



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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Assistant Priest:

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 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

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Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 21ST APRIL 2024

PRAYER IN DAILY LIFE

Prayer always returns into daily life from the Liturgy: on the streets, in offices, on public transportation... And there it continues the dialogue with God: one who prays is like someone in love who always carries the beloved person in his or her heart wherever they go. Essentially, everything becomes a part of this dialogue with God: every joy becomes a reason for praise, every trial is an opportunity to ask for help. Prayer is always alive in our lives, like embers, even when the mouth does not speak. Every thought, even apparently "profane" ones, can be permeated by prayer. There is even a prayerful aspect in human intelligence; it is, in fact, a window peering into the mystery: this mystery does not have a disquieting or anxious face. Knowledge of Christ makes us confident that whatever our eyes and our minds' eyes cannot see, there is someone who is waiting for us; there is infinite grace. And thus, Christian prayer instils an invincible hope in the human heart: whatever experience may touch us on our journey, God's love can turn it into good.

In this regard, the Catechism reads: *"We learn to pray at certain moments by hearing the Word of the Lord and sharing in his Paschal Mystery, but his Spirit is offered us at all times, in the events of each day, to make prayer spring up from us... time is in the Father's hands; it is in the present that we encounter him, not yesterday nor tomorrow, but today"* (n. 2659).

There is no day more wonderful day than the one we are living. Those who live always thinking about the future but do not take each day as it comes are people who live in their fantasy, and do not know how to deal with concrete reality. Today is real, and prayer takes place today. And it is prayer that transforms this day into grace, or transforms us: it quells anger, sustains love, multiplies joy, instils the strength to forgive. Sometimes it will seem that it is no longer we who are living, but that grace lives and works in us through prayer. And when an angry, an unhappy thought comes to us, that moves us toward bitterness, let us stop ourselves and say to the Lord: *"Where are you? And where am I going?"* And the Lord is there, the Lord will give us the right word, the advice to go ahead without that bitter taste of negativity. For prayer is always positive. It will carry you forward. Each day that begins, if welcomed in prayer, is accompanied by courage, so that the problems we have to face no longer seem to be obstacles to our happiness, but rather appeals from God, opportunities for our encounter with him.

Thus, let us always pray for everything and for everyone. Jesus counselled us: *"Pray for your enemies"*. Let us pray for our dear ones, but also for those we do not know. Prayer inclines us toward a superabundant love. Let us pray above all for unhappy people, for those who weep in solitude and give up hope that there might still be someone who loves them. The prayer of a Christian makes Christ's compassion present. Indeed, he looked with great tenderness on the weary and lost crowd who were like sheep without a shepherd. The Lord is the Lord of compassion, of nearness, of tenderness.

Prayer helps us love others, despite their mistakes and their sins. The person is always more important than his or her actions, and Jesus did not judge the world, but saved it. The life of people who always judge others, is a horrible, unhappy life. Open your heart, forgive, give others the benefit of the doubt, understand, be close to others, be compassionate, be tender, like Jesus. We have to love each and every one, remembering in prayer that we are all sinners and at the same time loved individually by God. Loving the world in this way, loving it with tenderness, we will discover that each day and everything bears within it a fragment of God's mystery.

We are fragile beings, but we know how to pray: this is our greatest dignity and it is also our strength. Have courage. Pray in every moment, in every situation because the Lord is near us. And when a prayer is said according to Jesus' heart, it obtains miracles.

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

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 21ST APRIL	10.00am 12.30pm 4.00pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass SVP Community Lunch - Hall Week of Guided Prayer Opening Meeting - Hall	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 22ND APRIL	7.30pm - 8.45pm	WGP Talk - Exploring Prayer	St John Fisher
TUES 23RD APRIL	4.30pm 7.30pm - 8.45pm	Youth Choir WGP Talk - Deep Listening / intentional speaking - Hall	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
WED 24TH APRIL	7.30pm - 8.45pm	WGP Talk - Discernment - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 25TH APRIL	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 26TH APRIL	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Week of Guided Prayer Closing Meeting - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 27TH APRIL	11.15am	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians
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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 20 TH APRIL	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes	6pm Doreen Ive RIP	
SUNDAY 21 ST APRIL <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv.) 6pm John Connor RIP (4 th Anniv.)	10.30am George Robinson RIP	9am Mary, Hugh & Moira Anderson RIP
MONDAY 22 ND APRIL	9.30am Carol Batt RIP		
TUESDAY 23RD APRIL <i>ST GEORGE, MARTYR</i>	9.30am Paul McCarthy RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes
WED 24TH APRIL <i>SS ERKENWALD & MELLITUS</i>	9.30am Holy Souls	9.30am Paul McCarthy RIP	
THU 25TH APRIL <i>ST MARK, EVANGELIST</i>	9.30am Fr John Warnaby RIP		
FRIDAY 26 TH APRIL	9.30am For Vocations to the Priesthood		
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 Fr John Warnaby RIP 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Fr Noel Keane RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS			This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Mike Opie 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, 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

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS HANDOUTS

This week we launch a new initiative for our families with our Explaining the Mass sheets. 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

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Details of this one-week Retreat in Daily Life are on the Future Events page of our website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/future-events/>. It may be possible to join right up to the Sunday. There will also be three free evening workshops in each parish, for all parishioners, covering aspects of Ignatian spirituality (please note there has been a change of venue for two of the workshops). For further queries please contact **Margaret Burke** on mm.burke@doctors.org.uk, **07808 610789**. Please pray for our retreatants who start their week of guided prayer on Sunday afternoon.

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.

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 be training on the weekend of 27th / 28th April for anyone who would 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.

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 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.

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

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).

FUNDRAISING FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AT ST JOAN OF ARC

On Sunday 21st April, Jo McNaughton-Smith is running the London Marathon to raise money to fund a school trip or trips for low-income families at St Joan Of Arc, Rickmansworth. Please donate through JustGiving: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jo-mcnaughton-smith?utm_term=k3DKeBKR4



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**.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure. Currently the charity feeds over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education – by giving Mary's Meals your foreign currency you can help feed the next hungry child. Donations can be placed in the offertory collection in an envelope addressed to Mary's Meals, or put through the presbytery door. *We will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender

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.

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

TEA AND COFFEE will be served in the lounge after Mass today.

LADIES MEETING

The next Ladies Meeting has been put back a week owing to another funeral. It will still be at Ann and Martin's home but will now be on Tuesday 30th April at 2.30pm. Apologies from Mary

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 21st - Friday 26th April Week of Guided Prayer

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