



### 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:

Fr Matteo Di Giuseppe  
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#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
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#### Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz  
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#### Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
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#### Mill End

Geraldine Page  
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### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841  
[rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk)

Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir  
Director [rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk)

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:  
[rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk)

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) - 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

#### He ascended into heaven

This week the Ascension of the Lord, that is, his return to the Father, is being celebrated. In the Liturgy, the Gospel according to Luke narrates the final apparition of the Risen Christ to the disciples (cf. 24:46-53). The earthly life of Jesus culminates precisely with the Ascension, which we also profess in the Creed: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father". What does this event mean? How should we interpret it? To answer this question, let us focus on two actions that Jesus performs before ascending into Heaven: first of all, he *announces the gift of the Spirit*, and then he *blesses the disciples*. He announces the gift of the Spirit, and he blesses.

First of all, Jesus says to his friends: "I send the promise of my Father upon you" (v. 49). He is talking about the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, he who will accompany them, guide them, support them in their mission, defend them in spiritual battles. We thus understand something important: Jesus is not abandoning the disciples. He ascends to Heaven, but he does not leave them alone. Rather, precisely by ascending towards the Father, he ensures the *effusion of the Holy Spirit, of his Spirit*. On another occasion he had said: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counsellor will not come to you", — that is, the Spirit — (Jn 16:7). In this too, we see Jesus' love for us: his is a presence that does not want to limit our freedom. On the contrary, he leaves space to us, because true love always generates a closeness that does not stifle, is not possessive, is close but not possessive; Indeed, true love makes us protagonists. And in this way, Christ reassures, "I will go to the Father, and you will be clothed with power from on high: I will send you my Spirit and with his strength, you will continue my work in the world!" (cf. Lk 24:49). Thus, ascending to Heaven, instead of remaining beside a few people with his body, Jesus becomes close to all with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus present in us, beyond the barriers of time and space, to make us his witnesses in the world.

Straight afterwards Christ raises his hands and *blesses the apostles* (cf. v. 50). It is a priestly gesture. Ever since the times of Aaron, God had entrusted the task of blessing the people to priests (cf. Nm 6:36). The Gospel wants to tell us that *Jesus is the great priest of our life*. Jesus ascends to the Father to *intercede* on our behalf, to present our humanity to him. Thus, before the eyes of the Father, with the humanity of Jesus, there are and always will be our lives, our hopes, our wounds. So, as he makes his "exodus" to Heaven, Christ "makes way" for us. He goes to prepare a place for us and, from this time forth, he intercedes for us, so that we may always be accompanied and blessed by the Father.

Brothers and sisters, let us think today of the gift of the Spirit we have received from Jesus to be witnesses of the Gospel. Let us ask ourselves if we really are; and also, if we are capable of loving others, leaving them free and making room for them. And then: do we know how to make ourselves intercessors for others, that is, do we know how to pray for them and bless their lives? Or do we serve others for our own interests? Let us learn this: intercessory prayer, interceding for the hopes and sufferings of the world, interceding for peace. And let us bless with our eyes and our words those we meet every day!

*Message of Pope Francis on Feast of Ascension of the Lord, 29 May 2022*

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SAT 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
<b>SUN 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	11.00am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Parish Marian Procession and Celebration 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
<b>TUE 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	4.30pm - 5.45pm	Youth Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist
<b>THU 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	10.00am	Coffee Morning - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	11.30am 2.30PM 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms JPPC Meeting Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
<b>SUN 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY</b>	10.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	First Holy Communions Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist 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
<b>SATURDAY</b> 13 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	<b>No 9.30AM MASS</b> <b>11.00am</b> For those being Confirmed	<b>2pm</b> For those being Confirmed <b>6pm</b> Baby Felix RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 14 <sup>TH</sup> MAY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Andrew Dumughn RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Hugh Nolan RIP <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> Natalio Borg RIP (Anniv.)	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>MONDAY</b> 15 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	<b>9.30am</b> Ermano Berti RIP		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	<b>9.30am</b> Aleksandra & Leslie Budzynski (Ints.)		<b>9.30am</b> Fr Richard Marriott RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	<b>9.30am</b> Fr Richard Marriott RIP	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	<b>7pm</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>THU 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b> <i>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Ruth Thompson RIP (Anniv.) <b>7pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>11am</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>FRIDAY</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 20 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	<b>9.30am</b> For GIFT Families	<b>6pm</b> Frank Shanley RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 21 <sup>ST</sup> MAY <i>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Patrik Biel RIP (9 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Sr Winifred Crowther RIP <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> For those receiving their First Holy Communion	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for the intentions of all students taking exams and for the intentions of the Kelly Family	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Tom & Una Bugler RIP (Blessed Sacrament) & Joss & Stephen Dowds RIP (Our Lady's)	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Philip Sanders RIP 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv. (Blessed Sacrament) & Mary Harris 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 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

### ASCENSION DAY

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be taking place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm Chorleywood (Vigil), and on Thursday at 9.30am and 7pm in Rickmansworth and 11am in Mill End (with pupils from St John's School attending).

### HUGH NOLAN RIP

The funeral of Hugh Nolan will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 11am followed by burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

### SR WIN CROWTHER RIP

The funeral of Sr Win Crowther will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm followed by burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. Sr Win was one of the community of the Daughters of Jesus who served Rickmansworth for many years. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

### MARY MOUNTAIN RIP

It is with sadness that we share the death of Mary Mountain. 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.

### CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Next Sunday is World Communications Day when we pray in a particular way for the very valuable work being done on behalf of the Church by the communications office of the Bishop's Conference. If you would like to support this work please donate online at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/donate-world-communications-day/>

### YOUTH EVENT - SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Picnic on the lawn at Our Lady's after 11am Mass (12-2). Calling all young people bring your friends and family for fun and games (any children of primary age or younger must be accompanied by an adult). You bring your own food and picnic blanket and chair and we'll provide the drinks and cake. Please message. 07788 721222 to let us know names and numbers coming. Look forward to seeing you.

### 6<sup>TH</sup> RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

6<sup>th</sup> Rickmansworth Sea Scout Group, who have their HQ on the grounds of Our Lady's Church, have for many years been affiliated with the Rickmansworth parishes. We are hoping that this relationship will continue and grow. The group are currently seeking new leaders for their Beavers (aged 6-8), Cubs (8-10½) and Scouts (10½ - 14) to support them. New members are also very welcome. For more information please contact [6thRickySeaScouts@gmail.com](mailto:6thRickySeaScouts@gmail.com)

### 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, 22<sup>ND</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup>

#### 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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## 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 Jaison 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 takes place once a month. 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](mailto: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.

### 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

### PARISH BIG HELP OUT

Thank you to all those who came on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May as part of our Big Help activity. It was wonderful to see so many people investing their time and energy into making our site look beautiful for the summer months. Thank you also to our team who provided refreshments to the workers. We hope to repeat this enjoyable community event again soon.

### HALL GARDEN DEVELOPMENT

Over the past year a small team of volunteers have been working hard to create a beautiful garden space at the back of the hall. This space is almost ready to enjoy but we would like to buy some practical garden furniture to make it a friendly and welcoming space for all hall users to use. If you would like to make a donation towards this furniture, please contact the parish office.

### PARISH MARIAN PROCESSION AND CELEBRATION

The 11am Mass this Sunday (14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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](http://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 HUME 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 14<sup>th</sup> May 11am Our Lady's Mass and Marian Procession and Parish Celebration  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am St John the Evangelist Mass and Corpus Christi Procession and Parish Celebration  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June St John Fisher Parish Celebration following 9am Mass  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 12.15pm Joint Parish Barbecue & Social at Our Lady's