



### 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](mailto:andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Matteo Di Giuseppe  
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#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

Paul Matarewicz

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 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

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#### Livestreaming:

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

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841  
[rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry

Leadership Team:  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir

Director [rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk)

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) - 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2024

### THE PRAYER OF MOSES

In our reflection on the theme of prayer, we are realizing that God never liked to deal with those who prayed the ‘easy’ way’. And Moses was not a ‘weak’ conversationalist either, from the very first day of his vocation. When God called him, Moses was, in human terms, ‘a failure’. The Book of Exodus portrays him in the land of Midian as a fugitive. As a young man he had felt compassion for his people, and had aligned himself in defence of the oppressed. But he soon discovered that, despite his good intentions, it was not justice, but violence that flowed from his hands. Thus his dreams of glory were shattered: he now grazed a flock that was not even his own. And it was precisely in the silence of the Midian desert that God summoned Moses to the revelation of the burning bush: “*I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*’. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God” (Ex 3:6).

Moses resists God who speaks, who invites him to take care of the people of Israel once more, with his fears and his objections: he is not worthy of that mission, he does not know God’s name, he will not be believed by the Israelites, he has a stammering tongue ... so many objections. The word that issues most frequently from Moses’ lips, in every prayer he addresses to God, is the question: ‘Why?’ Why have you sent me? Why do you want to free this people? Why?’

With these fears, how can Moses pray? And this happens to us too: when we have doubts, how can we pray? We do not feel like praying. And it is because of this, his weakness, as well as his strength, that we are impressed. Entrusted by God to transmit the Law to his people, Moses never forgets his people. And this is a great characteristic of pastors: not forgetting the people, not forgetting one’s roots. Moses is so friendly with God that he can speak with Him face to face (cf. Ex 33:11); and he will remain so friendly with the people that he feels mercy for their sins, for their temptations, for the sudden nostalgia that the exiles feel for the past, recalling when they were in Egypt.

Moses does not reject God, but nor does he reject his people. Moses is not an authoritarian and despotic leader; the Book of Numbers defines him rather as “*very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth*” (Num 12:3). Despite his privileged status, Moses never ceases to belong to the ranks of the poor in spirit who live by trusting in God as the viaticum of their journey. He is a man of his people.

Thus, the manner of prayer most proper to Moses is through intercession (cf. *Catechism*, 2574). His faith in God is completely at one with the sense of fatherhood he feels toward his people. Scripture habitually portrays him with his hands outstretched toward God, as if to form with his own person a bridge between heaven and earth. Even in the most difficult moments, even on the day when the people repudiate God and Moses himself as leader and make themselves a golden calf, Moses does not feel inclined to set his people aside. He does not reject God nor his people. And he says to God: “*this people have sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if thou wilt forgive their sin — and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written*” (Ex 32:31-32). He is the bridge; he is the intercessor.

And this is the prayer that true believers cultivate in their spiritual life. Even if they experience people’s shortcomings and their distance from God, these prayerful people do not condemn them, they do not reject them. The intercessory attitude is proper to the saints who, in imitation of Jesus, are ‘bridges’ between God and his people. Moses, in this sense, was the first great prophet of Jesus, our advocate and intercessor (cf. *Catechism*, 2577). And today, too, Jesus is the pontifex; he is the bridge between us and the Father. And Jesus intercedes for us; he shows the Father the wounds that are the price of our salvation, and he intercedes. And Moses is the figure of Jesus who today prays for us, intercedes for us.

*Extract from Pope Francis’ Catechesis on Prayer,  
For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent in the Year of Prayer*

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH</b>	9.30am 10.30am	Coffee Morning - Hall Children's Liturgy	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
<b>TUES 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	4.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
<b>WED 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THU 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	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
<b>FRI 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	10.00am	Day of Recollection for Ministers of Holy Communion - Hall	St John the Evangelist
<b>SUN 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	10.30am 10.30am	Children's Liturgy Youth Choir sing at Mass	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 2 <sup>ND</sup> MARCH	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the Parishes	<b>6pm</b> Tom Cuff RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 3 <sup>RD</sup> MARCH <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> For Peace in the Holy Land <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> Patrick Conway RIP (Anniv.)	<b>9am</b> Reverend Richard Moroney RIP
<b>MONDAY</b> 4 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	<b>9.30am</b> Private Intention		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	<b>9.30am</b> For the sick and housebound of the Parishes		<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 6 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 7 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	<b>9.30am</b> Anne McNamara RIP (Anniv.)		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 8 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	<b>9.30am</b> For Peace in the Holy Land		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 9 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	<b>9.30am</b> For the Volunteers of the Parishes <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 10 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Anna Khurwal RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> For the People of the Parishes <b>6pm</b> Deacon Steve Pickard RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Mary Viner RIP (Anniv.)	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns in thanksgiving for gifts and graces received	This week both our Sanctuary Lamps (Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's) burn for Mary & Reg Viner RIP	

### 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

### MASSES THIS WEEK

Fr Andrew is on his annual retreat until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March. There will be no 9.30am Mass in Chorleywood on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March and Rickmansworth on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Please note the Saturday morning Mass on 9<sup>th</sup> March will be at Mill End, and not at Rickmansworth.

### DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND

Cardinal Nichols has requested that on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April free for this Three-Parishes event... and watch this space!

### 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!

### 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: Our Lady's, Rickmansworth: 8<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> March; St John Fisher, Chorleywood: 15<sup>th</sup> March; St John the Evangelist, Mill End: 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)) or Paul Forrest ([pga.forrest@btinternet.com](mailto:pga.forrest@btinternet.com)).

### FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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

### 6<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk)

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

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

### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Pilgrimage will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Join the pilgrimage as a pilgrim. Serve the sick as a St Frai Helper (18+). Support the sick by sponsoring a St Frai helper to care for them on the pilgrimage and praying for our care team. For more information go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173.

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

Chess Valley SVP will be resuming their Community lunch on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm and every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 for our coffee morning in the hall after the 8.30am Mass this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Please do come and show your support to our primary school by taking advantage of this kind gesture!

### 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](mailto:liztownsenduk@gmail.com)

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### LADIES MEETING

Ladies, please join us on Tuesday afternoon 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

Please could you let me have your red boxes or envelopes by 10<sup>th</sup> 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 from Mary 284975

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> March 10am Eucharistic Ministers Day of Recollection at St John the Evangelist, Mill End

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April Week of Guided Prayer

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 12pm Marian Procession at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 12pm New Parishioners Lunch

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 6pm Youth Mass, St John the Evangelist, Mill End