



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>

## ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Andrew Gallagher  
[andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Matteo Di Giuseppe  
[matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz  
[p.matarewicz@gmail.com](mailto:p.matarewicz@gmail.com)


#### Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
[anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)

#### Mill End

Geraldine Page  
[geraldine.page21@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.page21@gmail.com)

Address for all correspondence:  
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WD3 1HU  
Telephone: 01923 773387

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#### Livestreaming:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

### 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  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry  
Leadership Team:  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) - 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

### Christmas Past, Present and Future

Christmas is a time when we remember and give thanks.

We remember the child born in a manger, cared for by his parents, visited by the shepherds, the angels and the magi. And we give thanks for this child; for how his birth showed that God loved us so much that he was prepared to humble himself to become one of the weakest and most vulnerable of humanity, to save us from our sins, and give us the opportunity to be united with him.

We remember our Christmas celebrations of the past. For those we spent them with, those who we shared gifts and Christmas dinner with, those who we would visit or sang carols with. And we give thanks for these relationships – for the love and joy that we have shared together.

This time of year, is also an opportunity for us as a community of parishes to look back. To remember all of the blessings we have received in 2023. For the beautiful liturgies, the wonderful opportunities to help others, the chance to discover more about our faith, the joy found in sacramental celebrations, the fun and laughter shared in our social events. We give thanks to God for this chance to have grown in our faith together and for all those who have helped to make them happen.

But Christmas is also a chance for us to look forward.

Many artists who chose the nativity as a subject added a crucifix in the background, to remind us what lay ahead for this child. The manger prefigures the cross. The incarnation points us to the resurrection. The new life in Bethlehem, points us to the eternal life in heaven.

At Christmas we look ahead to the days to come. Perhaps we have a new member of our family joining us this Christmas. Perhaps we see in the excitement of the children around us the future of our community. We can look forward to the coming year being a time when we can make new friendships and have new experiences.

In our parishes too, we now look forward to 2024. We pray that in the coming year the Holy Spirit will empower us to grow together in our love for Jesus Christ, so that the people of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Mill End will discover the Good News that we profess with joy.

### PARISH 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.

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 23 <sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Katherine O'Neill (Ints.)	<b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 24 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Jack & Kathleen Crossan RIP <b>11am</b> Cathy Purtill RIP	<b>10.30am</b> John O'Connor RIP	<b>9am</b> Joy Cannon RIP
<b>SUNDAY</b> 24 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	<b>6.00pm</b> O'Brien Family (Ints.) <b>11.00pm</b> Kate Harrison (Ints.)	<b>5.30pm</b> Mary Kerins (Ints.)	<b>8.00pm</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>MON 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Sean Geelan RIP <b>11am</b> Noreen Tyrrell (Ints.)	<b>10.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>TUES 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Ramiro Montesdeoca RIP		<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
<b>WED 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>ST JOHN, APOSTLE &amp; EVANGELIST</i>	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	<b>10.00am</b> John & Mary Griffin (Ints.)	
<b>THU 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Breda & Patrick Madden (Ints.)		
<b>FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>ST THOMAS BECKET</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Sr Anne Mullan (Ints.)		
<b>SAT 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Fr Terry Murray RIP	<b>6pm</b> Andrew Rodrigues RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 31 <sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</i>	<b>8.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes <b>11am</b> Nora & Hughie Sweeney RIP <b>6.00pm</b> Michael Draper RIP	<b>10.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>9am</b> James Cassidy RIP (Anniv.)
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week both our Sanctuary Lamps (Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's) burn for the Preedy family	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Andrew Rodrigues RIP	
<b>MON 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Albert Aldridge RIP & Bertie Aldridge RIP		
<b>TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>SS BASIL THE GREAT &amp; GREGORY NAZIANZEN</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Kenny D'Cruz RIP		<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 3 <sup>RD</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Sean (Ints.)	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 4 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Verna Kendrick RIP		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 6 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Fr Terry Murray RIP	<b>6pm</b> Margaret Hughes RIP (Anniv.)	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 7 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY <i>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i>	<b>8.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes <b>11am</b> Brian Feeley RIP (6 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.) <b>6.00pm</b> William Blake RIP	<b>10.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have generously given us Christmas cards, gifts and best wishes over the past few days in the build-up to Christmas. We hope and pray that you have a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and new year. *Fr Andrew & Fr Matteo*

### CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERING

As usual, the Christmas Crib Appeal is in support of the Catholic Children's Society in our diocese. If you can in any way support the Crib Appeal, your donation goes to immediate help of families in crisis around London. The CCS also does invaluable work throughout the year with families and supporting very young lives in extraordinary circumstances. To make an online donation please go to <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/donate/> and add 'Crib' in the optional message box. Thank you for helping disadvantaged children and families this Christmas.

### SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection at all Masses on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, for relief for those suffering from the conflict in the Holy Land. This diocesan wide collection will be sent to the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa, who can direct the funds to those who need them most.

**NEWSLETTER** - please note there will be no Newsletter next weekend.

### OUR LADY'S CAR PARK

The system will be switched off on Christmas Day. 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.**

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The offerings at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are your personal gift to your priests. The Christmas and Easter 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 a Christmas offering, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details. Please mark your gift as Christmas Offering. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Christmas Offering. There are also blue one-off gift aid envelopes available. Thank you.

### FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm on the following Wednesdays: 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March. The January meetings will follow DVDs about caring for our planet.

### ALPHA

Alpha begins again on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January from 7.30-9.15pm and runs every week until Easter at Our Lady's Hall. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life's big questions and the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment. Each session includes snacks and hot/cold drinks, an engaging video designed to generate conversation, and a discussion time where you can say whatever you like or nothing at all. Sessions include topics such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why did Jesus die?' and 'How can I have Faith?' Please sign up with our volunteers after Mass or email [chessvalleyalpha@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:chessvalleyalpha@rcdow.org.uk) to register your interest or you are welcome to phone Deidre Gilmore on 07941 931319. If you are interested in attending Alpha but this isn't the right timing for you please do contact us as Alpha is an ongoing ministry within our parishes. Please pass this invitation onto someone you know who might like to explore the meaning of life and have fun whilst doing so!

### GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)

Our 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 on a different theme each month.

**GIFT Parents** As part of GIFT we also hold Faith Formation for parents on one evening each month online (Zoom). These sessions are designed to help all our parents grow in their own faith, enabling them to lead their family on their journey of faith. In our parishes participation in GIFT is also a gateway to discerning with you the readiness of your children to begin preparation for the Sacraments. 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.

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Pilgrimage will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Join the pilgrimage as a pilgrim. Serve the sick as a St Frai Helper (18+). Support the sick by sponsoring a St Frai helper to care for them on the pilgrimage and praying for our care team. For more information go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173.

### WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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

### 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, Sean and Louise Borg

**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, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Ann & Martin Penn, Pam Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris, Derek Treanor and Edith Moid.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### REGISTRATION

We encourage all parishioners to register for the parish using the Churchsuite system, available via the website under 'Register with the parishes'. As part of the registration system you will also be sent an updated skills audit. Please do complete this to help us find a way that you can invest in your parish using your gifts and in the time available to you.

### CHRISTMAS DINNER ON CHRISTMAS DAY AT 12 NOON

Mill End Community Centre would like to invite anyone that is alone for Christmas Day to come and join us for Christmas Dinner with the RVS Volunteers. £10 per person. First come first served due to limited places. To book please call the Community Centre on 01923 493344. Don't be alone this Christmas.

### WARM WINTER SPACE

Chess Valley SVP will once again be providing a Warm Winter Space in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End, every Thursday afternoon between 2 to 4pm for the duration of the winter months. Hot drinks, cakes and biscuits will be provided. Please let those you feel would benefit from this know. For further information, please email

[chessvalleysvp@gmail.com](mailto: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 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, cartons of long-life milk and long-life orange juice.**

### VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

### CHESS VALLEY SVP

Members can offer regular visits to people who need company in our local community. If you know of anyone who is isolated or lonely and would appreciate a visit please email [chessvalleysvp@gmail.com](mailto:chessvalleysvp@gmail.com), you will need their permission to do so. All our members are recruited in line with our safer recruitment policy (including a DBS) and follow our Safeguarding policies.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### 200 CLUB

Congratulations to Mark Kirwan (£42.50), Christina Mantle (£25.50) and Richard Dumughn (£17).

Thank you to everyone who has just joined the 200 Club Draw and to all those who continue to support us each year. Good luck to you all. If you would still like to join from next month, it is not too late - please contact Louise on [rickmansworthcof@rcdow.org](mailto:rickmansworthcof@rcdow.org) who will send you the relevant details. Many thanks

### 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

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Can you help with our Children's liturgy team? We need adult helpers to supervise the classes. We would also like to invite secondary school age children to help run the classes, this volunteering can count towards DoFE awards. All classes are pre written for catechists to follow and crafts are pre prepared. All you need to do is be at the 10.30am Sunday Mass on the day to help out with the class (over 18's need to have a DBS check). For more information or to volunteer please speak to Liz Townsend or any member of the Children's liturgy team or email [liztownsenduk@gmail.com](mailto:liztownsenduk@gmail.com)

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

We would like to restart counting the offertory collection straight after Mass on a Sunday. In order to do this we need volunteers who would be willing to spend about 10 minutes straight after Mass counting the collection and getting it ready for banking. If you are able to help with this or would like more information about what is involved, please speak to Fr Andrew or Carolyn Opie for more details.

### APF/MISSIO/RED BOX HOLDERS

Many thanks and congratulations to our small and loyal group of donors to our Missionaries across the world. This year we have collected a total of £644.45 (a record) with Gift Aid of £93 that should increase to £737. Brilliant!! N.B. I will soon be receiving new Gift Aid Forms for those who pay tax to renew. Blessings and love, Mary 284975

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April - Week of Guided Prayer