



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 rickyyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (YEAR B) - 24TH MARCH 2024

THE PASCHAL PRAYER OF JESUS

We have recalled several times in this series of catecheses that prayer is one of the most evident characteristics of Jesus' life: Jesus prayed, and he prayed a lot. In the course of his mission, Jesus immersed himself in it because dialogue with the Father was the incandescent core of his entire existence.

The Gospels testify how Jesus' prayer became even more intense and deep at the hour of his passion and death. Those last hours lived by Jesus in Jerusalem are the heart of the Gospel, not only because the Evangelists reserve proportionally greater space to this narrative, but also because the event of his death and resurrection sheds light on the rest of Jesus' life. He was not a philanthropist who took care of human suffering and illness: he was and is much more. In him there is not only goodness: there is salvation, and not an episodic salvation — the type that might save me from an illness or a moment of despair - but total salvation, messianic salvation, which gives hope in the definitive victory of life over death.

In the days of his last Passover, we thus find Jesus fully immersed in prayer.

He prays dramatically in the garden of Gethsemane, as we heard, assailed by mortal anguish. And yet, precisely in that moment, Jesus addresses God as "Abba", Father (cf. Mk 14: 36). This word, in Aramaic, which was Jesus' language, expresses intimacy, it expresses trust. Just as he feels the darkness gather around him, Jesus breaks through it with that little word: Abba, Father.

Jesus also prays on the cross, obscurely shrouded in God's silence. And yet once again the word "Father" emerges from his lips. It is the most ardent prayer, because on the cross, Jesus is the absolute intercessor. He prays for others. He prays for everyone, even for those who have condemned him. Everyone was against him or indifferent; only the criminal recognized the power. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). In the midst of the tragedy, in the excruciating pain of soul and body, Jesus prays with the words of the psalms; with the poor of the world, especially those forgotten by all. He pronounces the tragic words of Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?". He felt abandonment, and he prayed. On the cross is the fulfilment of the gift of the Father who offers love, that is, our salvation is fulfilled. And also, once, he calls Him "My God", "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit": everything is prayer in the three hours of the Cross.

Jesus therefore prays in the decisive hours of his passion and death. And with the resurrection, the Father will grant the prayer. Jesus' prayer is intense, Jesus' prayer is unique, and it also becomes the model for our prayer. Jesus prayed for everyone: He even prayed for me, for each one of you. Every one of you can say: "Jesus, on the cross, prayed for me". Even in the most painful of our suffering, we are never alone. Jesus' prayer is with us. He continues to pray so that his word may help us keep going forward.

And this seems to me the most beautiful thing to remember: to remember the grace that not only do we pray, but that, so to speak, we have been "prayed for". We have already been welcomed into Jesus' dialogue with the Father, in communion with the Holy Spirit. Jesus prays for me: each one of us can carry this in their heart. We must not forget this. Even in the worst moments. We are already welcomed into Jesus' dialogue with the Father, in communion of the Holy Spirit. We were willed by Christ Jesus, and even in the hour of his passion, death and resurrection, everything was offered for us. And so, with prayer and with life, all that remains is only to have courage and hope, and, to deeply feel Jesus' prayer and to keep on going: so that our life may be one of giving glory to God in the knowledge that he prays for me to the Father, that Jesus prays for me.

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

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 24TH MARCH	9.30am 10.30am	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Children's Liturgy - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
MON 25TH MARCH	10.00am - 11.00am 7.00pm - 8.00pm	Holy Hour and Confessions Holy Hour and Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
TUES 26TH MARCH	12 noon 4.30pm 7.30pm	Chrism Mass https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/spiritual-life/watch-a-mass/ Youth Choir Kairos	Westminster Cathedral St John the Evangelist <i>Via Zoom</i>
THU 28TH MARCH	2.00pm	Warm Space - Hall	St John the Evangelist
FRI 29TH MARCH	11.00am 7.00pm	Walk of Witness Stations of the Cross	Chorleywood Village Crossroads Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 23 RD MARCH	9.30am Martin & Nina Burke RIP	6pm John Reynolds RIP	
SUNDAY 24 TH MARCH <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Desmond Joseph Pierce (1 st Anniv.) (<i>beginning with blessing of Palms at Calvary Cross Garden</i>) 6pm Anthony Owen RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes (<i>beginning with blessing of Palms from top of Field Way</i>)	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 25 TH MARCH	9.30am Fr Michael Daley RIP		
TUESDAY 26 TH MARCH	NO MASS TODAY		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 27 TH MARCH	9.30am Sergio Coco RIP	9.30am Max McBrien RIP	
THURSDAY 28TH MARCH <i>THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (MAUNDY THURSDAY)</i>	NO MORNING MASS 8pm For the People of the Parishes	8pm For the People of the Parishes	
FRIDAY 29TH MARCH <i>FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)</i>	3pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord	10.30am Celebration of the Passion of the Lord	3pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
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 31 ST MARCH <i>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Fr Michael Daley RIP 11am For the People of the Parishes NO EVENING MASS	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Fr Jim Brand RIP (11 th Anniv.)
SANCTUARY LAMPS			This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for the intentions of the Fields Family

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

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.*

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is a day of abstinence and fasting. At the Good Friday Service, at all three parishes, there will be a retiring collection for the support of the holy places of our faith in the Holy Land.

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 on 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).

WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER — 21st - 26th APRIL

Our Week of Guided Prayer will be run by a team from the Jesuit Institute. One of them will guide you individually, some in person at Our Lady's and others on Zoom depending on your preference. Further details are in the booking form, available from the back of the Church. For queries contact Margaret Burke on mm.burke@doctors.org.uk 07808 610789.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will be at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth on 29th March at 7.00pm.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

The Group are always pleased to welcome young people, particularly those who attend the schools in our parishes, to join in with the variety of activities offered by the various sections, as well as encouraging adult volunteers to help us continue with this provision within the Parish and wider community. Further information please contact by email: info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk

DIOCESAN NOTICES

TRUSTEE'S SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Diocese of Westminster Trust Board are seeking to recruit four committed and energetic lay volunteers with relevant professional experience in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults to serve on the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee. The committee's role is to assist the Trust Board in the vital mission of ensuring the maintenance and further development of the diocesan culture and practice of safeguarding. Interested individuals are invited to send a current CV (which should include the details of two professional referees) and a statement outlining their relevant experience and suitability for the role to recruitment@rcdow.org.uk with 'Safeguarding Committee' in the email subject line. Applications close at noon on 15th April. Further details are available at: Safeguarding Committee – Lay Member – Diocese of Westminster Careers

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 19TH - 26TH JULY 2024

Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.

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

THE VEILING OF CROSSES AND STATUES

From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday the crosses and statues of our churches are veiled in purple cloths. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of "fasting" from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

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.**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 24th March for our SVP Coffee Morning.

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

ANNUAL WALK OF WITNESS

Please join us for the Good Friday Walk of Witness from the local Christian at the Crossroads of Lower Road and Shire Lane for a beautiful Service of prayer and hymns starting at 11am. This will be followed by teas, coffees and hot cross buns being served from about 11.45am at St John Fisher. If you would like to come along to help in the kitchen with us you would be very welcome. Please tell Mary 284975 or Juliet or Rosemary. Thank you.

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