



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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Mill End Parish
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Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

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Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir Director
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) - 10TH MARCH 2024

THE PRAYER OF THE NASCENT CHURCH

The Church's first steps in the world were interspersed with prayer. The apostolic writings and the Acts of the Apostles give us the image of a Church on the move, an active Church which, however, finds the basis and impulse for missionary action while gathered in prayer. The image of the early Community of Jerusalem is the point of reference for every other Christian experience. Luke writes in the Book of Acts: *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers"* (2:42).

We find here four essential characteristics of ecclesial life: listening to the apostles' teaching, first; second, the safeguarding of mutual communion; third, the breaking of the bread; and fourth, prayer. They remind us that the Church's existence has meaning if it remains firmly united to Christ. Preaching and catechesis bear witness to the words and actions of the Teacher; the constant quest for fraternal communion shields us from selfishness and particularisms; the breaking of the bread fulfils the sacrament of Jesus' presence among us. And lastly, prayer, which is the space of dialogue with the Father, through Christ in the Holy Spirit.

Everything in the Church that grows outside of these "coordinates" lacks a foundation. To discern a situation, we need to ask ourselves: in this situation, how are these four coordinates present. It is God who creates the Church, not the clamour of works. The Church is not a market; the Church is not a group of business people who go forward with a new business. The Church is the work of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent to us to gather us together. And everything that grows outside of these coordinates lacks a foundation, it is like a house built upon sand (cf. Mt 7:24-27).

At times, I feel tremendous sadness when I see a community that has good will, but takes the wrong path because it thinks that the Church is built up in meetings, as if it were a political party: the majority, the minority, what does this one think, that one, the other. I ask myself: where is the Holy Spirit there? Where is prayer? Where is communitarian love? Where is the Eucharist? Without these four coordinates, the Church becomes a human society, a political party, changes are made as if it were a company. But the Holy Spirit is not there. Let us never forget Benedict XVI's words: *"The Church does not grow through proselytizing, she grows by attraction"*. If the Holy Spirit — who is the one who attracts [people] to Jesus — is lacking, the Church is not there. There might be a beautiful friendship club, with good intentions, but not the Church.

In reading the Acts of the Apostles we then discover what a powerful driving force of evangelization the prayer gatherings can be, where those who participate actually experience Jesus' presence and are touched by the Spirit. The members of the first community sensed that the narrative of the encounter with Jesus did not stop at the moment of the Ascension, but continued in their life. In recounting what the Lord said and did — listening to the Word — in praying to enter into communion with him, everything became alive.

The Catechism says this: *"The Holy Spirit ... keeps the memory of Christ alive in his Church at prayer, also leads her toward the fullness of truth, to the whole truth, and inspires new formulations expressing the unfathomable mystery of Christ at work in his Church's life, sacraments, and mission"* (n. 2625). In prayer, Christians immerse themselves in the mystery of God who loves each person, that God who desires the Gospel to be preached to everyone.

In this way the life of the early Church had the rhythm of a continuous succession of celebrations, convocations, times of both communitarian and personal prayer. And it is the Spirit who granted strength to the preachers who set out on the journey, and who, for love of Jesus, sailed the seas, faced dangers, subjected themselves to humiliation.

The Spirit inspires everything. And every Christian who is not afraid to devote time to prayer can make his or her own the words of the Apostle Paul: *"the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"* (Gal 2:20). And this prayer is the living flame of the Spirit that gives strength to witness and to mission.

Extract from Pope Francis' Catechesis on Prayer, For the 4th Sunday of Lent in the Year of Prayer

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 10TH MARCH	10.30am 10.30am	Children's Liturgy Youth Choir sing at Mass	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
TUES 12TH MARCH	4.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
THU 14TH MARCH	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 15TH MARCH	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John Fisher
SAT 16TH MARCH	9.30am	Gift Family Day - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 17TH MARCH	12.30pm	SVP Community Lunch - Hall	St John the Evangelist

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 9 TH MARCH	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am For the Volunteers of the Parishes 6pm Gemma Hill (Ints. - for a full recovery)	
SUNDAY 10 TH MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Anna Khurwal RIP (Anniv.) 11am James Roche RIP 6pm Deacon Steve Pickard RIP	10.30am Mary Viner RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 11 TH MARCH	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the Parishes		
TUESDAY 12 TH MARCH	9.30am Mary Walsh RIP (40 th Anniv.) 1pm Funeral - Anne Senior RIP		9.30am For Peace in the Holy Land
WEDNESDAY 13 TH MARCH	9.30am Private Intention (M.R.)	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the Parishes	
THURSDAY 14 TH MARCH	9.30am For Peace in the Holy Land		
FRIDAY 15 TH MARCH	9.30am For the Volunteers of our Parishes		
SATURDAY 16 TH MARCH	9.30am For our GIFT Families	6pm Olive Somers RIP	
SUNDAY 17 TH MARCH <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Frank Tiernan RIP 11am Bill Graham RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Edward Linney RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Eve Clark RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for a Private Intention (M.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

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We wish all mothers and grandmothers a wonderful Mothering Sunday. At the end of all the Masses this weekend there will be a special blessing for all the mothers and grandmothers present.

ANNE SENIOR RIP

The funeral of Anne Senior will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Tuesday 12th March at 1.00pm. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

THERESE ADDISON RIP

The funeral of Therese Addison will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Wednesday 20th March at 11.00am. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

GLADYS KERR RIP

The funeral of Gladys Kerr will take place at St John Fisher on Friday 22nd March at 11.30am, followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. 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 11am that day*

WEEKDAY MASS - as there is a funeral at St John Fisher, there will be no Mass at Our Lady's on Friday 22nd March.

WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER

Would you like the opportunity to develop your prayer life? Would you consider doing a **Scripture-based Week of Guided Prayer** - a retreat in the midst of your daily life - with your own Prayer Guide? Keep the week of 21st - 26th April free for this Three-Parishes event... and watch this space!

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group (for those in secondary school) is on Tuesday 19th March 6.30-8pm at Our Lady's Hall. Come and share some food and have fun with friends. Parents/guardians please email rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk to let us know who is coming.

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.

RIGHT TO LIFE

Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment. Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Take action: Postcards are available here today, please collect one and post it to your MP asking them to support this amendment!

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 Fisher, Chorleywood: 15th March; St John the Evangelist, Mill End: 22nd March and Our Lady's, Rickmansworth: 29th 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. 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 20th March. This meeting will be following a DVD reflecting on The Nicene Creed.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Spring Jumble Sale & Nearly New will be held on Saturday 16th March at 10.30am. Our **Book Sale** will be held on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Any donations of items can be brought to the Scout HQ behind Our Lady's Church on Thursday/Friday Evenings or collection can be arranged by telephoning – 246169 / 776035.

Current and Past Supporters are reminded that help is needed to run these events.

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).

CALLED TO LOVE

A new, unique retreat for singles, dating and engaged couples who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend with input, prayer, discussion and social, as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded others! Runs from Saturday 4th to Sunday 5th May, with the option of an night's stay on Friday. Visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/> to book and for more information

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

Chess Valley SVP will be resuming their Community lunch on Sunday March 17th 12.30pm and every 3rd Sunday of the month. This will now be 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 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.**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Judy Gordon (£40), Chris Doran (£24) and Annie Kent (£16).

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

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.

LADIES MEETING POSTPONED

The meeting on 12th March has been postponed. So sorry but Mary has to attend a funeral. Our meeting is now rearranged for Tuesday 19th March at 3pm at Mary's flat. Please ring if you need any further details - 284975.

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

Please could you let me have your red boxes or envelopes by 10th March, for the quarterly donation for our hard working Missionary Priests, Nuns and Lay Workers around the world. Please remember them all in your prayers, they often work in hard and dangerous conditions. Many thanks for the return of your Gift Aid forms and for your support. Love 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