



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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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 5TH MARCH 2023

Together along the same path

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had firmly rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (Mt 16:23). Following this, "six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain" (Mt 17:1).

The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – *asceticism* – as God's holy people.

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.

In his "retreat" on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is "synodal", since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.

And so we come to its culmination. The Gospel relates that Jesus "was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light" (Mt 17:2). This is the "summit", the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light. That light did not come from without, but radiated from the Lord himself. The divine beauty of this vision was incomparably greater than all the efforts the disciples had made in the ascent of Tabor. During any strenuous mountain trek, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on the path; yet the panorama that opens up at the end amazes us and rewards us by its grandeur. So too, the synodal process may often seem arduous, and at times we may become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God's will and our mission in the service of his kingdom.

First part of the Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2023

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
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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

SUN 5TH MARCH	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
MON 6TH MARCH	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 7TH MARCH	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 MARCH	7.00pm	RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 9TH MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 10TH MARCH	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John the Evangelist
SAT 11TH MARCH	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 12TH MARCH	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
SATURDAY 4 TH MARCH	9.30am Michael Conway (Ints.)	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 5 TH MARCH <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) 11am Michael Conway Ints. 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Mary Viner RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 6 TH MARCH	9.30am Special Intention		
TUESDAY 7 TH MARCH	9.30am Anne McNamara RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 8 TH MARCH	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Irene Tweedy RIP	
THURSDAY 9 TH MARCH	9.30am Holy Souls		
FRIDAY 10 TH MARCH	9.30am James Maguire RIP (1 st Anniv.)		
SATURDAY 11 TH MARCH	9.30am Devon Petrie (Ints.)	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 12 TH MARCH <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Mary & Eric Walsh RIP 11am Alex & Ann Pauline Matthews (51 st Wedding Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Patrick Conway RIP (Anniv.)	9am Bridget Cassidy RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS		This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Mary and Reg Viner 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 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 16th 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.

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 10th and 31st March

St John Fisher, Chorleywood: 24th March

Our Lady's Rickmansworth: 17th March and 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.

LENTEEN 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 FAMILY FAST DAY – LENT APPEAL - FRIDAY 3RD 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 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 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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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

THE FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS

This weekend marks the middle of Fairtrade Fortnight though I'm afraid we didn't get our Fairtrade banana costumes out this year! Sadly Traidcraft who have supplied our stock for Fairtrade stalls in the past have recently gone into administration. However, as in previous years we are still planning to order some "Real Easter Eggs" – the only Easter egg which is both Fairtrade chocolate, supports charitable projects and has an Easter story in the box. If you would like to order an egg for collection from Helen Nolan (near Tesco Express) or local delivery within Rickmansworth, please email helennolan@ntlworld.com or ring or message 07980 600549. www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg

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

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir (aged 8-13) will sing 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.

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.

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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

QUIZ - 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 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olhcs-brilliant-quiz-tickets-527275674737> 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

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.

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

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 EVENT - Tuesday 28th March – please join us.

The Social Committee has booked a 3-course dinner at West Herts College on Tuesday 28th March at 6.30pm for Parishioners. There is a set menu for this dinner. The menu and cost (payable on the evening), is displayed on the Church notice board in the entrance porch. If you would like to come along, please sign up in order that we know numbers to inform the College. By signing, you are making a commitment to come. There is a very good wine list available on the evening. Parking is free in the College car park. There will be a member of the Committee available after Mass should you have any queries.

LADIES MEETING

The next meeting is at 2.30pm on Wednesday 15th March at Mary Latimer's flat. Please ring Rosemary for directions on 01923 282500. All are very 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 25th March 10am Lenten Retreat Day at St John's, Mill End

Saturday 25th March 7.30pm Our Lady's Parish Quiz

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 (time to be confirmed)

Sunday 16th July Joint Parish Social Event at Our Lady's (pm - time to be confirmed)