



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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Chorleywood

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 15TH JANUARY 2023

No one can be saved alone.

Covid-19 plunged us into a dark night. It destabilized our daily lives, upset our plans and routines, and disrupted the apparent tranquillity of even the most affluent societies. It generated disorientation and suffering and caused the death of great numbers of our brothers and sisters. Three years later, the time is right to question, learn, grow and allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals and as communities. Today we are being asked: What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?

Certainly, after directly experiencing the fragility of our own lives and the world around us, we can say that the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another. That our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. And that none of us can be saved alone. This experience has made us all the more aware of the need for everyone, including peoples and nations, to restore the word “together” to a central place. For it is together, in fraternity and solidarity, that we build peace, ensure justice and emerge from the greatest disasters.

Even so, at the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity. We witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: another war, to some extent like that of Covid-19, but driven by culpable human decisions. The war in Ukraine is reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometres away, suffer its collateral effects – we need but think of grain shortages and fuel prices.

Clearly, this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. This war, together with all the other conflicts around the globe, represents a setback for the whole of humanity and not merely for the parties directly involved. While a vaccine has been found for Covid-19, suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war. Certainly, the virus of war is more difficult to overcome than the viruses that compromise our bodies, because it comes, not from outside of us, but from within the human heart corrupted by sin (cf. *Mark 7:17-23*).

What then is being asked of us? First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis, to let God, at this time in history, transform our customary criteria for viewing the world around us. We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common.

In order to do this, and to live better lives after the Covid-19 emergency, we cannot ignore one fundamental fact, namely that the many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected, and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another. Consequently, we are called to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion. We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death. Only by responding generously, with an altruism inspired by God’s infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world and contribute to the extension of his kingdom, which is a kingdom of love, justice and peace.

Extract from message of Pope Francis for the 56th World Day of Peace, 8 December 2022

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572
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Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
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Mill End Parish

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Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337
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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir
Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 15TH JANUARY	10am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 16TH JANUARY	6.30pm	Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 17TH JANUARY	2.00pm 4.30pm - 5.45pm 7.30pm - 9.15pm	SJF Ladies Meeting Youth Choir Practice Alpha - Hall	Gerri Golin's House St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 19TH JANUARY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 21ST JANUARY	11.00am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
SUN 22ND JANUARY	9.30am 3.00pm - 3.30pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Joint Service for Week of Prayer & Christian Unity 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 14 TH JANUARY	9.30am GIFT Families	6pm Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP	
SUNDAY 15 TH JANUARY <i>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP 11am Betty O'Reilly (Ints.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Ray Neeley	9am Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP
MONDAY 16 TH JANUARY	9.30am Maureen Murray RIP		
TUES 17TH JANUARY <i>ST ANTHONY, ABBOT</i>	9.30am Holy Souls		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WEDNESDAY 18 TH JANUARY	9.30am Devon Petrie (Ints.)	9.30am Paddy Kelly RIP	
THURSDAY 19 TH JANUARY	11.00am Funeral - Dr John Wright RIP		
FRIDAY 20 TH JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls		
SAT 21ST JANUARY <i>ST AGNES, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 22 ND JANUARY <i>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Mervyn Mascarenhas RIP 6pm Jad Damouni RIP	10.30am Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamps (Our Lady's and Blessed Sacrament) burn for Grace P.		



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.

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 and 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 and Julian Harris

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

DR JOHN WRIGHT RIP

The funeral of Dr John Wright will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Thursday 19th January at 11.00am followed by burial at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

HELP NEEDED

We are looking to fit double glazing in the St John Fisher flat to improve its energy efficiency and reduce condensation. As the building is Grade II Listed, we have to obtain planning permission before we can commence the work. Having received useful feedback to our initial preplanning application, we are looking for some additional assistance to guide us through the planning application process. If you are able to help or know someone who can help us, please contact Fr Andrew.

JOINT SERVICE FOR WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

We will be hosting this annual Service at St John's, Mill End on Sunday 22nd January at 3.30pm to pray for Christian Unity with our brothers and sisters from the Christian Churches across Rickmansworth and Mill End. Please do join us in welcoming them and being united in prayer.

PEACE SUNDAY – 15th JANUARY

The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Pax Christi's vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, Pax Christi works with all who share its values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. If you would like to make a contribution to the work of Pax Christi, donation envelopes are available this weekend. Donations can also be made on their website:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING 2023

This will take place on Saturday 18th 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 4th 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

INQUIRY INTO ASSISTED SUICIDE

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and is inviting members of the public to comment, and to suggest what actions might be helpful for the debate. Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose its introduction into UK law. The Catholic Church is clear that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. All life is sacred from conception until natural death, and we reiterate our call for investment in high quality palliative care. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide. Statements of the Bishops' Conference can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/> and the Anscombe Centre have produced a useful statement and resources about this Inquiry: <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January but the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming.

THE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Will meet again at 2.15pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall on the following Wednesdays: January 25th, February 8th, March 1st, 15th and 29th. Do join us for tea, chat and a DVD about developing personal prayer.

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

ALPHA

Alpha begins again on Tuesday 17th January from 7.30-9.15pm and runs every week until 28th 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...**

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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/>

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 and children's toothbrushes.**

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.

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) 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.

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir (aged 8-13) 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 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 Jaison 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 25TH MARCH

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

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.

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 22nd January for our SVP Coffee Morning.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to C Edwards (£29), P Waters (£21.75), T Dinsey (£14.50) and Collette Bridge Madden (£7.25).

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

COFFEE AND TEA AFTER 10.30AM MASS

A reminder that tea and coffee is available in the parish hall after the 10.30am Mass each Sunday. Do please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

TEA AND COFFEE

Tea and coffee will be served in the lounge after today's Mass.

LADIES MEETING

There will be a Ladies meeting next Tuesday (17th) afternoon at 2.00pm at Gerri Golin's house. Please ring Rosemary (282500) or Gerri (285293) for details. All are most welcome.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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.