



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 Matteo Di Giuseppe
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Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
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Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz
p.matarewicz@gmail.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

Geraldine Page
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WD3 1HU
Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) - 25TH DECEMBER 2022

Moving on from the Manger

What was life like for Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the magi after their first encounter with Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem? In Matthew's Gospel we hear that the Magi returned home a different way, and this is a sign of how once we have encountered Christ, our lives should undergo a dramatic change, the path we thought we would take is altered, and we are open to God working in the most unlikely and incredible ways in our lives.

For all of us who have been journeying together in our faith over the past year, there have been many changes. We have perhaps gone down paths we did not expect. Many of our friends have left the area, but many others have joined us, being welcomed at our New Parishioners Lunch. Ministries and events have gradually returned, but we have also seen this as an opportunity to do things in new ways, always seeking to grow together in our faith. At the start of the year, we held a skills audit, to find people with the right skills and time, to assist us in running our three parishes. We have seen the creation of our GIFT family catechesis to give an opportunity for our families to grow in their faith together outside of sacramental programmes. In the autumn, the newly ordained Fr Matteo arrived to bring his own gifts to serve us. His arrival saw our beautiful outdoor Mass together to say farewell to Fr Damian, with our parishes uniting to give thanks for his ministry. We have had pilgrimages to see the relics of St Bernadette, and to Walsingham. Over the past few months our new youth choir has also begun, singing so beautifully at Mass, and at our recent Carol Service, joining our many other groups who contribute so worthily in our liturgies. In these difficult times our SVP group continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community, through supporting the local foodbank and providing a warm space for those struggling to heat their homes. I would like to thank everyone who has played a part in our parishes over this eventful year – for sharing your gifts, your time and your prayers, to help our parishes to be places where people feel welcomed, loved and where unity can be found in giving thanks and praise to God.

These are parishes where things are constantly happening, and this was recently observed at our Joint Parish Pastoral Council Meeting when reflecting on our Parish Vision Statement which had been so carefully put together just a few years ago. During that meeting we decided to change the words 'experienced and lived' to 'experiencing' and 'living' to reflect the fact that ours is an active, growing faith, rather than something of the past. Our encounter with Christ should make us always seek to follow new ways and discover ever anew the depths of God's love for us, and to share our joy of that encounter with those around us, just as those who first saw him in the manger spread the good news to the world.

So how is our faith going to grow over the coming year? How are we going to build up our personal relationship with Jesus Christ? How are we as a parish community going to help others to encounter Jesus through our service to others? There is much to look forward to, and there is much to do. Let us continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to take the right path to fulfilling our parish vision and becoming the saints God has made all of us to be.

Have a very blessed Christmas and new year, *Fr Andrew*

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Catholic Parishes of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Mill End aspire to share the Good News of God's saving love.

We are vibrant, welcoming communities, united in worshipping God and serving our neighbours.

We invite every person to join us in growing together in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experiencing and living the power of the Holy Spirit.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 24 TH DECEMBER <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	NO MORNING MASS 6pm Kathleen & J.J. Crossan RIP 11pm For the People of the Parishes	5.30pm For the People of the Parishes	8pm For the People of the Parishes
SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</i>	8.30am In thanksgiving 11am Peggy & Roy Langdale RIP NO EVENING MASS	10.30am Michelle Canny RIP	9am Pat Finucane RIP
MON 26TH DECEMBER <i>ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</i>	10am Fabby Montesdeoca (Ints.)		
TUE 27TH DECEMBER <i>ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST</i>	NO MASS TODAY	10am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	NO MASS TODAY
WED 28TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</i>	10am Fr Jim Duffy RIP (Anniv.)		
THU 29TH DECEMBER <i>ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR</i>	10am James Cassidy RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 30TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH</i>	10am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP		
SAT 31ST DECEMBER <i>7TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	10am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY <i>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am Kate Harrison (Ints.) 6pm Ferdinando Esposito RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Francis Maguire RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Fabby Montesdeoca (Ints.) (Our Lady's) and ChingSoon Yu RIP (Blessed Sacrament)		This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for Michael Draper RIP
MONDAY 2 ND JANUARY	9.30am Kenny D'Cruz RIP		
TUESDAY 3 RD JANUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		9.30am Patrick Dowling RIP (Anniv.)
WEDNESDAY 4 TH JANUARY	9.30am Verna Kendrick RIP	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	
THURSDAY 5 TH JANUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
FRIDAY 6 TH JANUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
SATURDAY 7 TH JANUARY	9.30am Michael Jubber RIP (Anniv.)	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 8 TH JANUARY	8.30am Special Intention 11am Brian Feehely RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for Margaret Burke's parents and friends		

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have generously given us Christmas cards, gifts and best wishes over the past few days in the build-up to Christmas. We hope and pray that you have a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and new year. Fr Andrew and Fr Matteo.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Friday 6th January is The Epiphany of the Lord. Masses across the three parishes will be as follows: St John Fisher - 7pm Vigil (Thursday 5th January), Our Lady Help of Christians - 9.30am and 7pm; St John the Evangelist - 9.30am.

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

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The offerings at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are your personal gift to your priests. The Christmas and Easter offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Andrew and Fr Matteo. If you wish to make a Christmas offering, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details. Please mark your gift as Christmas Offering. You will find the parish bank details on the Donate to your Parish tab of your respective parish website. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Christmas Offering. There are also one-off gift aid envelopes available. Thank you

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FLORENCE, SIENA & ASSISI LED BY FR ANDREW GALLAGHER, 22ND - 27TH OCTOBER 2023

£795 pp. plus flights (Easyjet from London Luton) as advised once prices are available, but you are advised to book early to avoid higher flight costs. Accommodation will be 2 nights near Florence, 3 nights in the centre of Assisi on a Half Board basis. Also includes half day guided tours in Florence, Siena and Assisi and an English speaking courier for the whole tour. Further information and booking forms can be obtained from the Parish Office rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk or from Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666.

NEWSLETTER - please note that there will be no Newsletter next weekend.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity. We spoke at the end of each Mass in mid-October and were delighted by the total given – a terrific £596.66! This will feed 37 children one good meal every school day for a whole year.

YOUTH GROUP

Calling our young people (all those in secondary school). New Year, new beginnings, come to our next youth event Tuesday January 10th, Our Lady's Hall, 6.30-8pm. Join us for fun, games, snacks, meet new or old friends, bring a friend. Parents please message names and numbers attending to 07788 721222. We look forward to seeing you

ALPHA

Alpha face to face begins again on Tuesday 17th January from 7.30-9.15pm and runs every week until 28th March at Our Lady's hall. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life's big questions and the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment. Each session includes snacks and hot/cold drinks, an engaging video designed to generate conversation, and a discussion time where you can say whatever you like or nothing at all. Sessions include topics such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why did Jesus die?' and 'How can I have Faith?' Registrations are now open so please do contact us using the following email address chessvalleyalpha@rcdow.org.uk to register your interest or you are welcome to phone Deidre Gilmore on 07941 931319. As before, places are being prioritised for those who have not previously tried Alpha, If you are interested in attending Alpha but this isn't the right timing for you please do contact us as Alpha is an ongoing ministry within the Chess Valley Group of Parishes and we can hold your details for forthcoming Alphas. Please pass this invitation on to someone you know who might like to explore the meaning of life and have fun whilst doing so!

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.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Members of our Parish Cubs and Scouts were very pleased to once again support the work of the SVP by making up 100 Vinnie Packs ready for distribution to homeless people. The Group are always pleased to welcome young people to join in with the variety of activities offered, as well as encouraging adult volunteers to help us continue with this provision within the Parish and wider community. Further information please contact by email: info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk

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) 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

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 by the end of January. Thank you for your patience.

MEMORIAL BOOK

The memorial book has not been updated for the last couple of years. If you would like to add a family member, or a parishioner to this book, please let Kerry know their name and date of death as soon as possible.

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR

A very big thank you to everyone involved in organising the Fair and running the stalls on the day. A great time was had by everyone who attended. Thank you to Father Christmas for finding time to attend our Fair. Congratulations to all our prize winners.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

I am very happy to let you know that our dwindling band of donors raised £117 in the December quarter and £530 for the year. With Gift Aid of £70 our total for the year is £600 for our hard working missionary priests, nuns and lay people. Very many thanks. Please contact me if you would like to join us, thanks and love, Mary 284975 xx

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

The All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT) is currently seeking to appoint up to 4 additional Foundation Directors to the Trust board as part of the ongoing expansion of the Trust in line with the Diocese of Westminster's Academy Strategy. Foundation Directors are key strategic decision-makers in a Catholic Academy Trust (CAT). The legal responsibility for the performance of each academy rests with them. Their role is strategic rather than operational much in the same way that the role of a Foundation Governor is within a single non-academy Catholic school.

The Trust Board is keen to ensure that there is a wide range of complementary skills and areas of expertise reflected on the Trust Board. For more information please visit our Foundation Director Recruitment page on the ASCAT website www.ascatonline.co.uk/Become-a-Foundation-Director/ or contact Christina Reffold, Clerk to the Trust Board at clerk@ascat.co.uk

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.

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