



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 Dom Matokovic
domagojmatokovic@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Francis Holly (Discipleship)

fgolly@hotmail.com

Jo Rodrigues (Faith in Action)

[jorodrigues425@gmail.com](mailto:JORODRIGUES425@GMAIL.COM)

Lizzie Quinn (Families & Youth)

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Richard Booth (Evangelisation)

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WD3 1HU

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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

TBA

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

Youth Choir Director:

rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 1ST FEBRUARY 2026

Love in Action

Going to see Monique who can no longer get out of her home very easily. Bringing a few cans of food to Mass on a Sunday. Helping Yasmina fill in an application form, as English isn't her first language. Working with Marvin to cook up a simple meal at the homeless support centre, The Passage. It's love in action, or the Latin word, Caritas. It's living out our faith. It's charity, justice, love.

“One of our treasures is Catholic social action... We have a word which beautifully describes this practical expression of Christian love: Caritas” [Cardinal Vincent Nichols]

When Pope Francis spoke of “a poor church for the poor” he was encouraging all of us to get our hands dirty. He was encouraging us not just to talk about living lives of faith, but to show that we are people of love, people of Christ.

“I fear that these words too may give rise to commentary or discussion with no real practical effect. That being said, I trust in the openness and readiness of all Christians, and I ask you to seek, as a community, creative ways, of accepting this renewed call.” [Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 201]

How can we be a Caritas people, who see the need around us, reflect on what we can do about it inspired by our faith and, through prayerful reflection, take positive action?

Over the next few months, we will be exploring the six guiding principles of Catholic Social Teaching – ways in which we can look at the reality of life in our community and the global community, and reflect on how we can put love into action and be a Caritas people. We will be reflecting on how our parishes already live out these principles, and what more we could do to put our love into action in our local and global communities. We will be exploring one principle each month, through literature, talks and workshops starting in March. If you would be interesting in supporting this parish project, please message Jo Rodrigues on 07751 915157. Thank you.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Catholic Parishes of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Mill End aspire to share the Good News of God's saving love.

We are vibrant, welcoming communities, united in worshipping God and serving our neighbours.

We invite every person to join us in growing together in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experiencing and living through the power of the Holy Spirit.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 1ST FEBRUARY	9.30am 11.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall Youth Choir sing at Mass The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 3RD FEBRUARY	3.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
WED 4TH FEBRUARY	7.00pm	RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 5TH FEBRUARY	2.00pm 8.00pm	SVP Warm Winter Space - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 6TH FEBRUARY	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 7TH FEBRUARY	9.30am	GIFT Family Session	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 8TH FEBRUARY	11.30am 7.00pm	Tea & Coffee - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	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 31 ST JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B)	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 1 ST FEBRUARY <i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am David Tees RIP (1 st Anniv.) 11am Christopher & Vanessa (Special Ints.) 6pm Verity Butcher (Ints.)	10.30am Rowyn Isabella O'Sullivan RIP	9am Moyra O'Donnell RIP (Anniv.)
MON 2ND FEBRUARY <i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am Daniel Keeney RIP (Anniv.)		
TUES 3RD FEBRUARY <i>SS LAURENCE, DUNSTAN & THEODORE</i>	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		9.30am Holy Souls
WEDNESDAY 4 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Eoin McNamara RIP	9.30am Holy Souls	
THU 5TH FEBRUARY <i>ST AGATHA, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Nalene (Ints.)		
FRI 6TH FEBRUARY <i>ST PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	9.30am Michael McNamara RIP		
SATURDAY 7 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For our GIFT Families	6pm Frank Rice RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 8 TH FEBRUARY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Bridget Ginty RIP 11am Rachel Morrison (Ints.) 6pm Domingos Francisco De Lima RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am For the People of the Parishes
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSION	Sundays 5pm - 5.40pm	Saturdays 5pm - 5.40pm	Confessions on request and by appointment

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Neville Mathews, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Maureen Douglas, Michael Gaukroger, Leslie Edwards, Pauline Williams, Gloria Warmington, Veronica Finnegan, Mark & Janet Kirwan, Ann Aldridge, Judy Gordon, Alec Ray and Sean.

St John the Evangelist: Paul O'Connor, Louise Borg, Sandie Tew and Grace Haddad

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, Julian Harris, Edith Moid and Sue Treanor.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

PARISH CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MERGER OF OUR PARISHES

On Sunday 25th January a consultation was launched regarding the merging of our three parishes into one canonical parish, to ease the administrative burden on our clergy, staff and volunteers. Leaflets giving further details regarding this proposal are available in each of the parishes. Please do take one and read them carefully before giving your feedback via the QR code, our website or the paper feedback forms which can be left in the boxes provided. There will be meetings in each of the parishes to discuss this proposal on the weekend of 21st/22nd February.

PARISH VISION PRAYER

In November we invited all parishioners to make a deliberate effort to add the mission of our parishes to your prayers. As part of this invitation we would like to create a Prayer for our parishes, which can be read at the beginning of meetings and events, unifying us in our mission and vision for the parishes. If you would like to contribute ideas for this prayer, please send your suggestions to Lizzie on elizabeth_quinn@icloud.com by Sunday 15th February. The SLT will then pray with them and collate all the contributions into one prayer.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2026

Took place on 27th January, and we are encouraged to pray the following prayer at this time: Eternal God, we come before You to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of all genocides. As we remember and lament all those whose lives have been lost, help us to work for a better future today. We pray for a day when all shall be free to live in peace, unity and love. Amen.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2026

Today we are encouraged to reflect on the words of Christ that *"Whoever loves God must also love his brother"* (1 John 4:21) and on our call to promote racial and be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms. For material and resources to pray with on this subject please go to the Bishops Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday/>

HCPT BAKE SALE

A huge thank you to all those who supported the HCPT Lourdes Pilgrimage bake sale on Sunday 25th January in Rickmansworth and Mill End. The group raised £838.51 which is nearly a whole fare for a child to go to Lourdes this Easter!

CANDLEMAS

Monday 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. Mass will begin with the blessing of candles. Candles will be provided, but if you wish to bring your own, please feel free to do so.

FEAST OF ST BLAISE

Tuesday 3rd February is the Feast of St Blaise. Blessing of throats will take place at the end of Mass.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

There will be a special Mass in thanksgiving for the ministry of Cardinal Vincent Nichols over his 16 years as Archbishop of Westminster on Thursday 5th February 2026 at 5.30pm in Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome. Please also keep Archbishop-elect Richard Moth in your prayers as he prepares for his installation as our new Archbishop on Saturday 14th February. There will be a live-stream broadcast of the Mass on the Cathedral's website: <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/>

PETITIONS TO LOURDES

As part of his role as Acting Director for the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Fr Andrew will be in Lourdes from 8th - 12th February on the International Pilgrimage Directors' Conference. If you would like him to drop off a petition of prayer at the grotto whilst he is there then please put it in an envelope marked 'Lourdes Petition' and drop it off at the Presbytery before Friday 6th February or send him an email.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next meeting of the Young Adults Group, for anyone aged 18 to roughly 35 in our parishes, will be on Tuesday 10th February at 7.00pm in the parish hall at Our Lady's. For further details contact Ben at +44 7704 049263.

ASH WEDNESDAY (18th February)

This year we would once again like to prepare our own ash from last year's palms (or palms from any previous year should you have them). Please hunt around at home for them and bring them to the sacristy after Mass by Sunday 15th February so they can be burned and used on Ash Wednesday. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP

Congratulations to our Youth Group whose artwork that they submitted to the Westminster Youth Ministry competition in this Year of Hope came runner-up from entries across the diocese. The artwork will be going on tour over the coming weeks across our parishes so everyone can see what talented young people we have in our parishes.

THE HISTORY OF SALVATION - TALKS

Sometimes life poses challenges which we don't know how to tackle. You may feel crushed or oppressed, and alone in it. But God sees the sufferings of his people, and comes to save them by his powerful Word. Come to a journey through the Bible, and find that it speaks about your life, too! The course will be led by Fr Dom, and it will take place over 11 weeks on Sundays at 7pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 17TH – 24TH JULY 2026.

Registration is now open at <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk/registration-form/> or via the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173. If you would like to sponsor or fundraise for an Assisted Pilgrim, member of the medical team or volunteer then please also contact the Pilgrimage Office for further details.

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

OUR PARISHES' SEA SCOUT GROUP

The Group are always pleased to welcome young people to join in with the variety of activities offered by the various sections. We are also in need of adult volunteers for all age groups to help us continue with this provision within the Parish and wider community. For further information please contact: info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 11th & 25th February and 11th & 25th March. All welcome to join us and share thoughts with other parishioners over a cup of tea.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3

We invite you to join us for Season 3 of The Chosen, a compelling portrayal of the life of Jesus through the perspectives of those who encountered Him. The group will meet for eight sessions, every Friday evening between 7-9pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall to watch an episode followed by discussion.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

Chess Valley SVP will host their Community lunch every 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.30pm in the hall of St John the Evangelist. 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.

SVP VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237 . Thank you so much for your support."

SVP TWINNING - Annual appeal for South Sudan

Please consider helping the SVP with their projects of vocational training for young adults, provision of a home for young boys, meals for infants and free healthcare for rural families. These life-saving projects need your help against a backdrop of continuous conflict, food insecurity and a growing humanitarian crisis. To donate please go to <https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/SouthSudan>

FROM CHESS VALLEY SVP - Helping Sudanese refugees

Because of security and corruption issues the SVP cannot donate directly to Sudan to help deal with their appalling refugee crisis. However the UNHCR is one of the few agencies which can operate there to help with shelter, clean water and food. Please consider donating via this link: <https://donate.unrefugees.org.uk/general/~my-donation>

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 2 to 4pm. 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

The following items are needed: tinned soup, tinned vegetables, tinned custard/rice pudding, tinned meat e.g. casseroles/ mince (not corned beef), baked beans, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, snacks e.g. cup of soup/pot noodles/cereal bars, long life juice/squash, tea, coffee. **Please ensure that food items donated are not out of date.** Non food items: shampoo, shower gel, laundry products, deodorant, toothpaste – adult and children's. Items can be placed in the boxes provided at the back of each church.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions. £25 was raised during the Christmas quarter and has been donated to The White Fathers who are Missionaries to Africa. Please keep them coming! *Sheila H.*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will take place on the following dates: 1st & 8th February, 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th March (Palm Sunday).

PARISH SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you have any Safeguarding concerns in the parish whilst we await the appointment of our new Parish Safeguarding Representative, please contact either Fr Andrew or the diocesan safeguarding team via safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

21st February 4pm Merger Consultation Meeting – St John the Evangelist Parish Hall

22nd February 10am Merger Consultation Meeting – St John Fisher

22nd February 4pm Merger Consultation Meeting – Our Lady's Parish Hall

6th March 2pm World Day of Prayer Service at St John the Evangelist.

12th-14th March Quarant-Ore Forty Hours Devotion

28th March 3pm CAFOD Lenten Walk (10km) - St John the Evangelist

17th May after 11am Mass Rickmansworth Marian Procession

7th June after 10.30am Mass Mill End Corpus Christi Procession

21st June after 9am Mass Chorleywood St John Fisher Procession

12th July 12.30pm - 3pm Brass on the Grass Social Event