



### 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  
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@ChessValleyRC

### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

#### “Take care of him”

Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane. When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see how we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to “make do”. For this reason, on the 31st World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.

Experiences of bewilderment, sickness, and weakness are part of the human journey. Far from excluding us from God’s people, they bring us to the centre of the Lord’s attention, for he is our Father and does not want to lose even one of his children along the way. Let us learn from him, then, how to be a community that truly walks together, capable of resisting the throwaway culture. In the parable of the Good Samaritan there is a profound link between this parable of Jesus and the many ways in which fraternity is denied in today’s world. In particular, the fact that the man, beaten and robbed, is abandoned on the side of the road represents the condition in which all too many of our brothers and sisters are left at a time when they most need help. It is no longer easy to distinguish the assaults on human life and dignity that arise from natural causes from those caused by injustice and violence. In fact, increasing levels of inequality and the prevailing interests of the few now affect every human environment to the extent that it is difficult to consider any experience as having solely “natural” causes. All suffering takes place in the context of a “culture” and its various contradictions.

Here it is especially important to recognize the condition of loneliness and abandonment. This kind of cruelty can be overcome more easily than any other injustice, because – as the parable tells us – it only takes a moment of our attention, of being moved to compassion within us, in order to eliminate it. Two travellers, considered pious and religious, see the wounded man, yet fail to stop. However, a Samaritan, a scorned foreigner, is moved with compassion and takes care of that stranger on the road, treating him as a brother. In doing so, without even thinking about it, he makes a difference.

We are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty. In this way, when evil bursts onto the scene and wounds us, we are left stunned. Moreover, others might abandon us at such times. Or, in our own moments of weakness, we may feel that we should abandon others in order to avoid becoming a burden. This is how loneliness sets in, and we can become poisoned by a bitter sense of injustice, as if God himself had abandoned us. Indeed, we may find it hard to remain at peace with the Lord when our relationship with others and with ourselves is damaged. It is crucial, then, even in the midst of illness, that the whole Church measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true “field hospital”, for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time. We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who go on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers.

*Extract from message of Pope Francis,  
31<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for the Sick, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

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

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

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>TUE 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	7.30pm - 9.15pm 7.30pm - 8.15pm	Alpha - Hall Alpha Prayer Ministry - Church	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THU 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	2.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	SJF Ladies Meeting Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Rosemary's house Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	2.00pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Annual Parishes Meeting Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Via Zoom St John the Evangelist
<b>SUN 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	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> 11 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Maureen Smith RIP	<b>6pm</b> John Houlihan RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 12 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Peggy & Roy Langdale RIP <b>11am</b> For the People of the Parishes <b>6pm</b> Jad Damouni RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Ron Maizey RIP	<b>9am</b> Sean Prunty RIP
<b>MONDAY</b> 13 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Special Intention		<b>9.30am</b> Joyce Dowling RIP (Anniv.) & Irene Foggo RIP (Anniv.)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 15 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes	<b>9.30am</b> Stephen Page RIP	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes	<b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY <i>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Sheila Sharp RIP <b>11am</b> Michael Townend RIP <b>6pm</b> Karen Tilman RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Jack Lee RIP	<b>9am</b> Donald Williamson RIP (Anniv.)
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for the intentions of the Dumughn Family		

### 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

**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

### SUPPLY PRIEST

We welcome Canon Michael Munnely to our parishes who will be celebrating Masses for us this weekend whilst Fr Andrew is away in Lourdes at the Pilgrimage Directors Conference.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the solemn season of Lent, is on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Masses (with the imposition of ashes) across the three parishes will be as follows: 7.30pm Vigil (21<sup>st</sup> February) at St John Fisher, 9.30am at St John the Evangelist; 9.30am and 7.00pm 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: 24<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> April

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

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. More details will follow in the coming weeks but do put this in your diary.

### 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>.

### 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.

### 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 (Ephesians 1:15-19). The WDP service for the greater 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 ample 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.

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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, 22<sup>ND</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) or from Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666.

### ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING 2023

This will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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

### ASH WEDNESDAY (February 22<sup>nd</sup>)

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

### 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 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](mailto:chessvalleysvp@gmail.com)

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

**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...**

### **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.

### **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 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 - SAVE THE DATE 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 [www.eventbrite.com/e/olhcs-brilliant-quiz-tickets-5272756747737](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olhcs-brilliant-quiz-tickets-5272756747737) 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.

### **200 CLUB**

Congratulations to Chris Doran £29, Christina Mantle £21.75, Richard Dumughn £14.50 and Peter Waters £7.25

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> March. Further details to follow in due course.

### **LADIES MEETING**

Will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 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

### **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.

### **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/>

[fuelpovertyresource.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/](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.