



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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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:
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Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir
Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 5TH FEBRUARY 2023

Walk together, pray together and work together

On 5th February, the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates Racial Justice Sunday when we focus on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme for 2023 is "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together." This reflection, from Nalini Nathan, General Secretary of the Conference of Religious and a trustee of CARJ, focuses on 'Working Together' for racial justice:

'Firstly, our unique ancestries are a gift. The world has been blessed with such a broad diversity of cultures and therefore perspectives, knowledge, skills and experiences. Working with different people to ourselves should, I think feel like being in a sweet shop. I want mine and all cultures to be seen for what they are, a gift from God! But so often in life, my skin colour has been a hindrance. There's the avoidance, that change in tone when someone speaks to you, the ignorant mistaken or at times deliberate aggressive comments, the being overlooked for promotion when you're the most qualified or experienced person for the job. There's the scapegoating, the stepping on, the passive-aggressive behaviours and the trauma of healing from ignorant comments, isolation and oppression. As a Catholic, I find this at odds with my faith. I was taught that like everyone, that I am made not just good but very good, that we are all made very good, each called to be a jewel in God's crown.

Secondly, I want to mention privilege. I come from more than one culture. That's my privilege, that's one of my blessings. I humbly embrace my cultural privilege. It helps me be a better Christian, a better Catholic as it increases my empathy, compassion and communication skills to relate to the stranger, to relate to the outsider, to relate to the person who is being treated as invisible. Privilege has become the dirty word of our post-covid society. There is absolutely nothing wrong with being given privilege. It's your talent, it's your gift. There's nothing wrong with having privilege if you are a Catholic as long as you are using it for the glory of God and as long as you are not stealing it from someone else. I wonder, are we aware of our privileges, if so, how are we using them to work with and support others? How are we using them to help others flourish?

Finally, I want to reflect on how we might look at each other through the eyes of God. The first thing we are told in the bible is that God is a creator. 'In the beginning he created...' I look at the diversity of what he has created, the diversity of plants and wildlife. God is clearly a creator of diversity. We are taught that we are the Body of Christ. Are our cultures also different parts of this Body, which are meant to work together to build up the kingdom of God? If we oppress one part of the body, one culture, are we damaging ourselves?

Like those of different cultures who face rejection in their workplaces, parishes and schools, Jesus too felt rejection throughout His life, even before He was born, when there was not place at the inn. It is a natural human behaviour to feel the need to surround ourselves with people who are similar to ourselves. We want to fit in, we want to feel validated and sometimes there are opportunities to preserve things by working with people similar to ourselves. But as Catholics, like the early Christians, we are called to sometimes put away our own insecurities and need to fit it, to instead look outwards.

Prayer for Racial Justice

God of our past, present and future,
You created each one of us in your image and likeness.
Help us to recognise you in each person as we pray for
an end to suffering caused by racism.

Lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another, and work together so that we will create a future based on justice and healing and fulfil the hope you have for all peoples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 5TH FEBRUARY	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Coffee morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 6TH FEBRUARY	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 7ST FEBRUARY	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
WED 8TH FEBRUARY	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 9TH FEBRUARY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 11TH FEBRUARY	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 12TH FEBRUARY	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	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 FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 5 TH FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Joe Grove RIP (Anniv.) 11am Josie Westthrop RIP 6pm Aidan Byrne RIP	10.30am Michael Dixon RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY <i>ST PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	9.30am Thomas Curran RIP		
TUESDAY 7 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Tom Jennings RIP		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WEDNESDAY 8 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Frank Rice RIP	NO MASS TODAY	
THURSDAY 9 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY <i>ST SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP		
SATURDAY 11 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Maureen Smith RIP	6pm John Houlihan RIP	
SUNDAY 12 TH FEBRUARY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Peggy & Roy Langdale RIP 11am For the People of the Parishes 6pm Jad Damouni RIP	10.30am Ron Maizey RIP	9am Sean Prunty RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Josie Westthrop RIP (Our Lady's) and Joyce Burrows RIP (Blessed Sacrament)		

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, David Cottingham and Derek Treanor

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

ELSA KONDYS RIP

It is with sadness that we share the death of Elsa Kondys RIP. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time. Details of her funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

CARITAS PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Parishes are encouraged to appoint a **Representative for Social Outreach** from each parish to help communication between the Parish and Caritas Westminster to support and grow charitable activities. They will help to display posters, flyers, speak in Masses, learn about new tools and models for social action and share best practice between parishes. If you would like to become a Caritas Representative for your parish then please contact the parish office.

LENTEN RETREAT DAY

There will be a retreat day open to all on Saturday 25th March from 10am-3pm at St John's Church. More details will follow in the coming weeks but do put this in your diary.

YOUTH GROUP PANCAKE PARTY - ST JOHN'S, MILL END

For those in school year 7 or above. Come and have fun at the Pancake Party on Tuesday 21st February 6.30-8.00pm - bring a friend too. Parents please text names and numbers to 07788 721222.

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.

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 6th February.

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 Meeting ID: 873 3016 6901 Passcode: 449839

CHURCHSERVICES

Our online streaming is now up and running. We apologise for the inconvenience to those affected by the recent technical fault.

ASH WEDNESDAY (February 22nd)

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 15th February so they can be burned and used on Ash Wednesday. Thank you!

MILL END FOOD BANK

Chess Valley SVP will be collecting specific items needed by the food bank to supplement their food boxes. 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

THE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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

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 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

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) 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 - SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY 25TH MARCH

Its back! The Greatest Quiz Night in The World. Probably. We're delighted to be holding the first Quiz Night since before the COVID-19 pandemic on Saturday 25th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall. Hosted by our very own Paul Burke and the Social Committee, there are prizes up for grabs as well as wooden spoons for the team in last. Always a fun filled informal evening, tables of 8 or join a team on the night. Tickets are £15, which includes fish and chips for each participant, and a bar. Tickets can be bought now online at www.eventbrite.com/e/olhcs-brilliant-quiz-tickets-5272756747737 or after each Mass at Our Lady's on 5th, 12th, 19th March. For more details contact Paul Burke 07774 973773. Hope to see you there supporting our first event of 2023.

MEMORIAL BOOK

Thanks to the hard work of some very kind volunteers our memorial book is now back in the church.

COFFEE MORNING

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

COFFEE AND TEA AFTER 10.30AM MASS

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Please can you save the date Tuesday 28th March. Further details to follow in due course.

LADIES MEETING

Will be on Thursday 16th of February, 2.30pm, at Rosemary's house. All are very welcome. For directions please ring Rosemary on 01923 282500.

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 11TH 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 13th 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.

PARENTING FOR FAITH

A new online course starting for those with Babies and Toddlers over 5 weeks from 23rd 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.