



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:

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Assistant Priest:

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Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
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Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz
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Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 26TH MARCH 2023

‘Love the stranger’

Scripture tells us: “Love the stranger then, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19). The word ‘stranger’ is variously translated as ‘foreigner’, ‘immigrant’, ‘sojourner’ or ‘alien’. However, the message remains consistent: those arriving from other parts of the world are our sisters and brothers. We are called to see Christ in them, for all people are created in His image. And we are called to see ourselves in them, for we all share this common humanity.

In 2023, people making dangerous journeys across the Channel to reach the UK are also called by various names: ‘refugees’, ‘asylum seekers’, ‘migrants’, and often by more derogatory terms. The recent publication entitled ‘Love the Stranger’ by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales Department for International Affairs is shaped by, and articulates, our Christian duty to look beyond such labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life.

When two-year-old Alan Kurdi died in the Mediterranean Sea, for a brief time politicians, journalists, and members of the public across Europe turned their attention to a person with a name and a story. Yet in the years since, how many have died in our own waters without their names or stories ever being known? We should not reduce people to statistics or to a political problem to be solved. Nor can we allow recognition of people’s dignity to be dependent upon where they come from or how they reach our shores. The call to love in Deuteronomy is unequivocal and indiscriminate.

Such love, of course, goes beyond mere tolerance. Pope Francis reminds us that loving as Christ does mean actively putting ourselves at the service of others. The Catholic community in England and Wales is living this out every day: our charities are caring for people in the asylum system, our parishes are welcoming families through community sponsorship, our aid agencies are providing life-saving assistance to displaced people across the world, and countless volunteers are bearing witness to Christ’s love in settings from beachfronts to detention centres. We hope that Love the Stranger will support and invigorate this work, for it is not an optional extra but a genuine manifestation of our faith.

As the document makes clear, loving those who seek a home here also means appreciating the fullness of their humanity. Our countries are always better off for the presence of people born elsewhere, who bring their own talents, cultures, and knowledge. Catholic parishes and schools are a microcosm of this as they have been enriched by the presence of families from all over the world. Love the Stranger challenges us to not only help those who come here, but also to facilitate and rejoice in their service to our society.

Papal encyclicals and other documents that have been drawn upon highlight the depth of Catholic social teaching in this area. This should guide our response to people who have left their homelands to come to this country. We encourage all Catholics to reflect upon how we can apply this in our own lives, as well as in our parishes, schools, and public life. In doing so each one of us may fulfil our obligation and set an example to others of loving the stranger in the way that God intends. As we discern this, we ask for the intercession of the patron saints of migrants, and of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery.

St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, pray for us.

St. Josephine Bakhita, pray for us.

*Taken from the Foreword of ‘Love the Stranger’ written by
Bishop Declan Lang and Bishop Paul McAleenan*

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SAT 25TH MARCH	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 26TH MARCH	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
TUE 28TH MARCH	10.00am - 11.00am 4.30pm - 5.45pm 7.30pm - 9.15pm 7.30pm - 8.15pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions Youth Choir Practice Alpha - Hall Alpha Prayer Ministry - Church	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 29TH MARCH	10.00am - 11.00am 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 30TH MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 31ST MARCH	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John the Evangelist
SAT 1ST APRIL	10.00am - 11.00am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SUN 2ND APRIL	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & 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
SAT 25TH MARCH <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm Hannah Logan RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 26TH MARCH <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Nalene (Ints.) 11am Mrs Joseph (Ints.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Mary Murphy RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 27TH MARCH	9.30am Leslie & Aleksandra Budzynska (Ints.)		
TUESDAY 28TH MARCH	NO 9.30AM MASS 11am Funeral - Kate Margetts RIP		9.30am Fr Henry Young RIP
WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH	9.30am J.J. Considine RIP	9.30am Anne Gemmell (Ints.)	
THURSDAY 30TH MARCH	NO MASS TODAY	11am Funeral - Michael Flanagan RIP	
FRIDAY 31ST MARCH	9.30am Private Intention (MB)		
SATURDAY 1ST APRIL	9.30am J.J. Considine RIP	6pm Private Intention	
SUNDAY 2ND APRIL <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Stanislaus Stephen RIP 11am John Reid RIP (Anniv.) <i>(beginning with blessing of Palms at Calvary Cross Garden)</i> 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Michael Massey RIP <i>(beginning with blessing of Palms from top of Field Way)</i>	9am For the People of the Parishes

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, Julian Harris, David Cottingham, Derek Treanor and Maggie Stacey

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THE VEILING OF CROSSES AND STATUES

From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday the crosses and statues of our churches are veiled in purple cloths. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of “fasting” from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

EASTER OFFERING

The offering at the Easter Masses is your personal gift to your priests. The Easter and Christmas 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 an Easter offering, you can do so via BACS, or through the parish websites using the Donate tab. Please reference this as ‘Easter Offering’. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Easter Offering. Thank you.

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A PRIEST?

On Wednesday, 17th May, there will be an Open Evening at St James, Spanish Place, for any men interested in learning about or discerning a vocation to the priesthood. The 6pm evening Mass will be followed by a gathering in the social centre for a short presentation, informal conversations and refreshments. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street.

KATE MARGETTS RIP

The funeral of Kate Margetts will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Tuesday 28th March, followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

MICHAEL FLANAGAN RIP

The funeral of Michael Flanagan will take place at St John the Evangelist at 10.00am on Thursday 30th March, followed by committal at West Herts Crematorium. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES - A CATHOLIC RESPONSE

On 14th March the Department for International Affairs of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales published *Love the Stranger – A Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees*. This document has been written over several months and reminds us of our Christian duty to see in this debate the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life. For more details and to view the document go to: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

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 the Evangelist, Mill End 31st March

Our Lady’s Rickmansworth 7th 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.

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.

THE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Will meet again at 2.15pm in Our Lady’s Parish Hall on Wednesday 29th March. Do join us for tea, chat and a DVD about developing personal prayer.

CHESS VALLEY SVP

Chess Valley SVP are providing a Warm Space in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End, every Thursday 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

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 present the Food bank is well stocked. Jam is no longer required, but they are now short of: **tinned vegetables and fruit juices.**

SPONSORED SANCTUARY LAMPS

In each of our churches 2 sanctuary lamp candles burn throughout the week – one by the tabernacle indicating the Lord’s presence, and the other by the statue of Our Lady. Would you like one of these to burn in memory of a loved one, or for a particular intention? If so, we are asking for a donation of £10 per week, for your intention to be remembered and recorded in the weekly newsletter. Please hand your donation into the Parish Office or to one of the priests marked ‘Sanctuary Lamp Donation’, together with a note stating your particular intention, and the Church and the location of the lamp that you would like to burn for that intention.

MASS INTENTIONS

At the Altar the priest offers Mass for the good of the whole Church and for a particular intention. Do you want a Mass offered for a particular intention? Perhaps you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered, or you would like a Mass said for someone who is sick or for your own intention. For Mass to be offered it is the tradition that a stipend is donated to contribute to the upkeep of your priests. Please contact the parish office if you would like a Mass offered over the coming weeks.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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

Full package price £1069 pp. (British Airways from London Heathrow). 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.

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 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) sing on a Sunday once a month at Our Lady's and once a month at St John's, Mill End. There are rehearsals 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

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 28th March for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will also be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 2nd April. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

200 CLUB - congratulations to Adrian Parker £29, Chris Doran £21.75, Teresa Dinsey £14.50 and Annie Kent £7.25

PARISH ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

Copies of the summary of the 2022 Annual Financial Report to the Diocese are available. Parishioners are invited to take a copy home with them.

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

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday Brunch (with bacon and sausage rolls) will take place on Sunday 26th March 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!

PARISH ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

Copies of the summary of the 2022 Annual Financial Report to the Diocese are available. Parishioners are invited to take a copy home with them.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

HOLY THURSDAY

Traditionally at the Mass of the Last Supper the priest washes the feet of 12 parishioners remembering that act of humility and service by Christ on the night before he died. If you would like your foot to be washed at this Mass please sign up on the list in the Church porch.

SJF SOCIAL EVENT Tuesday 28th March 2023

Thank you to all those who have signed up for the Parish dinner at West Herts College. There is free parking in the College car park on Hempstead Road. Coming from the direction of the M25 along Hempstead Road the car park entrance is on the right hand side before the school and is well signed. The restaurant will be open for 6.15pm and we are expected by 6.30pm.

REPOSITORY

We now have a selection of Easter cards together with First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards. We also stock Birthday, Sympathy and Thinking of You cards. Someone will usually be available after Sunday Mass should you wish to purchase any of these.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 28th March 6.30pm St John Fisher's Social Event at West Herts College

Sunday 14th May 11am Our Lady's Mass and Marian Procession and Parish Celebration

Sunday 11th June 10.30am St John the Evangelist Mass and Corpus Christi Procession and Parish Celebration

Sunday 25th June St John Fisher Parish Celebration following 9am Mass

Sunday 16th July 12.15pm Joint Parish Social Event at Our Lady's