



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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) - 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

THE PRAYER OF THE PSALMS

Today we complete the catechesis on the prayer of the Psalms. First of all, we see that a negative figure often appears in the Psalms, that of the “wicked” person, he or she who lives as if God were not there. This is the person without any transcendent reference, whose arrogance has no limits, who fears no judgment regarding what he or she thinks or does.

For this reason, the Psalter presents prayer as the fundamental reality of life. The reference to the absolute and to the transcendent — which the spiritual masters call the “holy fear of God” — is what makes us completely human, it is the boundary that saves us from ourselves, preventing us from venturing into life in a predatory and voracious manner. Prayer is the salvation of the human being.

There certainly also exists a false prayer, prayer that is said only for the admiration of others. The person or persons who go to Mass only to show that they are Catholics or to show off the latest fashion they bought, or to make a good impression in society. They move toward false prayer. Jesus strongly admonished against such prayer (cf. Mt 6:5-6; Lk 9:14). But when the true spirit of prayer is sincerely received and enters the heart, it then lets us contemplate reality with God’s very eyes.

When one prays, everything acquires “depth”. This is interesting in prayer, perhaps something subtle begins but in prayer that thing acquires depth, it becomes weighty, as if God takes it in hand and transforms it. The worst service someone can give God and also mankind is to pray wearily, by rote. To pray like parrots. No, we pray with the heart. Prayer is the centre of life. If there is prayer, even a brother, a sister, even an enemy becomes important. An old saying from the first Christian monks reads: *“Blessed the monk who regards every human being as God, after God”* (Evagrius Ponticus, Trattato sulla preghiera, n. 123). Those who adore God, love his children. Those who respect God, respect human beings.

And so, prayer is not a sedative to alleviate life’s anxieties; or, in any case, this type of prayer is certainly not Christian. Rather, prayer makes each of us responsible. We see this clearly in the “Our Father” that Jesus taught his disciples.

To learn how to pray this way, the Psalter is a tremendous school. We saw how the Psalms do not always use refined and genteel language, and that they often bear the scars of existence. And yet, all these prayers were first used in the Temple of Jerusalem and then in the synagogues; even the most intimate and personal ones. The Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it this way: *“The Psalter’s many forms of prayer take shape both in the liturgy of the Temple and in the human heart”* (n. 2588). And thus, personal prayer draws from and is nourished first by the prayer of the people of Israel, then by the prayer of the Church.

Even the Psalms in the first person singular, which confide the most intimate thoughts and problems of an individual, are a collective heritage, to the point of being prayed by everyone and for everyone. The prayer of Christians has this “breath”, this spiritual “tension” that holds the temple and the world together. Prayer can begin in the half light of a church’s nave, but then come to an end on the city streets. And vice versa, it can blossom during the day’s activities and reach its fulfilment in the liturgy. The church doors are not barriers, but permeable “membranes”, willing to receive everyone’s cry.

The world is always present in the Psalter’s prayer. The Psalms, for example, voice the divine promise of salvation for the weakest... they warn about the danger of worldly riches... they open the horizon to God’s gaze over history. In short, where there is God, the human person must be there too. Sacred Scripture is categorical: We love because he loved us first.

Dear brothers and sisters, the prayers of the Psalms help us not to fall into the temptation of the “wicked”, that is, of living, and perhaps also of praying, as if God does not exist, and as if the poor do not exist.

*Extract from Pope Francis’ Catechesis on Prayer,
For the 6th Week of Ordinary Time in the Year of Prayer*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 11TH FEBRUARY	10.30am 10.30am	Youth Choir sings at Mass Children's Liturgy	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
TUE 13TH FEBRUARY	4.30pm 6.30pm	Youth Choir Youth Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 15TH 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 16TH FEBRUARY	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 17TH FEBRUARY	11.00am	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 18TH FEBRUARY	11.00am	First Holy Communions	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 10TH FEBRUARY <i>St SCHOLASTICA,</i> <i>VIRGIN</i>	9.30am For the Volunteers of the Parishes	6pm Lisa Gillespie (Ints.)	
SUNDAY 11 TH FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN</i> <i>ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Josie & Tony Westrop RIP 6pm Maeve Winters RIP	10.30am For the Volunteers of the Parishes	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 12 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Frances Cartlidge RIP		
TUESDAY 13 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For peace in the Holy Land		7pm Joyce Dowling RIP & Irene Foggo RIP
WED 14TH FEBRUARY <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	9.30am For the People of the Parishes 7pm For the People of the Parishes	11am For the People of the Parishes	
THURSDAY 15 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Holy Souls		
FRIDAY 16 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Ann Stark RIP		
SATURDAY 17 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the Parishes	6pm Rosa Azilli RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 18 TH FEBRUARY <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Sheila Sharp RIP (Anniv.) 11am Michael Townend RIP 6pm Bridie Stevenson RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Malcolm Stacey RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Michael Townend RIP (Blessed Sacrament) and for Patsy Gaskin RIP (Our Lady's)	This week our Blessed Sacrament Sanctuary Lamp burns for the intentions of A.C.	

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

SUPPLY PRIEST

On Sunday 11th February we welcome Fr Anthony Pellegrini who will be celebrating the 9.00am Mass in Chorleywood and the 11.00am Mass in Rickmansworth.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2024

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the solemn season of Lent, is on 14th February. Masses (with the imposition of ashes) across the three parishes will be as follows: 7.00pm Vigil (13th February) at St John Fisher, 11.00am at St John the Evangelist; 9.30am and 7.00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians. The 11.00am Mass at St John the Evangelist will also be attended by some members of staff and pupils from St John's School. **Creative Car Park will be turning off the camera at Our Lady's on Ash Wednesday, but if you do receive a PCN please let Kerry know and she will arrange for it to be cancelled.**

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: Our Lady's Rickmansworth: 16th February, 8th March, 29th March; St John Fisher, Chorleywood: 23rd February, 15th March; St John the Evangelist, Mill End: 1st March, 22nd 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

ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING

The APM this year will take place online via Zoom and will be a combined meeting across the parishes. It will take place on Wednesday 21st February at 7.30pm. All parishioners are encouraged to join us if possible to hear what is going on in our parishes. The details for the APM on Zoom are as follows: Meeting ID: 899 2181 5624 Passcode: 551968

YOUTH GROUP

Join us for a pancake, fun and games and meet up with friends on Tuesday 13th February 6.30pm - 8pm at Our Lady's hall (for those in secondary school). Parents/guardians please message Belinda 07788 721222 to let us know who is coming.

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).

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 the following Wednesdays: 21st February and 6th & 20th 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 Jaison 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.

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg

Easter is very early this year. However, as in previous years we are still planning to order some "Real Easter Eggs" – the only Easter egg which is both Fairtrade chocolate, supports charitable projects and has an Easter story in the box. They are no longer available in the shops so if you would like to order an egg for collection from Helen Nolan (near Tesco Express) or local delivery within Rickmansworth, please email helennolan@ntlworld.com or ring or message 01923 499523 / 07980 600549.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

EVANGELISING POST-CHRISTIAN BRITAIN

Talk at St. James's, Spanish Place W1U 3QY at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20th February. The talk will be given by Mgr James Shea, the co-author of the book *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*, which provides a perceptive analysis of the situation in which we find ourselves and offers practical suggestions as to how we best evangelise a post-Christian culture. This is open to all, and will be followed by Q&As and refreshments.

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 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.**

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

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Theresa Jubber (£41.25), Mark Kirwan (£24.75) and Caroline Edwards (£16.50).

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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 21st February 7.30pm Annual Parishes Meeting (via Zoom)
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