



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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Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

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Leadership Team:
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Jaison Jeyaventhan - Youth Choir
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Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 19TH FEBRUARY 2023

Finding a glimpse of freedom

I think everyone has some experience of illness and the pain it can bring. For some, it is a life-long experience. For others, it comes with incidents or temporary conditions. For most, ill health, discomfort and pain come with advancing years. No escape!

Pope Francis emphasises the crucial importance of the care and compassion which we can offer each other. I thank all of you who offer that care and compassion in whatever capacity it may be. What a difference that makes - the constant companionship and regular care given to those who are suffering. Thank you all.

The readings we have heard cast this care into the figures of women, firstly in the symbolic figure of Jerusalem in whom we are to rejoice and who will carry us, her nurslings at her breast and fondle us in her lap. The Jerusalem of Isaiah refers not so much to the city of the Middle East but to the heavenly Jerusalem, standing for the great promises of God, made repeatedly throughout the pathway of God's searching for and speaking to us, promises to come into their fulfilment in Jesus, the Christ. Perhaps we do well to remember this promise, as understood and developed by St Paul, as the gift of freedom, a freedom in which our spirit soars into the fullness of God. Now that sense of freedom, and its promises, can be heavily dampened if not extinguished by the weight of illness and pain. Then it can indeed become 'inhumane'. Yet, with the care and compassion that we can both receive and give, that burden can be lightened a little and slowly a glimpse of a freedom to come appears and can be sensed, even if only briefly. Yes, even here we have eyes for heaven.

In those moments, we can know that there is more to this experience of illness than the distress, pain or isolation we feel. We slowly come to know that it is all not pointless, but, in contrast, this can all be handed over to our Blessed Lord so that he may enfold our pain into the gift that he makes to his Heavenly Father for the saving of our world. Then our distress can begin to lift as we glimpse a purpose in these most difficult moments of life. And when we make that gift, then a tiny shaft of the light of heaven can pierce our clouds.

Pope Francis writes:

'Lourdes is a prophetic lesson entrusted to the Church for our world. The sick are, in fact, at the centre of God's people, and together we learn that everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left behind.'

A prophetic voice is one which calls us to the ways of God. We saw the power of the prophetic voice of Lourdes here, in this country when the relics of St Bernadette came here, among us. Here, with the prayers of St Bernadette, we saw so many come before our Blessed Lady and entrust into her hands their joys and sufferings. I will never forget one mother, who came into the cathedral with her tiny, tiny baby. Carefully she unfolded a white cloth before the statue of Mary, alongside the relics of Bernadette. Then, with a gesture of such tenderness, she placed the baby on the cloth, handing her over into the care of her heavenly Mother.

So many people did likewise, with different and varied gestures, and in the silence of their prayer. Yes, our Heavenly Mother, opens for us the door of care and compassion, which flows through us from the Sacred Heart of her Son.

Extract of homily of Cardinal Vincent Nichols at the Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes in Westminster Cathedral on the World Day of the Sick, 11th February 2023

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 19TH FEBRUARY	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 20TH FEBRUARY	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 21ST FEBRUARY	4.30pm - 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm - 9.15pm 7.30pm - 8.15pm	Youth Choir Practice Youth Group - Pancake Party - Hall Alpha - Hall Alpha Prayer Ministry - Church	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 23RD FEBRUARY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 25TH FEBRUARY	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 26TH FEBRUARY	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	SVP 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
SATURDAY 18 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 19 TH FEBRUARY <i>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Sheila Sharp RIP 11am Michael Townend RIP 6pm Karen Tilman RIP	10.30am Jack Lee RIP	9am Donald Williamson RIP (Anniv.)
MONDAY 20 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the people of Turkey and Syria		
TUESDAY 21 ST FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		NO MORNING MASS 7pm For the People of the Parishes
WEDNESDAY 22 ND FEBRUARY <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	9.30am For the People of the Parishes 7pm For the People of the Parishes	9.30am For the People of the Parishes	
THURSDAY 23 RD FEBRUARY	9.30am For peace in Ukraine		
FRIDAY 24 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
SATURDAY 25 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 26 TH FEBRUARY <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am Agnes & Cornelius Connor RIP 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 (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Michael Townend RIP		

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, Gloria Warmington and Maggie Stacey.

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. Details of her funeral will be published soon. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the solemn season of Lent, is on 22nd February. Masses (with the imposition of ashes) across the three parishes will be as follows: 7pm Vigil (21st February) at St John Fisher, 9.30am at St John the Evangelist; 9.30am and 7pm at Our Lady Help of Christians. The 9.30am Mass at St John the Evangelist will also be attended by some members of staff and pupils from St John's School.

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: Our Lady's Rickmansworth: 24th February, 17th March and 7th April

St John Fisher, Chorleywood: 3rd March and 24th March

St John the Evangelist, Mill End 10th and 31st March

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 25th 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 SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

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.

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 **2.00 pm 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).

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.

THE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Will meet again at 2.15pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall on the following Wednesdays: March 1st, 15th and 29th. 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

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO FLORENCE, SIENA & ASSISI LED BY FR ANDREW GALLAGHER, 22ND - 27TH 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 or from Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666.

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.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 26th February for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will also be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 5th 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

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.

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 3rd 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 2022

Plans for a **Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** from 22nd to 29th July 2022 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/> and complete the *Expression of Interest* Form so that organisers may have more of an idea of *who* is considering travelling with Westminster and in *what capacity*.

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.