



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

Assistant Priest:

Fr Matteo Di Giuseppe
matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Paul Matarewicz

p.matarewicz@gmail.com

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts

anne@themessagemachine.com

Geraldine Page

geraldine.page21@gmail.com

Paul Forrest

pga.forrest@btinternet.com

Richard Booth

boothrm1925@gmail.com

Address for all correspondence:

5 Park Road, Rickmansworth

WD3 1HU

Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841

rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747

millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337

chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) - 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

In this catechesis, I would like to reflect on contemplative prayer. The contemplative dimension of the human being — which is not yet contemplative prayer — is a bit like the “salt” of life: it gives flavour, it seasons our day. We can contemplate by gazing at the sun that rises in the morning, or at the trees that deck themselves out in spring green; we can contemplate by listening to music or to the sounds of the birds, reading a book, gazing at a work of art or at that masterpiece that is the human face.... When Carlo Maria Martini was sent to be Bishop of Milan, he entitled his first Pastoral Letter *The contemplative dimension of life*: the truth is that those who live in a large city, where everything is artificial and where everything is functional, risk losing the capacity to contemplate. First of all, to contemplate is not a way of doing, but a way of being.

And being contemplative does not depend on the eyes, but on the heart. And here prayer enters into play as an act of faith and love, as the “breath” of our relationship with God. Prayer purifies the heart, and, with it, it also sharpens our gaze, allowing it to grasp reality from another point of view. The Catechism describes this transformation of the heart, which prayer effects, by citing a famous testimony of the Holy Curé of Ars who said this: “*Contemplation is a gaze of faith, fixed on Jesus. ‘I look at him and he looks at me’: this is what a certain peasant of Ars in the time of his holy curé used to say while praying before the tabernacle*” (Catechism, 2715). Everything comes from this: from a heart that feels that it is looked on with love. Then reality is contemplated with different eyes.

“*I look at him and he looks at me!*”. It is like this: loving contemplation, typical of the most intimate prayer, does not need many words. A gaze is enough. It is enough to be convinced that our life is surrounded by an immense and faithful love that nothing can ever separate us from.

Jesus was a master of this gaze. His life never lacked the time, space, silence, the loving communion that allows one’s existence not to be devastated by the inevitable trials, but to maintain beauty intact. His secret was his relationship with his heavenly Father.

Let us think about the Transfiguration. The Gospels place this episode at the critical point of Jesus’ mission when opposition and rejection were mounting all around him. Even among his disciples, many did not understand him and left him. Jesus began to speak openly of the suffering and death that awaited him in Jerusalem. It is in this context that Jesus climbs up a high mountain with Peter, James and John. The Gospel of Mark says: “*He was transfigured before them, and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them*” (9:2-3). Right at the moment in which Jesus is not understood, is where a divine light shines. It is the light of the Father’s love that fills the Son’s heart and transfigures his entire Person.

Some spiritual masters of the past understood contemplation as opposed to action, and exalted those vocations that flee from the world and its problems to dedicate themselves entirely to prayer. In reality, in Jesus Christ, in his person and in the Gospel, there is no opposition between contemplation and action.

There is only one great call in the Gospel, and it is that of following Jesus on the way of love. In this sense, charity and contemplation are synonymous; they say the same thing. Saint John of the Cross believed that a small act of pure love is more useful to the Church than all the other works combined. What is born of prayer and not from the presumption of our ego, what is purified by humility, even if it is a hidden and silent act of love, is the greatest miracle that a Christian can perform. And this is the path of contemplative prayer: I look at him and he looks at me. This act of love in silent dialogue with Jesus does so much good for the Church.

*Extract from Pope Francis’ Catechesis on Prayer,
For the 2nd Sunday of Lent in the Year of Prayer*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 25TH FEBRUARY	9.30am 6.00pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Youth Choir sing at Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
TUES 27TH FEBRUARY	4.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
THU 29TH FEBRUARY	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
FRI 1ST MARCH	2.00pm 7.00pm	World Day of Prayer Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SAT 2ND MARCH	11.15am	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 3RD MARCH	9.30am 10.30am	Coffee Morning - Hall Children's Liturgy	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 24 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Deacon Stephen Pickard RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 25 TH FEBRUARY <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am Phoebe's first baby 6pm Janet Goodair RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Margaret Wheeldon RIP
MONDAY 26 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Holy Souls		
TUESDAY 27 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Michael Langton RIP		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the Parishes
WEDNESDAY 28 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Sergio Coco RIP	9.30am For peace in the Holy Land	
THURSDAY 29 TH FEBRUARY	11.00am Funeral - Marguerite Watkins RIP		
FRIDAY 1ST MARCH <i>ST DAVID, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Special Intention		
SATURDAY 2 ND MARCH	9.30am Deacon Stephen Pickard RIP	6pm Tom Cuff RIP	
SUNDAY 3 RD MARCH <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) 11am For Peace in the Holy Land 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Patrick Conway RIP (Anniv.)	9am Reverend Richard Moroney RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS		This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for the intentions of C.B.	

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, Antoinette Moss and Rita Sadler

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

MARGUERITE WATKINS RIP

The funeral of Marguerite Watkins will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Thursday 29th February, followed by committal at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND

Cardinal Nichols has requested that on Friday 8th March there is a special focus of prayer for peace in the Holy Land across the diocese. There will be a Holy Hour for this intention at Our Lady's Church, Rickmansworth from 10-11am on Friday 8th March. Please do make a special effort to join this time of prayer either in person or in some other way on that day.

PLANNED GIVING APPEAL

Over the coming weeks across our parishes we will be having a Planned Giving Campaign. This is a chance for all of us to review our commitment to our parish in supporting the mission of the Church with the time, talents and financial blessings that God has given us. Over these weeks we ask that all parishioners prayerfully reflect on the information we share with you, so we can live out our calling as stewards of our parishes and ensure the Catholic faith continues to grow in Rickmansworth, Mill End and Chorleywood in the years ahead. We thank you for your support.

ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING

Thank you to all those who attended our annual parishes meeting. Copies of the reports are on the website for anyone who missed the meeting <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/about-the-parish/annual-general-meeting/>

If you have any questions please do ask Fr Andrew.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will once again circulate around the three parishes on a Friday at 7.00pm as follows: St John the Evangelist, Mill End: 1st March, 22nd March; Our Lady's, Rickmansworth: 8th March, 29th March; St John Fisher, Chorleywood: 15th March. The devotions will be led by parishioners. We hope that many parishioners from across the three parishes will come and join us for this important aspect of our Lenten spirituality

PARISH CELL GROUPS

Over the coming months we are planning to set up some small groups who will meet every 2 weeks for a time of formation, prayer and fellowship. These groups are designed to meet in people's homes and be led by a facilitator to keep the meetings focused on a particular topic. If you would be interested in hosting or leading a group, or would just like to find out more, please email Beatrix on chessvalleycellgroups@gmail.com or leave your details at the parish office and she will be in touch with you.

KAIROS ONLINE PRAYER GROUP

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

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Will meet at 2.15pm on Wednesday 6th & 20th March. These meetings will be following a DVD reflecting on The Nicene Creed.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY (FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY) – LENT APPEAL

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk. To find out about volunteering opportunities with CAFOD visit [Volunteer\(cafod.org.uk\)](http://Volunteer(cafod.org.uk))

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

The WDP service for 2024 has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine, with the theme, 'I beg you, bear with one another in love.' The service for the Rickmansworth area will take place at 2.00pm on Friday 1st March at Our Lady Help of Christians, and will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome to attend, and we encourage parishioners to support this short service which is an opportunity to meet with our local Christian communities in a spirit of prayerful and convivial fellowship. If anyone needs a lift, please contact Geraldine (07725 748490) or Cristina (07470 266284).

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries such as 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+. If you are celebrating a significant anniversary, please give the parish office the following details before 15th April: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

RESONATE

A series of 8 theological talks on the Our Father for young adults 18+, taking place at Vaughan House, London Victoria every month in preparation for the Jubilee Year. The sessions begin on 28 February 2024. Please sign up to attend by visiting youth.rcdow.org.uk/events, or for more information email youth@rcdow.org.uk.

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 8th to Sunday 10th 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

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.

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 2pm 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

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, long-life orange juice and toilet rolls.**

A CAP (Christians Against Poverty) LIFE SKILLS TASTER SESSION

Will be held on Wednesday 6th March at 11am at Mill End Baptist Church WD3 7EL. Anyone interested in finding out about the course as a participant or referrer are most welcome to join. The course covers Managing Finances, Healthy Eating, Cooking on a Budget and Healthy Relationships over 8 weeks or smaller sections which are most relevant to the individual. There will be a free lunch following. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 25th February for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will also be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 3rd March. 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*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

A SIGN OF THANKS

The Staff and Pupils of St John's School are very grateful for the parish community allowing the school to use St John's Church regularly for their assemblies and other large gatherings as their school is redeveloped. As a sign of thanks, the School Council will be giving out cakes to parishioners after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 3rd March. Please do come and show your support to our primary school by taking advantage of this kind gesture!

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

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

LADIES MEETING

Ladies, please join us on Tuesday afternoon 12th March at 3.00pm in Mary Latimer's flat for refreshments and a chat. All are welcome. Ring Rosemary on 01923 282500 or Mary on 01923 284975 if you need directions.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 24th February 10am Readers Day of Recollection at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth
Saturday 9th March 10am Eucharistic Ministers Day of Recollection at St John the Evangelist, Mill End
Sunday 21st - Friday 26th April Week of Guided Prayer
Sunday 12th May 12pm Marian Procession at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth
Saturday 18th May 12pm New Parishioners Lunch
Saturday 18th May 6pm Youth Mass, St John the Evangelist, Mill End