



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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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) - 23RD APRIL 2023

Christ is risen!

Christòs anesti! – “Christ is risen; he is truly risen!” In this traditional proclamation of the Churches of the East, the word “truly” reminds us that our hope is not an illusion, but the truth! And that, in the wake of Easter, humanity’s journey, now marked by hope, advances all the more readily. The first witnesses of the resurrection show this by their example. The Gospels speak of the haste with which, on the morning of Easter, the women “ran to tell the disciples” (*Mt 28:8*). Mary Magdalene “ran and went to Simon Peter” (*Jn 20:2*), while John and Peter himself then “ran together” (cf. v. 4) to the place where Jesus had been buried. Later, on the evening of Easter, after meeting the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, two disciples “set out without delay” (cf. *Lk 24:33*) and travelled several miles, uphill and in the dark, spurred on by the irrepressible joy of Easter that burned in their hearts (cf. v. 32). The same joy that led Peter, on the shore of the Lake of Galilee, after catching sight of the risen Jesus, to leave the boat with the others, to throw himself immediately into the water and to swim quickly towards him (cf. *Jn 21:7*). At Easter, then, the journey quickens and becomes a race, since humanity now sees the goal of its journey, the meaning of its destiny, Jesus Christ, and is called to make haste to meet him, who is the hope of the world.

May we too make haste to progress on a journey of reciprocal trust: trust among individuals, peoples and nations. May we allow ourselves to experience amazement at the joyful proclamation of Easter, at the light that illumines the darkness and the gloom in which, all too often, our world finds itself enveloped. Let us make haste to surmount our conflicts and divisions, and to open our hearts to those in greatest need. Let us hasten to pursue paths of peace and fraternity. Let us rejoice at the concrete signs of hope that reach us from so many countries, beginning with those that offer assistance and welcome to all fleeing from war and poverty.

At the same time, along this journey we also encounter many stumbling blocks, which make it more difficult and demanding to hasten towards the Risen Lord. To him, then, let us make our prayer: Lord, help us to run to meet you! Help us to open our hearts! Comfort refugees, deportees, political prisoners and migrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, as well as the victims of hunger, poverty and the dire effects of the drug trade, human trafficking and all other forms of slavery. Lord, inspire the leaders of nations to ensure that no man or woman may encounter discrimination and be violated in his or her dignity; that in full respect for human rights and democracy these social wounds may be healed; that the common good of the citizenry may be pursued always and solely; and that security and the conditions needed for dialogue and peaceful coexistence may be guaranteed.

Brothers, sisters, may we rediscover the enjoyment of the journey, quicken the heartbeat of hope and experience a foretaste of the beauty of heaven! Today, let us summon the energy to advance in goodness towards Goodness itself, which never disappoints. If, as one of the ancient Fathers once wrote, “the greatest sin is not to believe in the power of the resurrection” (St Isaac of Ninevah), today let us believe and profess: “Christ is truly risen from the dead!” (*Sequence*). We believe in you, Lord Jesus. We believe that, with you, hope is reborn and the journey continues. May you, the Lord of life, encourage us on our journey and repeat to us, as you did to the disciples on the evening of Easter: “Peace be with you!” (*Jn 19:21*).

Extract from Urbi et Orbi Message of Pope Francis, Easter Sunday 2023

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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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:
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Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir
Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
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FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SAT 22ND APRIL	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 23RD APRIL	10.00am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	SVP 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 24TH APRIL	6.30pm	Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 25TH APRIL	4.30pm - 5.45pm 6.00pm	Youth Choir Practice Youth Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 26TH APRIL	2.15pm 7.00pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 27TH APRIL	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 29TH APRIL	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 30TH APRIL	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 22ND APRIL	9.30am Ann Murphy RIP	6pm Michael Flanagan RIP	
SUNDAY 23RD APRIL <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Patrick Tarrant RIP 11am Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Miread Cunningham RIP	10.30am Private Intention	9am For the People of the Parishes
MON 24TH APRIL	9.30am Aleksandra & Leslie Budzynski (Ints.)		
TUE 25TH APRIL <i>ST MARK, EVANGELIST</i>	9.30am Michael Conway (Ints.)		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL	9.30am Michael Conway (Ints.)	NO MASS TODAY	
THURSDAY 27TH APRIL	9.30am Margaret Mullery (Ints.)		
FRIDAY 28TH APRIL	9.30am Margaret Mullery (Ints.)		
SAT 29TH APRIL <i>ST CATHERINE OF SIENA</i>	9.30am Alan & Virginia Johnson (Ints.)	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 30TH APRIL <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Edward Linney RIP 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Ned Pender RIP	9am Hugh & Mary Anderson RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for the Budzynksa family - in thanksgiving.	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for special intentions (CB).	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Mike Opie RIP - 20 th Anniv. (Blessed Sacrament) & Sidney Dommersen RIP (Our Lady's)

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, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Maureen Douglas, Michael Gaukroger, Molly Gray, Leslie Edwards, Pauline Williams, Gloria Warmington, Sr Win Crowther and Hugh Nolan.

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

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently **14** men studying at Allen Hall seminary for our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome. Last year **4** men were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

MARCH FOR LIFE UK

Thursday April 27th 7.30-8.30pm. Join March for Life UK on the 55th anniversary of the Abortion Act at Westminster Cathedral Piazza for a candlelight prayer vigil to remember those lives lost to abortion, as well as those hurt by it. Candles and posters will be supplied. More info can be found at marchforlife.co.uk. We cannot allow this day to pass by like any other - even if others forget, we must remember.

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI EXHIBITION

6 May – 30 July 2023 the National Gallery will be presenting the first major UK art exhibition to explore Saint Francis of Assisi's life and legacy. Presenting the art and imagery of Saint Francis from the 13th century to today, this exhibition looks at why this saint is a figure of enormous relevance to our time due to his spiritual radicalism, commitment to the poor, and love of God and nature, as well as his powerful appeals for peace, and openness to dialogue with other religions. It brings together paintings from the National Gallery Collection by Sassetta, Botticelli, and Zurbarán with international loans including works by Caravaggio, Josefa de Óbidos, Stanley Spencer, Antony Gormley, Giuseppe Penone, Andrea Büttner, and an exciting new commission from Richard Long. Free tickets for the exhibition can be booked via <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/saint-francis-of-assisi>

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, could take place from the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 2023. We will be re-introducing this in our parishes 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.

JOHN CANEPARO RIP

The funeral of John Caneparo will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Tuesday 2nd May, 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.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Faith and Friendship group will continue to meet at 2.15pm on Wednesday, April 26th (lectio divina) and May 10th & 31st, June 14th & 28th (DVD of meditations on The Mass).

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth group meeting for those in year 7 and above is Tuesday 25th April at 6.30-8pm, in Our Lady's hall. We would love to see you all, come and have fun, share some food, and think about our faith. Bring a friend with you, come and meet old friends or perhaps make new friends. Parents please message 07788 721222 to let us know names and numbers of those attending.

CHESS VALLEY SVP WARM SPACE

The last session will take place on **Thursday 27th April** in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End. We hope to resume providing a warm space for all those who wish to come along for a hot drink and friendly company in the autumn.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The offertory collection figures for the months of January, February and March are below. Thank you for your generous donations.

	Envelopes	SO & Online	Loose & Contactless	TOTAL
Our Lady's	555.50	15,302.00	5,657.79	21,515.29
St John the Evangelist	896.50	4,887.00	2,519.23	8,302.73
St John Fisher	90	5,341.49	291.25	5,722.74

DIOCESAN NOTICES

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.

Parish Administrator (Croxley Green) - <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-administrator-croxley-green/>

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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

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

BANK HOLIDAY BIG HELP OUT

As part of the Coronation Celebrations King Charles has encouraged us to take part in a volunteering activity in our community on Bank Holiday Monday 8th May. We are in need of some assistance in clearing up the parish site and some basic works around the grounds to ensure it is ready for the summer, and invite parishioners to join us on that day from 9.30am-12pm as part of our investment in our own parish community. If you are ready and able to help then please contact Mike Quinn on Michael.Quinn@6thrickyseascouts.org.uk, so he can organise the day.

PARISH MARIAN PROCESSION AND CELEBRATION

The 11am Mass on Sunday 14th May will be followed by a Marian Procession around the grounds of the Church, finishing with a blessing of the restored Calvary Cross, which we are told will finally be in place by this date. The procession will be followed by a social event where you are invited to bring a picnic for your household. There will be a bar provided by our parish social committee. We encourage all parishioners to join us for this special celebration.

CAR PARK REMINDER

Please be careful to follow the one way system and to drive slowly around the car park to ensure all our parishioners are safe when coming to Church. *Please also remember to register your vehicle if you are using the site out of our regular Mass times.*

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass this Sunday 23rd April for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will also be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 7th June. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Annie Kent £29, Anita Khurwal £21.75, Liz Waddington £14.50 and Maureen Douglas £7.25.

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

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Are available for collection from the sacristy this weekend.

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

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

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

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