



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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Rickmansworth

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 16TH JULY 2023

Living the vision

Last week we gave an update on the progress of our GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) process for the families of our parishes, and at this time we are also promoting the new series of Prayer and Life Workshops. This weekend we also have our joint parishes event 'Brass on the Grass' which we hope will be a great event to bring our three communities together. These activities, and many others taking place in our parishes seek to live out our Vision Statement:

The Catholic Parishes of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Mill End aspire to share the Good News of God's saving love. We are vibrant, welcoming communities, united in worshipping God and serving our neighbours. We invite every person to join us in growing together in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experiencing and living through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of a Vision Statement is for us to constantly be asking ourselves – is this something that we are truly seeking to grow in together? Do we aspire to share the good news of God's saving love? Are we vibrant, welcoming communities? Are we united in our service to God and our neighbours? And are we all trying to grow in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ? The important word in all this is 'grow'. We recognise that none of us are perfect, our parishes aren't perfect – but as Christians, we are all seeking to grow in that perfection – to constantly seek to be more like the people God has made us to be, and the Church God wants us to be.

After two years here in our parishes I have seen many things taking place to suggest we are trying to live out this vision. I thank all those who are playing an active role in our parishes to make this happen. Our JPPC (Joint Parishes Pastoral Council), who meet bi-monthly, try to help us keep focused on this vision, which can so often be blurred by the maintenance and administration needed to run three parishes.

There are two areas in particular that I have come to feel are neglected in our parishes, which we would like to try and address over the coming months, but in order for us to do this we do need people to volunteer their time and gifts to assist us.

Parents and Toddlers Group – Currently we have many families bringing their little children to Mass, but there is nothing else to connect them to the parish. In conversations with St Peter's C of E Church in Mill End, we have both seen there is a need for us to provide a group for them. We would propose a joint project of a weekly Parents and Toddlers Group, based in Mill End. In order for this to happen, we will need volunteers ready to lead this project. Is this something you could help with?

Bereavement Support Group – one of the times that we need support the most is when we lose someone that is close to us. The journey to the funeral can be very busy organising things, and lots of people step forward to support the bereaved, but often, once the service is over, many feel isolated and alone. As a Christian community we should be offering more support to the bereaved, and so we would like to create a group whose main aim is to befriend those in the parish who are grieving, to journey with them, pray for them and support them. This would not be a professional counselling service, but those involved would receive training in journeying with those who are bereaved with compassion and care.

If you are interested in being involved in either of these groups then please contact the parish office.

I am sure there are many reading this thinking 'but what about doing...'? Yes, there is lots more to be done, and lots more ways that we can serve our parishes and our community. If you are passionate about something and are willing to take the lead in helping us organise it, please do bring it to my attention. We all have a part to play in living out our vision. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to step forward with enthusiasm and joy to answer that call. *Fr Andrew*

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
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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:
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

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

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SAT 15TH JULY	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 16TH JULY	11.30am 12.15pm - 3.00pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Brass on the Grass - Field Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 18TH JULY	7.00pm	Prayer & Life Workshop Taster Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 20TH JULY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 21ST JULY	10.00am	Coffee Morning - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 22ND JULY	11.15am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SUN 23RD JULY	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 15TH JULY <i>ST BONAVENTURE</i>	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm Fr Mark Leenane RIP	
SUNDAY 16TH JULY <i>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Fr Mark Leenane RIP 11am Francis Crowley RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Fr John Darley RIP
MONDAY 17TH JULY	9.30am Paddy Rooney RIP (20 th Anniv.)		
TUESDAY 18TH JULY	9.30am Arthur David Edwards RIP		9.30am Fr Mark Leenane RIP
WEDNESDAY 19TH JULY	9.30am Fr Dennis Touw (Ints.)	9.30am Fr Mark Leenane RIP	
THURSDAY 20TH JULY	9.30am Andrew Dumughn RIP		
FRIDAY 21ST JULY	9.30am Marian Forrest RIP		
SATURDAY 22ND JULY <i>ST MARY MAGDALENE</i>	9.30am Fr Mark Leenane RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 23RD JULY <i>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Anna Khurwal RIP 11am Jack Crowley RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Jean Mulderrig RIP (Anniv.)	9am David Henderson (Ints.)
SANCTUARY LAMPS			



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.

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, Veronica Finnegan and Sean

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 and Derek Treanor

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

JOINT PARISHES SUMMER EVENT: 'BRASS ON THE GRASS'

On Sunday 16th July we will be holding a Joint Parishes Summer Event from 12.15pm at Our Lady's. There will be a BBQ, a Bar, activities for children, and a live performance by Potters Bar Town Brass Band featuring Fr Andrew. Bishop Paul McAleenan will also be joining us for the day.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

A new season of Prayer and Life Workshops will take place weekly from Tuesday 5th September at 7pm at the Parish Hall of Our Lady Help of Christians Church. These workshops offer us a possibility of a deeper relationship with Christ in prayer, learning different models of prayer over a period of 15 weeks. You will also learn how to find spiritual freedom from life's conflicts. Do consider this life-changing and spiritually enriching workshop to help you grow in faith. A taster session of what is involved will take place on Tuesday 18th July at 7pm in the Parish Hall of Our Lady's Church. All are welcome.

LOURDES PETITIONS

At the end of July Fr Andrew will be on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you would like him to take a petition to the grotto with your intentions then please drop them into the parish office by Monday 17th July.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 2023

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2023, 23rd July has the theme: 'His Mercy is from Age to Age'. There are a range of ideas, ways to celebrate, and helpful resources on the website www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org, plus an invitation to attend Mass on the day at Walsingham with Bishop David Oakley of Northampton, reflect & respond to Pope's message to these messengers of hope. Let's celebrate! <https://www.ukvocation.org/grandparentsday>

DELAYED ANNIVERSARY MASS

On Monday 31st July Fr Andrew and the three men who were ordained with him will celebrate Mass together at Our Lady's Church at 5pm. All are welcome to come and join them for the Mass.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

This is two-year part-time course, starting in September, which provides an ideal formation resource for parish catechists & lay ministers. For further details on the course content and opportunities to apply for a bursary, please contact annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

A Certificate of Catholic Practice is exactly what it says - it confirms, for the purposes of a Catholic school application, that families are practising Catholics, i.e. attend Mass every weekend. The school form states that families practice the faith and are known to the priest signing the form. If you do not attend Mass every weekend and are not known to Fr Andrew, he is unfortunately unable to sign the form. If you have recently moved into the area, your previous parish priest can provide certification. If you require a CCP to be signed by Fr Andrew, in the first instance, please see him after Mass

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure. After the summer break especially if some of you have travelled abroad, we would like you to put all your foreign coins/notes aside; we will be collecting all your foreign currency in September/October with special Mary's Meals envelopes available at the back of church. Currently the charity feeds over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education - by giving Mary's Meals your foreign currency you can help feed the next hungry child. *We will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm on the following Wednesdays: 26th July, 6th and 20th September and 4th and 18th October to discuss a DVD on The Holy Spirit.

BLESSING OF SCHOOL BAGS

On Sunday 3rd September at Mass we will be offering a blessing of school bags marking the start of the new academic year. Please do encourage families to come and join us with their new or trusted old school bags on this weekend to ask for the Lord's blessing on their studies.

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

ILLEGAL MIGRATION BILL

Caritas Bakhita House has signed a statement which calls the Illegal Migration Bill cruel, inhumane and unworkable, and a "charter for traffickers". Bishop Paul McAleenan has said "While we all wish to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation treats migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and sisters towards whom we have responsibilities." This Bill is currently in the "ping-pong" stage, and was sent back to the House of Lords after the Commons rejected most of the amendments they proposed. Caritas Westminster, along with other charities including CAFOD and the Jesuit Refugee Service is asking people to urgently write to their MPs. Parishioners can read more here: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/caritas-bakhita-house-signs-statement-demanding-amendments-to-the-illegal-migration-bill-1526.php> or use the template letter on the CAFOD website

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES - please visit our website <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

The diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 23rd September. We will be organising a coach from the parishes with a cost of £30 per adult and £15 per child for the day with an 8am departure and returning around 7pm. Please contact the parish office to book your place and for further details.

NEWSLETTER

Please note the last newsletter printed before the summer break will be on the weekend 22/23 July. It will resume again in September.

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.

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Have you, or someone you know, been thinking about becoming a catholic? Are you a baptised catholic but have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would now like to complete your initiation? If the answer to either of these questions is 'yes', please drop an email to Fr Andrew to have a chat about what is involved and how our parishes can help you to take the next step.

THINKING ABOUT GETTING MARRIED?

Please be aware that if you are planning to get married it takes at least 6 months to prepare for this to take place in the Catholic Church. Please contact the parish office if you would like more information.

MARCH FOR LIFE UK HAPPENS IN LONDON ON SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

Many are concerned about restrictions on freedom but it's often not until these restrictions affect us personally that we speak up. Abortion destroys the most fundamental freedom, the freedom to live and leaves so many women and men deeply hurting. Join thousands of others at this family-friendly event to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Full details can be found at marchforlife.co.uk

SVP IN SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN NEED YOUR HELP!

Due to the recent civil unrest in Sudan emergency services and supplies of basic foodstuffs there are virtually non-existent and refugees are fleeing over the border to South Sudan and other neighbouring countries, exacerbating the already huge demand there for medical and other services provided by the SVP in these countries. Please help them by donating at <https://svp.org.uk/donate?project=Twinnage%20and%20Overseas%20Aid> You can donate to both the Sudans, thus giving the SVP the option to decide where best your donation can be used. Thank you and God bless.

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 are now short of: **Jam, custard, rice pudding, tea bags, coffee (both original and decaf), tinned fruit, fruit juice or squash, washing-up liquid, shower gel, shampoo and conditioner, chocolates.**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

LIGHTING OF VOTIVE CANDLES

Please only use the candles that are to be used for the candle stands in our parishes. Other candles that are used are often not suitable for the stands and therefore dangerous, and will be blown out and disposed of.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Chris Doran (£29), Mark Kirwan (£21.75), Anne Dodson (£14.50) and Heather Kean (£7.50).

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions. Missio has collected £60 for the recent used Stamp collection from the Parish which will be donated to The White Fathers who are Missionaries to Africa. 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 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 16th July 12.15pm Joint Parish Barbecue & Social at Our Lady's
Saturday 23rd September – Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham
22nd - 27th October - Pilgrimage to Florence, Siena and Assisi led by Fr Andrew
Saturday 4th November 11am - Deceased Parishioners Mass at Our Lady's