



### 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  
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Paul Matarewicz

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 @ChessValleyRC

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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  
[chorleywoods@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoods@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 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

### THE PRAYER OF THE PSALMS

As we read the Bible, we continually come across prayers of various types. But we also find a book made up solely of prayers, a book that has become the native land, gymnasium and home of countless men and women of prayer. It is the Book of Psalms. There are 150 Psalms to pray.

The Catechism affirms that every Psalm “possesses such direct simplicity that it can be prayed in truth by men of all times and conditions” (ccc, 2588). As we read and reread the Psalms, we learn the language of prayer. God the Father, indeed, with his Spirit, inspired them in the heart of King David and others who prayed, in order to teach every man and woman how to praise him, how to thank him and supplicate him; how to invoke him in joy and in suffering, and how to recount the wonders of his works and of his Law. In short, the Psalms are the Word of God that we human beings use to speak with him.

In this book we do not encounter ethereal people, abstract people, those who confuse prayer with an aesthetic or alienating experience. They spring from lived existence. In the Psalms we hear the voices of men and women in flesh and blood, whose life, like that of us all, is fraught with problems, hardships and uncertainties. In the Psalms, however, suffering is transformed into a question. And among the many questions, there is one that remains suspended, like an incessant cry that runs throughout the entire book from beginning to end. A question that we repeat many times: “Until when, Lord?” Every suffering calls for liberation, every tear calls for consolation, every wound awaits healing, every slander a sentence of absolution. “Until when, Lord, will I have to suffer this? Listen to me, Lord!”

By constantly asking such questions, the Psalms teach us not to get used to pain, and remind us that life is not saved unless it is healed. The existence of each human being is fleeting, but the prayerful know that they are precious in the eyes of God, and so it makes sense to cry out. And this is important. It is the grace of the Holy Spirit that, from within, inspires in us this awareness: of being precious in the eyes of God. And this is why we are moved to pray. The prayer of the Psalms is the testimony of this cry: a multiple cry, because in life suffering takes a thousand forms, and takes the name of sickness, hatred, war, persecution, distrust... Until the supreme “scandal”, that of death.

The prayer of the Psalms asks God to intervene where all human efforts are in vain. Everyone suffers in this world: whether they believe in God or reject Him. But in the Psalter, pain becomes a relationship: a cry for help waiting to intercept a listening ear.

All human suffering is sacred to God. So prays the prayer of Psalm 56: “Thou hast kept count of my tossings; put thou my tears in thy bottle! Are they not in thy book?” (v. 8). Before God we are not strangers, or numbers. We are faces and hearts, known one by one, by name. In the Psalms, the believer finds an answer. He knows that even if all human doors were barred, God’s door is open. Even if the whole world had issued a verdict of condemnation, there is salvation in God.

“The Lord listens”: sometimes in prayer it is enough to know this. Problems are not always solved. Those who pray are not deluded: they know that many questions of life down here remain unresolved, with no way out; suffering will accompany us and, after one battle, others will await us. But if we are listened to, everything becomes more bearable.

It is good for me, in difficult moments, to think of Jesus weeping. God has wept for me, God weeps, He weeps over our suffering. To think that Jesus weeps with me in suffering is a consolation: it helps us to keep going. If we maintain our relationship with Him, life does not spare us suffering, but it will open up to a great horizon of goodness and set out towards its fulfilment. Take courage, persevere in prayer. Jesus is always by our side

*Extract from Pope Francis’ Catechesis on Prayer,  
For the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time in the Year of Prayer*

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>	9.30am 6.00pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Youth Choir sing at Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>TUE 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>	4.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
<b>THU 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	2.00pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Warm Space - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	11.15am	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SUN 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>	9.30am	Coffee Morning - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	<b>Our Lady Help of Christians</b>	<b>St John the Evangelist</b>	<b>St John Fisher</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b> 27 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Kate Harrison (Ints.)	<b>6pm</b> Stanford McLoughlin RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 28 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY <i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Deacon Anthony Clark RIP <b>11am</b> Diane Quinn RIP <b>6pm</b> Michael Dockery RIP	<b>10.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>MONDAY</b> 29 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 30 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the Parishes		<b>9.30am</b> Fr Stuart Gullan-Steel RIP
<b>WED 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY</b> <i>ST JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST</i>	<b>9.30am</b> For staff and pupils of St John's School	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the Parishes	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY	<b>9.30am</b> For vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life		
<b>FRI 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY</b> <i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Brian McGloin RIP		
<b>SAT 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY</b> <i>SS LAURENCE, DUNSTAN &amp; THEODORE</i>	<b>9.30am</b> For the Volunteers of the Parishes	<b>6pm</b> Stuart Taperell RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 4 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Joe Grove RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Santoshi & Anouki Alles (Ints.) <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> Michael Dixon RIP	<b>9am</b> For the Volunteers of the Parishes
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week both our Our Lady's and Blessed Sacrament Lamps burn in memory of Tim.		

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

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### **MICHAEL RYAN RIP**

The funeral of Michael Ryan will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, followed by committal at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

### **PETITIONS TO LOURDES**

As part of his role as Acting Director for the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Fr Andrew will be in Lourdes from 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February on the International Pilgrimage Directors' Conference. If you would like him to drop off a petition of prayer at the grotto whilst he is there then please put it in an envelope marked 'Lourdes Petition' and drop it off at the Presbytery before Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

### **CANDLEMAS**

This coming Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. Mass on Friday will begin with the blessing of candles. Candles will be provided, but if you wish to bring your own, please feel free to do so.

### **FEAST OF ST BLAISE**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February is the Feast of St Blaise. Blessing of throats will take place at the end of Mass.

### **RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - 28<sup>th</sup> January**

The theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: "Seeing one another in the life of the Church". This year's resources can be found at [www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday)

It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. This year we are celebrating the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives. Our Catholic saints walked in this world as we do and were men and women of heroic virtue that can intercede for us to bring our prayers to the Lord.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY (14<sup>th</sup> February)**

This year we would once again like to prepare our own ash from last year's palms (or palms from any previous year should you have them!). Please hunt around at home for them and bring them to the sacristy after Mass by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February so they can be burned and used on Ash Wednesday. Thank you!

### **KAIROS ONLINE PRAYER GROUP**

Will meet at 7.30 pm on the last Tuesday of every month. The first online Prayer Group for 2024 will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. For more information or to join the online Prayer Group then please contact Anne Lorrimer-Roberts ([anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)) or Paul Forrest ([pga.forrest@btinternet.com](mailto:pga.forrest@btinternet.com)).

### **RICKMANSWORTH CHURCH AND HALL BOILERS**

The church and hall boilers have both been declared unsafe to be used. Please wrap up warmly as it may be a while before new boilers are installed.

### **FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

Will meet at 2.15pm on the following Wednesdays: 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March. These meetings will be following a DVD reflecting on The Nicene Creed.

### **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 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.

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### **ANNUAL MASS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at Westminster Cathedral, during which anointing of the sick will be offered. If you would like to attend then please contact the parish office to register for a ticket.

### **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.

### **PRAYING WITH ST TERESA OF AVILA**

Immerse yourself in the life and spirituality of the much-loved Carmelite saint, Teresa of Avila, over a weekend set in the beautiful Stonyhurst estate. The retreat will be preached by Fr Matthew Blake, OCD and runs from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/praying-with-saint-teresa/> to book and for more information.

### **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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass this Sunday for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will also be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

### STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions. £20 has been raised from the recent collection 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 the 10.30am Mass each Sunday. Do please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

### 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

### MISSIO/RED BOX HOLDERS

Please could you collect a Gift Aid form from Mary at the back of Church today and then return it as soon as possible. Apparently ours are out of date and the MISSIO office need renewed ones to collect the extra 25%. Thank you very much, Mary 284975.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 7.30pm Annual Parishes Meeting (via Zoom)  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April Week of Guided Prayer  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May – 12pm Marian Procession at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 12pm – New Parishioners Lunch