



### 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)

Address for all correspondence:  
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth  
WD3 1HU  
Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

#### Have mercy on me God

*Have mercy on me God in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence.  
Wash me more and more from guilt and cleanse me from my sin.*

Every Friday morning throughout the year, those who pray the official Morning Prayer of the Church, recite Psalm 50. Psalm 50, is said by tradition to be the prayer of King David, who prayed this prayer in sorrow after he arranged the death of one of his generals so that he, David, could marry the General's wife. When David eventually came to his senses, and realised what he had done, he was overcome with remorse, shame and sorrow. The God who had called him from the simple life of a shepherd to become the king of his people, the God who had helped him overcome Goliath, the champion of the Philistine armies, the God who had filled his life with so many good things was, David eventually realised, the God whom David had betrayed and repudiated by his actions. David eventually found the courage to own up to his sin and turn to God in humility. The prayer of sorrow that he prayed is one of the most moving prayers for forgiveness in the whole biblical tradition.

One of the features of the season of Lent which we have just begun, focusing as it does on the story of Jesus's final journey to Jerusalem to meet the suffering and death that awaited him there, is the level of animosity, violence and betrayal that this man of peace provoked. Not only did so many of the religious leaders of his time reject him. Most of his disciples, his closest friends, deserted him as well. Judas betrayed him, Peter denied that he even knew him, and all the other apostles, except John, ran away in fear when Jesus was arrested, rather than stand by him in his darkest hour. Failure and betrayal have been a part of the story of the Church from its very beginnings. Human frailty, brokenness and sinfulness are an inevitable but still painfully distressing part of the life of the Church which God has brought into being through his Son Jesus.

We know of course that this is not the whole story. While we must, and do, acknowledge with shame and humility the dreadful failings of the past and sometimes of the present, we must also keep our eyes fixed on the Lord who promised to be with his Church, no matter what, until the end of time.

The prayer of King David is a prayer for the whole Church, and for that very reason it is a prayer for each one of us. Perhaps the hardest part of Lent is not so much the things we give up, or the financial support we offer, or the extra prayers we try to say. Perhaps for each of us, the hardest part is this: to find the courage to admit, honestly and humbly, that I too can and must pray the prayer of King David because I too, like him, am a sinner.

Lent calls us to be honest with ourselves, to stop making excuses for our bad behaviour, to stop pretending that our sins and failings do not really matter or do not cause real damage to others, and to stop imagining that God does not really care about any of this. If we want to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, comfort him in his suffering, and stand beside him at the foot of his cross - and if we want to join the group of disciples on Easter Sunday morning as they try to contain the explosion of joy that comes with the realisation that Jesus has overcome death and is alive again - then we will need first of all to be honest with ourselves and about ourselves. We are sinners in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. The season of Lent calls us to give our deepest "yes" to God's compassion and healing love, but we will not be able to do so until we acknowledge how much we are in need.

Extract of Homily given by the Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB  
Archbishop of Perth, 5 March, 2017

### 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 [rickyyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickyyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk)

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

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Sunday Brunch - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>MON 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>TUE 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</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>WED 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH</b>	2.15pm 7.00pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THU 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH</b>	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH</b>	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John Fisher
<b>SAT 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
<b>SUN 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Coffee Morning - 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> 25 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Michael Conway (Ints.)	<b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 26 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Special Intention <b>11am</b> Agnes & Cornelius Connor RIP <b>6pm</b> David Henderson (Ints.)	<b>10.30am</b> John Joe Barry RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>MONDAY</b> 27 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Peggy & Roy Langdale RIP		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 28 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		<b>9.30am</b> Fr Seamus Fullam RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH</b> <i>St DAVID, BISHOP</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Michael Conway (Ints.)	<b>9.30am</b> Kathleen McCann	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 2 <sup>ND</sup> MARCH	<b>9.30am</b> Michael Conway (Ints.)		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 3 <sup>RD</sup> MARCH	<b>9.30am</b> Michael Conway (Ints.)		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	<b>9.30am</b> Michael Conway (Ints.)	<b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Michael Conway Ints. <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> Mary Viner RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for a Special Intention (MB)		

### 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, Derek Treanor and Maggie Stacey

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### ELSA KONDYS RIP

The funeral service of Elsa Kondys will take place at St John the Evangelist at 11.30am on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

### RITE OF ELECTION

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February three members of our parishes were presented at the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral, in preparation for their full reception into the Catholic Church at Easter. Please keep Susie, John and Lisa in your prayers through Lent as they continue on this journey. If you, a member of your family or a friend would like to become Catholic, please contact Fr Andrew for further details.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will once again circulate around the three parishes on a Friday at 7.00pm as follows:

St John Fisher, Chorleywood:	3 <sup>rd</sup> March and 24 <sup>th</sup> March
St John the Evangelist, Mill End	10 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Our Lady's Rickmansworth:	17 <sup>th</sup> March and 7 <sup>th</sup> April

The devotions will be led by parishioners. We hope that many parishioners from across the three parishes will come and join us for this important aspect of our Lenten spirituality.

### LENTEN RETREAT DAY

There will be a retreat day open to all on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 10am-3pm at St John's Church, Mill End. Canon Stuart Wilson will be our guest speaker. Please bring a pack lunch and be prepared for some time of silence!

### CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – LENT APPEAL - FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope or at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

### CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2023

Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. And for those who can't give financially please see the posters on how you can volunteer and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

### SCAM EMAIL

Please be aware that there is a scam email from [catholicchurch880@gmail.com](mailto:catholicchurch880@gmail.com) being sent to parishioners purporting to be from Fr Andrew. All emails sent from Fr Andrew, Fr Matteo or Kerry will be from an authorised Diocesan email account ending in [@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:@rcdow.org.uk)

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February are available on the parish websites (*About—About the Parish—Annual Parish Meeting*).

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

The WDP service for 2023 has been prepared by the Christian women of **Taiwan**, with the theme, 'I have heard about your faith', the words of encouragement written by St Paul to the Christians at Ephesus (1:15-19). The service for the Rickmansworth area will take place at **2.00pm on Friday 3 March 2023 at the church of St Peter the Apostle, Berry Lane, Mill End WD3 3HQ**, and will be followed by refreshments. There is parking available. All are welcome to attend, and we encourage parishioners to support this short service which is an opportunity to meet with our local Christian communities in a spirit of prayerful and convivial fellowship. If anyone needs a lift, please contact Geraldine (07725 748490) or Cristina (07470 266284).

### THE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Will meet again at 2.15pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall on the following Wednesdays: 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.

### CHESS VALLEY SVP

Chess Valley SVP are 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 are provided. Please let those you feel would benefit from this know. For further information, please email [chessvalleysvp@gmail.com](mailto:chessvalleysvp@gmail.com)

**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...**

## 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.

**PILGRIMAGE TO FLORENCE, SIENA & ASSISI LED BY FR ANDREW GALLAGHER, 22<sup>ND</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2023.**  
£795 pp. plus flights (Easyjet from London Luton). **Book now as flight prices are rising!** 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](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) or from Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### QUIZ - SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olhcs-brilliant-quiz-tickets-527275674737> or after each Mass at Our Lady's on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> March.

For more details contact Paul Burke 07774 973773. Hope to see you there supporting our first event of 2023.

### COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will also be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

### CALVARY CROSS UPDATE

We are nearly there! The groundwork has now been completed and it is hoped our new Cross and restored statue will be in place over the next couple of weeks.

## 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

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

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

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP) - ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHORLEYWOOD

The WDP service for Chorleywood this year will take place at 10.30am on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St Andrew's, 37 Quickley Lane. There's lots of parking and there will be refreshments afterwards. Everyone is most welcome.

### 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

### WESTMINSTER DIOCESE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023

Plans for a Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July are taking shape! The town of Lourdes and the Grotto await the return of larger groups of international pilgrims this year. For more details please go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/>

### 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.

### 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/>