



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:

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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

Mill End Parish

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Chorleywood Parish

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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 OF EASTER 28TH APRIL 2024

THE PRAYER OF PETITION

Christian prayer is fully human. Indeed, when Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he did so with the “Our Father”, so that we might place ourselves in a relationship of filial trust with God, and ask him all our questions. We implore God for the highest gifts: the sanctification of his name among men, the advent of his lordship, the fulfilment of his will for good in relation to the world. We also pray for the simplest everyday gifts, such as “daily bread” — which also means health, home, work, everyday things; and it also means the Eucharist, necessary for life in Christ; just as we pray for the forgiveness of sins; and then for peace in our relationships; and finally, that he help us during temptation and deliver us from evil.

To ask, to supplicate. This is very human. In the Catechism we read: “*By prayer of petition we express awareness of our relationship with God. We are creatures who are not our own beginning, not the masters of adversity, not our own last end. We are sinners who as Christians know that we have turned away from our Father. Our petition is already a turning back to him*” (no. 2629).

If one feels bad because he has done bad things, when he prays the “Our Father” he is already approaching the Lord. At times we may believe we do not need anything, that we are enough for ourselves, and that we live in complete self-sufficiency. But sooner or later this illusion vanishes. The soul resembles a dry, parched land, as Psalm 63 says. We all experience, at some time or another in our existence, a time of melancholy, or of loneliness. The Bible is not ashamed of showing our human condition, marked by disease, injustice, the betrayals of friends, or the threat of enemies. And in these situations, seemingly dead ends, there is only one way out: the cry “Lord, help me!”. Prayer opens up a sliver of light in the densest darkness.

We human beings share this invocation of help with the rest of creation. We are not the only ones “praying” in this boundless universe: every fragment of creation bears the desire for God. But we are the only ones who pray consciously, who know that we are addressing the Father, and entering into dialogue with the Father.

Therefore, we should not be shocked if we feel the need to pray. Many of us are ashamed to ask for help. One should not be ashamed to pray and to say: “Lord, I need this”: It is the cry of the heart to God who is the Father. And we have to learn to do so also in happy moments, to thank God for everything that is given to us, and not to take anything for granted or as if it were owed to us. The Lord always gives to us and everything is grace, everything. However, we must not suffocate the supplication that rises up in us spontaneously. Prayer of petition goes in step with acceptance of our limitations and our nature as creatures. One may even not reach the point of belief in God, but it is difficult not to believe in prayer: it simply exists; and we all know this inner voice that may remain silent for a long time, but one day awakens and cries out.

Brothers and sisters, we know that God will respond. God always answers: [it may be] today, tomorrow, but he always answers, in one way or another. The Bible repeats it countless times: God listens to the cry of those who invoke him. Even our reluctant questions, that we are ashamed to even express: the Father listens to them and wishes to give us the Holy Spirit, who inspires every prayer and transforms everything. It is always a question of patience, of withstanding the wait. Prayer is always in expectation, because we know that the Lord will answer.

Let us learn to remain in expectation of the Lord. The Lord comes to visit us in the intimacy of our heart if we are in waiting. And very often we do not realize that the Lord is nearby, that he knocks on our door, and we let him pass by. Brothers and sisters, to be waiting: this is the prayer.

*Extract from Pope Francis’ Catechesis on Prayer,
5th Sunday of Easter in the Year of Prayer*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 28TH APRIL	9.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Children's Liturgy - Hall Youth Choir sings at Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUES 30TH APRIL	2.30pm 4.30pm	SJF Ladies Meeting Youth Choir	Ann & Martin's Home St John the Evangelist
WED 1ST MAY	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 2ND MAY	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 5TH MAY	9.30am 10.30am	Coffee Morning - Hall Children's Liturgy - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 27 TH APRIL	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes	6pm John & Mary Gibbs RIP	
SUNDAY 28 TH APRIL <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am John Reid RIP (Anniv.) 11am For the People of the Parishes 6pm Sr Bernard RIP	10.30am Fr Noel Keane RIP	9am Bridget Sharkey RIP
MONDAY 29 TH APRIL <i>ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Sergio Coco RIP		
TUESDAY 30 TH APRIL	9.30am Hugh Nolan RIP (1st Anniv.)		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 1 ST MAY	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Peter Cox RIP	
THU 2ND MAY <i>ST ATHANASIUS, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Ruth Thompson RIP		
FRIDAY 3 RD MAY <i>SS PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES</i>	9.30am Patsy Rees (Ints.)		
SATURDAY 4 TH MAY <i>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</i>	9.30am Fr David Williamson RIP	6pm Vincent Hurley RIP	
SUNDAY 5 TH MAY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Fr John Warnaby RIP 11am Kevin Egan (Ints.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Michael Fields RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns In Thanksgiving	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for a Private Intention (A.C.)	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for John Edwards RIP (20 th Anniv.)

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 and Antoinette Moss

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

NEW BISHOP

Please keep in your prayers Monsignor James Curry, currently Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victories Church, South Kensington, who it was announced this week will be ordained bishop in June and have the role of auxiliary bishop in Westminster Diocese.

WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER

Thank you to all those who helped and participated in the Week of Guided Prayer - please continue to pray for our retreatants and their guides as they return to their busy lives again. If you would like a copy of the handouts from the three evening sessions please email Margaret on mm.burke@doctors.org.uk

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS HANDOUTS

These are available in the Church porch and include an activity for our children as well as covering a different topic about the Mass for us to reflect on. Our thanks to Lizzie Quinn for producing these weekly handouts to help us grow in our faith together.

YOUNG ADULTS SOCIAL

After 6.00pm Mass in Rickmansworth on 2nd June, Sabrina and Ben will be heading to the Coach and Horses with the intention of bringing young adults from across the parishes together, to help get to know each other! Just a year out of university, we are looking to bring a taste of the young adult community between Catholic youth there to our parishes, giving opportunities beyond this to develop our faith together. Everyone 18+ is welcome to join us, and feel free to reach out to Ben on 07704 049263 via WhatsApp to get some more info, or we will be at Masses across the parishes over the next few weeks!

YOUTH MASS

Saturday 18th May 6.00pm at St John's Church, Mill End followed by a party in the Parish Centre. As part of this Mass we hope to form a group of those aged 11+ to lead the music (Praise and Worship in style) led by our Youth Choir Director Jaison. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument at this Mass, please contact Jaison (rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk) for further details.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

CAFOD'S SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL

Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.



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

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Will meet at 2.15pm on the following Wednesdays: 1st, 15th, 29th May; 12th, 26th June, 10th & 24th July.

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 (rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) with the names of each of your family, the children's ages and a contact phone number.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

SPONSOR A LOURDES WHEELCHAIR

The diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes is in need of new wheelchairs to transport the assisted pilgrims during the pilgrimage. Each wheelchair costs £139. If anyone would like to sponsor a wheelchair in memory of someone, then please contact Elizabeth Uwalaka in the Pilgrimage Office on: elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk or 0207 798 9173 for further details.

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 0207 798 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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

MILL END FOOD BANK

There is presently an acute shortage on the following items at the Food Bank; Tinned meat- e.g mince/casseroles/ham etc (already have lots of corned beef), tinned Vegetables, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, jam, tea. Non-food items needed; washing up liquid, laundry soap, hand soap – liquid or bars, shampoo. Please note that the food bank have lots of pasta and soup so these **are not needed**.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 28th April for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 5th May. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

BANK HOLIDAY BIG HELP OUT 6th MAY

We are once again in need of some assistance in clearing up the parish site and some basic works around the grounds to ensure it is ready for the summer, and invite parishioners to join us on that day from 9.30am-12pm as part of our investment in our own parish community. If you are ready and able to help then please contact Mike Quinn on Michael.Quinn@6thrickyseascouts.org.uk, so he can organise the day.

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.*
APF/RED BOX HOLDERS - the spring Magazines for APF/Red Box Holders are now available in the porch.

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

LADIES MEETING

The next Ladies Meeting will be at Ann and Martin's home on Tuesday 30th April at 2.30pm.

MARY'S GARAGE FOR THE CARDINAL HUME CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS

Mary's Garage is having another Open Day on Saturday 18th May for the Cardinal Hume Centre. Usual stuff!! Bring & Buy; ornaments; jewellery; Silent Auction; refreshments, etc. More later, love 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

Monday 6th May 9.30am Bank Holiday Big Help Out at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

Sunday 12th May 12pm Marian Procession at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth followed by Parish Picnic

Saturday 18th May 6pm Youth Mass, St John the Evangelist, Mill End

Sunday 2nd June 11.30am - Corpus Christi Procession at St John the Evangelist, Mill End followed by Parish Picnic