



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:

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Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz
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Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 12TH MARCH 2023

Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey

The disciples' experience on Mount Tabor was further enriched when, alongside the transfigured Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared, signifying respectively the Law and the Prophets (cf. *Mt 17:3*). The newness of Christ is at the same time the fulfilment of the ancient covenant and promises; it is inseparable from God's history with his people and discloses its deeper meaning. In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church's tradition and at the same time open to newness. Tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation.

The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two "paths" to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal.

The first path has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: "Listen to him" (*Mt 17:5*). The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.

On hearing the Father's voice, the disciples "fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.' And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone" (*Mt 17:6-8*). Here is the second proposal for this Lent: do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow "him alone". Lent leads to Easter: the "retreat" is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection. Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived – for there too, the Lord repeats to us: "Rise, and do not be afraid". Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be "artisans of synodality" in the ordinary life of our communities.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.

Second 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
millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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 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
TUE 14TH 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 15TH MARCH	2.15pm 2.30pm 7.00pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall SJF Ladies Meeting RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Jo's Flat Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 16TH MARCH	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 17TH MARCH	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 18TH MARCH	11.15am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SUN 19TH 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 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 John Cecil Wood RIP	10.30am Patrick Conway RIP (Anniv.)	9am Bridget Cassidy RIP
MONDAY 13 TH MARCH	9.30am Michael Conway (Ints.)		
TUESDAY 14 TH MARCH	9.30am Holy Souls		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WEDNESDAY 15 TH MARCH	9.30am Irene Tweedy RIP	9.30am Eve Clark RIP	
THURSDAY 16 TH MARCH	9.30am Damon Harvey RIP	11.30am Funeral - Elsa Kondys RIP	
FRIDAY 17TH MARCH <i>ST PATRICK, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Michael Conway (Ints.)		
SATURDAY 18 TH MARCH	9.30am Aadhiran Zayne Jude-Roger RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 19 TH MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am John D'Cruz RIP 11am Bill Graham RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Jad Damouni RIP	10.30am Elsa Kondys RIP	9am Ron Latimer RIP (90 th Birthday)
SANCTUARY LAMPS			

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

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: Our Lady's Rickmansworth: 17th March and 7th April
St John Fisher, Chorleywood: 24th March
St John the Evangelist, Mill End 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 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.

YOUTH GROUP

Let's get ready for Easter. There will be a youth group meeting on Saturday 25th March in Our Lady's Church Hall 10am -11.30am. Those in school year 7 and above. Fun, games and snacks. Looking forward to seeing you all. Come with a friend or come and make new friends. Parents/guardians please message 07788 721222 to let us know who is coming.

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 Wednesday 15th and 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 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.**

ALPHA runs every week from 7.30-9.15pm until 28th March at Our Lady's Hall.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP –

Spring Jumble Sale & Nearly New will be held on Saturday 18th March at 10.30am. Our *Book Sale* will be held on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st March from 7 to 9pm. Any donations of items can be brought to the Scout HQ behind Our Lady's Church on Thursday/Friday Evenings or collection can be arranged by telephoning – 246169 / 776035.

Current and Past Supporters are reminded that help is needed to run these events.

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg

If you would like to order a "Real Easter Egg" – the only Easter egg which is both Fairtrade chocolate, supports charitable projects and has an Easter story in the box for collection from Helen Nolan (near Tesco Express) or local delivery within Rickmansworth, please email helenynolan@ntlworld.com or ring or message 07980 600549

CLP ARTS AND CRAFTS - ART FOR WELLBEING (Step2Skills course)

Join us at Mill End Community Centre Thursdays 16th, 23rd & 30th March 9.45am to 12.15pm. £10 per person for Herts residents. <https://www.cognitofirms.com/CLPSouthOxhey/ArtForWellbeing> - 0208 4215544 or 07576 167776.

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

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 - 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-brillant-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.

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

PARISH ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

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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 Jo's flat. Please ring Rosemary for directions on 01923 282500. All are very welcome.

MISSIO/APF RED BOX HOLDERS

Please bring your boxes/envelopes to Church or to my door by Sunday 19th March for this quarter's collection. We urgently need new donors for our Missionaries. Any amount, each Quarter, £5, £10, £20 or your loose change in a box would be gratefully received. Thank you. Contact Mary Latimer 284975.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 25th March 10am Youth Group at Our Lady's Hall, Rickmansworth

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)