



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

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Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:
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Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir
Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 14TH APRIL 2024

THE MYSTERY OF CREATION

Life, the simple fact that we exist, opens mankind's heart to prayer. The first page of the Bible resembles a great hymn of thanksgiving. The narrative of Creation has a rhythm with refrains, where the goodness and beauty of every living thing is continually emphasized. With his word, God calls to life, and everything comes into existence. With his word, he separates life from darkness, alternates day and night, interchanges the seasons, creates a variety of plants and animals. In this overflowing forest that quickly vanquishes the chaos, the last one to appear is man. And this appearance inspires an extreme exultation that amplifies his satisfaction and joy: "God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good" (Gen 1:31). Very good, but also beautiful: the beauty of all creation can be seen!

The beauty and mystery of Creation create in the human heart the first impulse that evokes prayer (cf. CCC, 2566). The eighth Psalm states: "When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?". The one praying contemplates the mystery of the life around him; he sees the starry sky that lies above him and asks himself what loving plan must there be behind such work! And, in this boundless expanse, what is man? 'Almost nothing', Psalm 89 states: a being that is born, a being that dies, an extremely fragile creature. Yet, in all the universe, the human being is the only creature aware of the great profusion of beauty.

Mankind's prayer is closely linked to the sentiment of wonder. The greatness of man is tiny when compared to the dimensions of the universe. However, man is not nothing. Nothing exists by chance: the relationship with God is man's greatness, his enthronement. By nature we are almost nothing, but by vocation, by calling, we are the children of the great King!

It is an experience that many of us have had. If life's events, with all their bitterness, sometimes risk choking the gift of prayer that is within us, it is enough to contemplate a starry sky, a sunset, a flower..., in order to rekindle a spark of thanksgiving. This experience is perhaps the basis of the first page of the Bible.

The people of Israel were not experiencing happy days when the great biblical narrative of Creation was written. An enemy power had occupied their land; many had been deported, and they now found themselves slaves in Mesopotamia. There was no more homeland, nor temple, nor social and religious life, nothing. Yet, precisely in starting from the great narrative of Creation, someone began to find reasons for thanksgiving, to praise God for his or her existence. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. Because people of prayer safeguard basic truths; they are the ones who repeat, first and foremost to themselves and then to all the others, that this life, despite all its toils and trials, despite its difficult days, is full of a grace that is awe inspiring. And as such it must always be defended and protected.

Men and women who pray know that hope is stronger than discouragement. They believe that love is more powerful than death, and that surely one day it will triumph, even in times and ways that we do not understand.

We are all bearers of joy. Have you considered this? That you are bearers of joy? Or do you prefer to bring bad news, things that sadden? This life is the gift that God gave us; and it is too short to consume it in sadness, in bitterness. Let us praise God, happy to simply exist. Let us look at the universe, let us look at beauty and let us also look at our crosses and say: 'You exist, you made us like this, for you'. It is necessary to feel that unrest of the heart that leads to thanking and praising God. We are children of the great King, of the Creator, capable of reading his signature in all of Creation made out of love. May the Lord make us understand this ever more deeply and lead us to say "thank you".

*Extract from Pope Francis' Catechesis on Prayer,
For 3rd Sunday of Easter in the Year of Prayer*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 14TH APRIL	10.30am	Children's Liturgy - Hall	St John the Evangelist
TUES 16TH APRIL	4.30pm 6.30pm - 8.00pm	Youth Choir Youth Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 18TH APRIL	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 21ST APRIL	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 13 TH APRIL	9.30am Diane Quinn RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 14TH APRIL <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Tess & Jim Logan RIP (Anniv.) 11am For the People of the Parishes 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Mary McAlinden RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 15 TH APRIL	9.30am Fr Michael Daley RIP		
TUESDAY 16 TH APRIL	9.30am For peace in the Holy Land		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes
WEDNESDAY 17 TH APRIL	11am Funeral - Clare McCarthy RIP	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes	
THURSDAY 18 TH APRIL	9.30am For Vocations to the Priesthood		
FRI 19TH APRIL <i>ST ALPHEGE, BISHOP & MARTYR</i>	9.30am John D'Cruz RIP		
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
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns In Thanksgiving.		



MASS INTENTIONS

At the Altar the priest offers Mass for the good of the whole Church and for a particular intention. Do you want a Mass offered for a particular intention? Perhaps you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered, or you would like a Mass said for someone who is sick or for your own intention. For Mass to be offered it is the tradition that a stipend is donated to contribute to the upkeep of your priests. Please contact the parish office if you would like a Mass offered over the coming weeks.

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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THANK YOU

Fr Andrew is supporting another parish this weekend in his role as Dean of Watford. We thank Fr Bernard Boylan for celebrating the 6pm Vigil Mass in Mill End, 8.30am Mass in Rickmansworth and 10.30am Mass in Mill End.

YOUTH MASS

Saturday 18th May 6pm 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 Fr Andrew for further details.

CLARE McCARTHY RIP

The funeral of Clare McCarthy will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Wednesday 17th April at 11.00am, followed by committal at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. 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 generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. 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 in the **Booking Form Leaflet** available in the Church Porch in each of the three parishes and on the Future Events page of our website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/future-events/>. It will be run by a team from the Jesuit Institute, one of whom will guide you individually each day, either in person at Our Lady's or on Zoom. There will also be three free evening workshops, one in each parish, for all parishioners, covering aspects of Ignatian spirituality. For further queries please contact **Margaret Burke** on mm.burke@doctors.org.uk, **07808 610789**.

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

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth group, for anyone in Secondary school, will meet again Tuesday 16th April 6.30pm - 8.00pm in Our Lady's Church hall. It would be great to see some new faces. Please let us know how many are coming, by messaging 07788 721222 or emailing rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

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 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.**

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

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Mary Thomson (£40), Christina Mantle (£24) and Annie Kent (£16).

Thank you to everyone who has just joined the 200 Club Draw and to all those who continue to support us each year. Good luck to you all. If you would still like to join it is not too late - please contact Louise on rickmansworthcof@rcdow.org who will send you the relevant details. Many thanks

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

THANK YOU - Good Friday Hospitality after the Service of Witness at the Crossroads

We received this message: "thank you so much for the warm welcome at St John Fisher today and the delicious hot cross buns!" Also many thanks from Mary for the whole team who helped - ages ranged from 91 - 14. It was lovely, thank you.

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

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

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