



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

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 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:

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Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir

Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD 31ST MARCH 2024

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In Luke's Gospel we hear that ten lepers approached Jesus, begging: "*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!*" (17:13). We know that those who had leprosy suffered not only physically, but also from social marginalization and religious marginalization. Jesus did not back off from meeting them. Jesus invited them to present themselves to the priests, who were designated by law to certify any healings that had occurred. Jesus said nothing else. He listened to their prayer, he heard their cry for mercy, and he sent them immediately to the priests.

Those 10 lepers trusted, they did not remain there until they were cured: they trusted and they went immediately, and while they were on their way, all 10 of them were cured. But here is the most important point: only one in the group, before going to the priests, returned to thank Jesus and to praise God for the grace received. The other nine continued on their way. And Jesus points out that that man was a Samaritan. Jesus comments: "*Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?*" (17:18).

This narrative, divides us in two: those who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those who welcome everything as a gift, as grace. The Catechism says: "*every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving*" (n. 2638). The prayer of thanksgiving always begins from the recognition that grace precedes us. We were thought of before we learned how to think; we were loved before we learned how to love; we were desired before our hearts conceived a desire. If we view life like this, then "thank you" becomes the driving force of our day. And how often we even forget to say, "thank you".

For us Christians, thanksgiving was the name given to the most essential Sacrament there is: the Eucharist. The Greek word means precisely this: thanksgiving. Christians, as all believers, bless God for the gift of life. All of us are born because someone wanted us to have life. And this is only the first of a long series of debts of gratitude that we incur by living. During our lives, more than one person has gazed on us with pure eyes, gratuitously. Often, these people are educators, catechists, persons who carried out their roles above and beyond what was required of them. And they stirred gratitude within us. Even friendship is a gift for which we should always be grateful.

This "thank you" that we must say continually, grows in the encounter with Jesus. The Gospels attest that when Jesus passed by, he often stirred joy and praise to God in those who met Him. And we too were called to participate in this immense jubilation. Naturally, the ten lepers were all happy about having recovered their health, ending their exclusion from the community. But among them, there was one who experienced an additional joy: in addition to being healed, he rejoices at the encounter with Jesus. He is not only freed from evil, but he now possesses the certainty of being loved. This is the crux: when you thank someone, you express the certainty that you are loved. It is the discovery that we are no longer vagabonds wandering aimlessly, no: we have a home, we dwell in Christ, and from that "dwelling" we contemplate the rest of the world which appears infinitely more beautiful to us. We are children of love. We are men and women of grace.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us seek to remain always in the joy of the encounter with Jesus. Let us cultivate joyfulness. The devil, after having deluded us always leaves us sad and alone. If we are in Christ, there is no sin and no threat that can ever prevent us from continuing our journey with joy, along with many fellow travel companions.

Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope. The world needs hope. And with this attitude of thanksgiving, we transmit a bit of hope. The path to happiness is the one that Saint Paul described at the end of one of his letters: "*Pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit*" (1 Thess 5:17-19).

*Extract from Pope Francis' Catechesis on Prayer,
For Easter Sunday in the Year of Prayer*

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 30TH MARCH <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>	NO MORNING MASS 8.30pm For the People of the Parishes	NO MASS TODAY	8.30pm For the People of the Parishes
SUNDAY 31ST MARCH <i>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Fr Michael Daley RIP 11am Sergio Coco RIP NO EVENING MASS	10.30am Sandy Adams (Ints.-get well soon)	9am Fr Jim Brand RIP (11 th Anniv.)
MONDAY 1ST APRIL	10am Fr Michael Daley RIP		
TUESDAY 2ND APRIL	10am For peace in the Holy Land		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL	10am Genie Buscarini RIP	NO MASS TODAY	
THU 4TH APRIL	10am For Vocations to the Priesthood		
FRIDAY 5TH APRIL	10am Fr Michael Daley RIP		
SATURDAY 6TH APRIL	10am In Thanksgiving	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 7TH APRIL <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Fr Michael Daley RIP 11am John Reid RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for the intentions of Denise & Stuart		
MONDAY 8TH APRIL <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am Holy Souls		
TUESDAY 9TH APRIL	NO MASS TODAY		11am Funeral - Kitty Finucane RIP
WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	
THU 11TH APRIL <i>St STANISLAUS, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Barrie Pride RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 12TH APRIL	9.30am For peace in the Holy Land		
SATURDAY 13TH APRIL	9.30am Diane Quinn RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 14TH APRIL <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Tess & Jim Logan RIP (Anniv.) 11am For the People of the Parishes 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am For the People of the Parishes

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, Jennifer Tanburn, Mark & Janet Kirwan 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, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Ann & Martin Penn, Pam Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris, Derek Treanor and Edith Moid

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all those who have contributed to the liturgies that have taken place during Holy Week. It is once again a great reminder to us that in order for a parish to flourish, we need volunteers willing to give their time and use their gifts for Christ's mission. A special thank you to our sacristans, our musicians and readers, our welcomers and ministers of Holy Communion, our flower group, our Altar Servers, our cleaners, and to everyone else who has helped us over the past week.

WELCOME

On Sunday 7th April we welcome Fr Anthony Pellegrini who will be celebrating the 9.00am Mass in Chorleywood and the 11.00am Mass in Rickmansworth.

CATHERINE (KITTY) FINUCANE RIP

The funeral of Kitty Finucane will take place at St John Fisher on Tuesday 9th April at 11.00am, 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. *Please note that the parking restriction on Shire Lane (single yellow line) has been lifted from 9am to 12 noon that day.*

CLAIRE McCARTHY RIP

The funeral of Claire McCarthy will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Wednesday 17th April at 11.00am, followed by committal at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

DIANE QUINN RIP

The ashes of Diane Quinn RIP will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 9.30am Mass on Saturday 13th April.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES are available for collection from the sacristy this weekend.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN RICKMANSWORTH AND MILL END

Churches together in Rickmansworth and Mill End will be welcoming the resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday with a dawn service at 5.45am in the King George V Car Park opposite the William Penn Leisure Centre. All are welcome!

OUR LADY'S CAR PARK - HOLY WEEK

Please note the car park camera will be switched off on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday - it will be turned off as usual on Easter Sunday. If you do receive a PCN for one of these days, please do not pay it but contact Kerry at the parish office who will forward it to Creative for cancellation.

EASTER OFFERING

The offering at the Easter Masses is your personal gift to your priests. The Easter and Christmas 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 an Easter offering, you can do so via BACS, or through the parish websites using the Donate tab. Please reference this as 'Easter Offering'. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Easter Offering. Thank you.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME

A reminder that the clocks go forward an hour in the early hours of Easter Sunday morning (31st March).

PARISH NEWSLETTER - there will be no newsletter next weekend

THREE PARISHES' WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER, 21ST - 26TH APRIL

Further details of this wonderful week in the life of the parish are in the **Booking Form Leaflet**, copies of which are available from the Church Porch in each of the three parishes. It will be run by a team from the Jesuit Institute, one of whom will guide you individually each day, some in person at Our Lady's and others on Zoom depending on your preference. There will also be three evening workshops for all, one in each of the three parishes, during the week. These will cover aspects of Ignatian spirituality. For queries please contact **Margaret Burke** on mm.burke@doctors.org.uk, **07808 610789**.

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.

ALTAR SERVERS

There will soon be training for anyone who like to join our team of Altar Servers. If your child is interested in joining this important ministry please contact the parish office for a registration form and further details. New servers must have received their First Holy Communion before they can begin this ministry.

SUMMARY OF THE PARISH ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

Copies of the summary of the Parish Annual Financial Review are available in the porch. Parishioners are invited to take a copy home with them.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY VACANCY

The post of Catholic chaplain for West Herts NHS Hospital Trust is now being advertised after the recent departure of Theresa Taylor-Brookes. If interested please go to <https://findajob.dwp.gov.uk/details/14158316>

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).

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

KAIROS ONLINE PRAYER GROUP

Will meet at 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of every month. 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).

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.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

Chess Valley SVP will host their Community lunch every 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.30pm. This is now in the Church Hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End. We look forward to welcoming our regular guests and parishioners from across the three parishes. If you know of someone who would benefit from this please let them know. We hope you can join us.

WARM WINTER SPACE

Chess Valley SVP are once again 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.**

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) with the names of each of your family, the children's ages and a contact phone number.

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

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us for our coffee morning in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 7th April. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions. £25 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.

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.

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

Very many thanks to you all who contributed to the March quarterly collection for our hardworking Priests, Nuns and Lay People who face such challenging times. Our total for March has amounted to £160.13. New contributors always warmly welcomed. Thanks again, Mary 284975

UPCOMING EVENTS

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