



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
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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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Mill End

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 @ChessValleyRC

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A) - 2ND APRIL 2023

Crossing the threshold

This morning we cross the threshold of Holy Week. Now we begin to journey with our Blessed Lord in the final days of his earthly life. Now we follow him, step by step, through all the events put before us in the narrative of the passion and death of our Saviour.

Step by step. We can recognise the different moments: a moment of triumph as he is publicly accepted by the crowd as the hero they had been waiting for, to free them from the yoke of oppression. Then a moment of intimacy, gathered round with his closest companions for the much-loved Passover meal. Yet here he has a task to do. He must slowly open their eyes to a deeper reality in which they are taking part. He is, indeed, the one who fulfils the promises of old, a promised 'Suffering Servant' of God who will suffer rejection, rather than adulation, condemnation rather than applause. He is the one in whom the words of Isaiah that we heard will be fulfilled, for in the suffering to come 'The Lord will come to my help' and the shame shall give way to glory. The next step we take with him is into the garden of his agony, the struggle to accept reality rather than avoid it, and then to bear the unfolding of suffering and death. We stand with him in that agony, fully aware that he is the victim of utter injustice.

Why are we here? Why do you want to accompany our Blessed Lord? Why do we return, year after year, to make this journey with him? The simplest answer is because here is love.

We know, in faith, that he makes this journey out of love for us. He accepts this rejection on our behalf, to show us that no matter what we do, we will never be rejected by him. He embraces the fate of the victim, so that every victim may know, in their isolation and pain, they are not be alone but enfolded in his embrace. He gives his body to be broken in death so that the time of our own death may be transformed by knowing that he has been there before us and now is with us as we enter into that dark valley.

Out of love he journeys with us, in our struggles and joys, in our pain and frustrations, in our living and dying. Out of love, we make this journey with him, coming close to him not solely here in church, but in our hearts, in every quiet moment of this week as we raise our minds and hearts to him. In this way we make these days truly a Holy Week.

Today we bring ourselves to him. We bring the burden of our failure and sin. We place before Jesus the people of Ukraine, their agony. We bring to him our sick and dying. And he carries these burdens with us, indeed for us, for such is his love, made evident in his Cross. Where we go, he goes too. Where he goes, so do we. He accompanies us always for he has bound himself to us in the flesh of his body and in the love of his heart.

He accompanies us. In him we recognise 'our own humanity' and our final destiny. Our calling now is to walk together, to accompany one another, in his name, in his love, so that we may truly be his people, his Church.

Cardinal Vincent Nichol's homily for Palm Sunday 2022

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
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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 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
MON 3RD APRIL	10.00am - 11.00am 7.00pm - 8.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 4RD APRIL	12 noon	Chrism Mass	Westminster Cathedral
THU 6TH APRIL		Life in the Spirit Prayer Group will <i>not be meeting this week</i> . Will resume Thursday 13 th April.	
FRI 7TH APRIL	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 8TH APRIL		No Morning Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 1 ST APRIL	9.30am J.J. Considine RIP	6pm Private Intention	
SUNDAY 2 ND 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
MONDAY 3 RD APRIL	9.30am Genie Buscarini RIP		
TUESDAY 4 TH APRIL	NO MASS TODAY		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 5 TH APRIL	9.30am Michael Conway (Ints.)	9.30am Private Intention	
THU 6TH APRIL <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i>	NO MORNING MASS 8.00pm For the People of the Parishes		8.00pm For the People of the Parishes
FRIDAY 7TH APRIL <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord	10.30am Celebration of the Passion of the Lord	3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
SAT 8TH APRIL <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>	NO MORNING MASS 8.30pm For the People of the Parishes	8.30pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 9TH APRIL <i>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Tess Logan RIP (Anniv.) 11am J.J. Considine RIP NO EVENING MASS	10.30am Michael Flanagan RIP	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

COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS

The Bishops of England and Wales have decided that the re-introduction of Holy Communion under both kinds, i.e. under the form of bread and under the form of wine, may take place from the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 2023. We will be re-introducing this in our parishes for this Mass and the Easter Vigil Mass at first, before hopefully re-introducing it more regularly in the coming months. The reception of Holy Communion under both kinds is not obligatory, as our Catholic faith teaches that the totality of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Lord is received in either or both kinds. Therefore, it will be for each person to choose whether she or he wishes to receive Holy Communion from the chalice. Please note that it is not permitted for anyone in the congregation to "intinct" or dip their Host into the chalice when they come to receive Holy Communion. The Precious Blood must be drunk directly from the chalice or Communion received in one kind only.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is a day of abstinence and fasting. At the Good Friday Service, at all three parishes, there will be a retiring collection for the support of the holy places of our faith in the Holy Land.

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.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN RICKMANSWORTH AND MILL END

Churches together in Rickmansworth and Mill End will be welcoming the resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday with a dawn service at 5.45am in the King George V Car Park opposite the William Penn Leisure Centre. All are welcome!

EDWARD LINNEY RIP

The funeral of Edward Linney will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Wednesday 19th April, followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will be at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth on Friday 7th April at 7.00pm.

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. 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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

This is the last chance to join Westminster Youth Ministry for two weeks in Porto, Fatima and Lisbon from 25 July to 9 August 2023 to celebrate World Youth Day with Pope Francis and 2 million other young people. Thanks to the support of the Cardinal's Appeal, the reduced cost for the pilgrimage is £1,500 inclusive of transport, accommodation, WYD Pass, insurance and some meals. There are last few places remaining at this price and applications will close on 14 April 2023. For more information and booking forms email Phoebe Prendergast at phoebeprendergast@rcdow.org.uk or Holly Cook at hollycook@rcdow.org.uk or call us on 020 3757 2516

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 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 NIGHT – THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped organise and support our quiz night last weekend. We are particularly grateful to our Quiz Master, Paul Burke whose dedication and preparation made it a huge success. £520 was raised for Our Lady's Building Fund.

CAR PARK - HOLY WEEK

Please note the car park camera will be switched off on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday—it will be turned off as usual on Easter Sunday.

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 2nd April for our Coffee Morning. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

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

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.

ANNUAL WALK OF WITNESS

The annual Walk of Witness will be taking place from the Crossroads in Chorleywood at 11am on Good Friday. This will be followed by refreshments and hot cross buns at St John Fisher Church. All are welcome to join us and welcome our Christian friends from across Chorleywood to our Church.

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.

MISSIO/APF/RED. BOX HOLDERS

Thank you so much for the March collection of £165.04, I think probably the highest March total ever! We have one new donor and two others interested, so things look better. More thanks, Mary 284975

UPCOMING EVENTS

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