



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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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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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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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) - 7TH MAY 2023

Hail Holy Queen

In the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church we read: *"Mary was assumed into heavenly glory and exalted by the Lord as Queen of the universe, so as to be the more fully conformed to her Son"* (Lumen Gentium, 59).

Mary is Queen because she is associated in a unique way to her Son, both on the earthly pathway and in the glory of Heaven. The great saint of Syria, Ephrem, affirms, concerning the royalty of Mary, that it derives from her motherhood: she is Mother of the Lord, of the King of kings and shows us Jesus as our life, salvation and hope. Pope Paul VI recalled in his apostolic exhortation *Marialis Cultus*: *"In the Virgin Mary everything is relative to Christ and everything depends on him: it is for him that God the Father, from all eternity, has chosen her as all holy Mother and has adorned her with gifts of the Spirit, granted to no one else"*.

But now let us ask ourselves: what does Mary Queen mean? Is it only a title united to others, the crown, an ornament among others? What does it mean? What is this royalty? As already shown, it is a consequence of her being united to the Son, of her being in Heaven, that is in communion with God; she participates in God's responsibility for the world and in God's love for the world. There is a vulgar, common idea of a king or queen: this would be a person with power, riches. But this is not the type of royalty of Jesus and Mary. Let us think of the Lord; Christ's royalty and being king is interwoven with humility, service, love: it is above all to serve, to help, to love. Let us remember that Jesus was proclaimed king on the cross with this inscription written by Pilate: "King of the Jews". In that moment on the cross it is shown that He is king; and how is He King? By suffering with us, for us, by loving to the very end, and thus He governs and creates truth, love, justice. Or let us also think of another moment: at the Last Supper he bends down to wash the feet of his own disciples. Therefore, Jesus' royalty has nothing to do with that of the powerful of this earth. He is a king who serves his servants; he demonstrated this throughout his whole life. And this is the same with Mary: she is queen in her service to God to humanity, she is queen of love who lives the gift of herself to God so as to enter into the plan of man's salvation. To the angel she responds: *"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord"* and in the Magnificat she sings: God has looked upon the humility of his servant. She helps us. She is queen precisely by loving us, by helping us in our every need; she is our sister, humble servant.

And so how does Mary exercise this royalty of service and love? By watching over us, her children: children who turn to her in prayer, so as to thank her or to ask her for her maternal protection and her celestial help, after perhaps having lost the way, oppressed by sorrow or anguish through the sad and troubles of life. In the serenity or the darkness of existence, we turn to Mary entrusting ourselves to her continual intercession, so that she may be able to obtain for us from her Son every grace and mercy necessary for our pilgrimage along the roads of the world. The title of queen is thus a title of trust, of joy, of love.

Dear friends, devotion to Our Lady is an important element of spiritual life. In our prayer let us not fail to turn trustingly to her. Mary will not fail to intercede for us beside her Son. In looking at her, let us imitate her faith, her full availability to God's project of love, her generous welcome of Jesus. Let us learn to live from Mary. Mary is the Queen of heaven close to God, but she is also the mother close to each one of us, who loves us and listens to our voice.

An extract from General Audience of Pope Benedict XVI, 22 August 2012

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SAT 6TH MAY	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 7TH MAY	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 8TH MAY	9.30am-12pm	Bank Holiday Big Help	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 9TH MAY	4.30pm - 5.45pm	Youth Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist
WED 10TH MAY	2.15pm 7.00pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 11TH MAY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 12TH MAY	10am	Coffee Morning - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 13TH MAY	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 14TH MAY	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 6 TH MAY	9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parishes	6pm Billy Kerins RIP	
SUNDAY 7 TH MAY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Fr Peter Maher RIP 11am Hugh Nolan RIP 6pm Wera Wernicke RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Michael Fields RIP
MONDAY 8 TH MAY	9.30am Hugh Nolan RIP		
TUESDAY 9 TH MAY	9.30am Viktor Boehler RIP (Anniv.)		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 10 TH MAY	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Fr Richard Marriott RIP	
THURSDAY 11 TH MAY	9.30am Ruth Thompson RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 12 TH MAY	9.30am Holy Souls		
SATURDAY 13 TH MAY	NO 9.30AM MASS 11.00am For those being Confirmed	2pm For those being Confirmed 6pm Baby Felix RIP	
SUNDAY 14 TH MAY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Andrew Dumughn RIP (Anniv.) 11am Hugh Nolan RIP 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Natalio Borg RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Ruth Thompson RIP Anniv. (Blessed Sacrament) and the intentions of the Nolan Family (Our Lady's)		This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Alan Jacobi RIP (Blessed Sacrament) & John Edwards RIP Anniv. (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 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

FR ANTHONY PELLEGRINI

We welcome Fr Anthony Pellegrini to our parishes as he celebrates the 8.30am Mass at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth and 10.30am Mass at St John's, Mill End, for us this weekend whilst Fr Matteo is away.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday 18th May is the Feast of the Ascension of The Lord. Masses across the three parishes will be as follows: St John Fisher - 7pm Vigil (Wed. 17th May); Our Lady Help of Christians – 9.30am; St John the Evangelist – 11am.

HUGH NOLAN RIP

It is with sadness that we share the death of Hugh Nolan. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time. Details of his funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

SR WIN CROWTHER RIP

It is with sadness that we share the death of Sr Win Crowther. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time. Details of her funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND - THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

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>

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.

GIFT AID

Thank you to everyone who has Gift-Aided their offering. Gift Aid adds 25p to the value of every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your offering please contact Kerry. Please let us know if your tax circumstances have changed (2022/23 tax year) so that we do not ask for a tax refund if you haven't paid the associated tax. We will also need to know if you have changed your address recently.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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

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.**

A CAP (CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY)

LIFE SKILLS COURSE will run at Mill End Baptist Church, Field Way, Rickmansworth, WD3 7EJ. This course is free to participants and there will be some provision for young children. **There will be one to one coaching and ongoing group support.** The course will run at 1.30pm on the following Wednesdays in May: 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st. Further information available at millendbaptist.org.uk or contact Elaine Hawkings 07786 608303.

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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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.

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.

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. 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 (cash only) provided by our parish social committee. We encourage all parishioners to join us for this special celebration.

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us for our coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 7th June. 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.*

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.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

MISSIO AND RED BOX APPEAL

A big thank you to all who donated through the Red Boxes in 2022. In our Parish we raised £1,155.48. Please visit missio.org.uk to find out more about how your support changes lives for the better. If you would like a Red Box in your home please ask Geraldine. Every penny makes a difference. Thank you.

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

THE REPOSITORY

After Mass on Sunday there will be a selection of cards for different occasions. We can now do contactless sales as well.

CARDINAL HUMÉ CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS IN WESTMINSTER

MARY'S GARAGE is once again open, for the whole of May. It is packed with your generous gifts, most have never been on sale before. We have jewellery, cosmetics, candles, lamps, china, toys, a rocking caterpillar, a donation basket and so much more (we are packed!!). Every £1 that we make will be doubled by the Centre's benefactors. Please phone Mary on 284975 for an appointment to bring and buy and browse for this worthy cause.

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