended to promote a knowledge of and esteem for the consecrated life by the entire People of God. The consecrated life "constitutes a closer imitation and an abiding re-enactment in the Church' of the way of life which Jesus, the supreme Consecrated One and missionary of the Father for the sake of his Kingdom, embraced and proposed to his disciples" (VC 22). The life of special consecration, in its many forms, is thus at the service of the baptismal consecration of all the faithful. In contemplating the gift of consecrated life, the Church contemplates her own intimate vocation of belonging only to her Lord.

**The third reason** regards consecrated persons directly. They are invited to celebrate together solemnly the marvels which the Lord has accomplished in them, to discover by a more illumined faith the rays of divine beauty spread by the Spirit in their way of life, and to acquire a more vivid consciousness of their irreplaceable mission in the Church and in the world. Immersed in a world which is often agitated and distracted, taken up sometimes by the press of responsibilities, consecrated persons also will be helped by the celebration of this annual World Day to return to the sources of their vocation, to take stock of their own lives, to confirm the commitment of their own consecration. In this way, they will be able to give witness with joy to the men and women of our time, in diverse situations, that the Lord is the Love who is able to fill the heart of the human person.

Truly there is great urgency that the consecrated life show itself ever more "full of joy and of the Holy Spirit," that it forge ahead dynamically in the paths of mission, that it be backed up by the strength of lived witness, because "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* 41).

*Extract from message of Pope St John Paul II, 6 1997. The Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated each year on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 2<sup>nd</sup> February.*

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572  
[rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841  
[rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir  
Director [rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk)

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:  
[rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk)

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>	11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Sunday Brunch - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>MON 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>TUE 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY</b>	4.30pm - 5.45pm 7.30pm - 9.15pm 7.30pm - 8.15pm	Youth Choir Practice Alpha - Hall Alpha Prayer Ministry - Church	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THU 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	12 noon 5.00pm - 5.45pm	New Parishioners Lunch - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
<b>SUN 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	9.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Coffee morning - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	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
<b>SAT 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>ST THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST &amp; DOCTOR</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Anna O'Keefe RIP	<b>6pm</b> Edda Ali RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 29 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY <i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP <b>11am</b> Patricia McInerney RIP <b>6pm</b> Jacqui McCann RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Der Leane RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>MONDAY</b> 30 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
<b>TUES 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>ST JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		<b>9.30am</b> Philip Smyth RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Djohn Gonzaga (birthday intention)	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes	
<b>THU 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY</b> <i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		
<b>FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY</b> <i>SS LAURENCE, DUNSTAN &amp; THEODORE</i>	<b>9.30am</b> For Peace in Ukraine		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes	<b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Joe Grove RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Josie Westhrop RIP <b>6pm</b> Aidan Byrne RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Michael Dixon RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for Josie Westhrop RIP	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns in thanks for the many favours of St Anthony (Phyllis & Victor Smith)	

### 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, Maureen Douglas, Michael Gaukroger, Molly Gray, Leslie Edwards, Pauline Williams and Gloria Warmington.

**St John the Evangelist:** Rita Murray, Alfredo Rock, Paul O'Connor, Antoinette Moss and Kate Margetts

**St John Fisher:** Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Angela Hoy, Colin Dowling, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, Pam Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris and David Cottingham.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### PETITIONS TO LOURDES

As part of his role as Assistant Director for the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Fr Andrew will be in Lourdes from 8th -12th February on the International Pilgrimage Directors' Conference. If you would like him to drop off a petition of prayer at the grotto whilst he is there then please put it in an envelope marked 'Lourdes Petition' and drop it off at the Presbytery before Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

### CANDLEMAS

This coming Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. Mass on Thursday will begin with the blessing of candles. Candles will be provided, but if you wish to bring your own, please feel free to do so.

### FEAST OF ST BLAISE

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February is the Feast of St Blaise. Blessing of throats will take place at the end of Mass.

### ASH WEDNESDAY (February 22<sup>nd</sup>)

This year we would once again like to prepare our own ash from last year's palms (or palms from any previous year should you have them!). Please hunt around at home for them and bring them to the sacristy after Mass before Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February so they can be burned and used on Ash Wednesday. Thank you!

### ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING 2023

This will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm and will be on Zoom for members of all three parishes. This is a great opportunity to hear what has been happening in the parishes and what vision we have in the years ahead. Zoom details will be published in the newsletter in the coming weeks.

### SEEKING SUPPORT?

If you are struggling in these difficult economic times to pay for shopping or need any other support, please do get in touch with the parish office and we will try to help you. Please remember your parish is here for your spiritual support but also as a community you can turn to when you have any other need.

### NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOMING EVENT

We are aware that over the past two years there are many people who are new to the parish. Please do pick up one of our leaflets in the Church porch and fill in the form so we know who you are. There will also be a Welcome soup lunch with the Parishes' Senior Leadership Team for all new parishioners on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon in Our Lady's Parish Hall. Please do come along and introduce yourselves and find out more about how our parishes work together and ways in which you can get involved. To assist with catering please do let Kerry in the parish office know you are planning to attend and if you have any allergies on [rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

### 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. At the present the Food bank is well stocked. The only items that are urgently needed are: **tinned fruit and jam.**

### CHESS VALLEY SVP

Chess Valley SVP will be providing a Warm Winter Space in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End, every Thursday afternoon between 2 to 4pm, for the duration of the winter months. Hot drinks, cakes and biscuits will be provided. Please let those you feel would benefit from this know. For further information, please email [chessvalleysvp@gmail.com](mailto:chessvalleysvp@gmail.com)

### THE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Will meet again at 2.15pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall on the following Wednesdays: February 8<sup>th</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Do join us for tea, chat and a DVD about developing personal prayer.

### NEW YEAR PROJECT

If you are looking to do something in 2023 to help grow in understanding your faith why not try 'The Bible in a Year' or 'The Catechism in a Year' podcasts by Fr Mike Schmitz. Full details can be found at <https://ascensionpress.com/>

### VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to NatWest sort code **60-60-04, account no. 46088237**. Thank you so much for your support.

**ALPHA** runs every week from 7.30-9.15pm until 28<sup>th</sup> March at Our Lady's hall.

### ALPHA - INVITATION TO PRAY

We are inviting all parishioners to join the Alpha Intercessory Prayer Team by either praying from home or to join in person for some or all of the Tuesdays from 7.30-8.15pm to pray for the guests and team attending Alpha. In addition to this we would also love to invite you to pray daily for our parish community and its ongoing formation. Maybe you could consider praying the following prayer: **Thank you loving Father for all those you have called to participate in Alpha; we ask your blessing upon all, both team and guests. Without you we can do nothing you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pour out your Holy Spirit and abundant blessings and gifts during this Alpha. May Alpha ignite or re-ignite the flame of faith in all hearts so that we may experience the wonder, joy and hope that being in relationship with you brings. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...**

### MASS INTENTIONS

At the Altar the priest offers Mass for the good of the whole Church and for a particular intention. Do you want a Mass offered for a particular intention? Perhaps you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered, or you would like a Mass said for someone who is sick or for your own intention. For Mass to be offered it is the tradition that a stipend is donated to contribute to the upkeep of your priests. Please contact the parish office if you would like a Mass offered over the coming weeks.

## 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.

### YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir (aged 8-13) sings 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 on a Tuesday evening each week from 4.30-5.45pm. If your child is interested in joining the choir please could you contact the parish office. If there are any adults willing to assist Jason in supervising the children during the rehearsals then please also contact the parish office for more details.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### QUIZ NIGHT - SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

We'd love a great turnout for our first event of 2023 so please save the date now. More details to follow.

### COFFEE MORNING

There will be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

### CALVARY CROSS UPDATE

We are nearly there! The new cross is now on site and has been prepared, the statue is nearly restored and now we are just waiting for confirmation when the scaffold can be put up. We hope that the Cross will be back at the heart of our parish grounds soon. Thank you for your patience.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday Brunch (with bacon and sausage rolls) will take place this Sunday after 10.30am Mass. All proceeds raised will go to Aid to the Church in Need. We hope that you will come and join us!

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### THE REPOSITORY

After Mass on Sunday there will be a selection of cards for different occasions. We can now do contactless sales as well.

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### WORLD DAY OF THE SICK ON SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

Cardinal Vincent will celebrate Mass at Westminster Cathedral at 2.30pm. During this Mass anointing of the sick will be offered. If you would like to attend then please contact the parish office to register for a ticket.

### THE ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The Annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm. If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2023 and would like to attend then contact the parish office to register for more details.

### OPEN MORNING FOR PROSPECTIVE CHORISTERS

Westminster Cathedral Choir School warmly welcomes families interested in chorister places for boys currently in Years 2, 3 or 4, for an open morning on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 12noon. Becoming a chorister offers boys the opportunity to sing in our world-famous choir, and to join a world-class school for boys age 4 – 13, with up to 100% off fees on a means-tested basis. To register for the open morning contact Lucy Auger: Telephone 020 7798 9081 or email [lauger@choirschool.com](mailto:lauger@choirschool.com) or visit [www.choirschool.com](http://www.choirschool.com) for more information.

### PARENTING FOR FAITH

A new online course starting for those with Babies and Toddlers over 5 weeks from 23<sup>rd</sup> March via Zoom starting at 8.00pm. <https://www.celebratetrust.org/parentingforfaith>

### GRANTS TO HELP PAY OFF ENERGY DEBTS

As this is the month when bills can be highest, please be aware that those who are in debt to their energy supplier might be able to get a grant from a charitable trust to help pay it off. More details can be found at: <https://fuelpovertyresource.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/>

### WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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