



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

 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841

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Mill End Parish

TBA

Chorleywood Parish

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry

Leadership Team:

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Youth Choir Director:

rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 8TH FEBRUARY 2026

Come in Procession

On 11th February we celebrate the 34th World Day of the Sick, for which Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme: *“The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing the pain of the other”*. The World Day of the Sick, established by St. John Paul II in 1992, is a special moment of prayer and reflection for the entire Church to recognize the face of Christ in our sick and vulnerable brothers and sisters. Focusing on the Gospel figure of the Samaritan who cares for the man who fell into the hands of thieves, we are reminded of our call to love our neighbour. Like the Good Samaritan that bent down to help the injured man along the road, the Christian community is also called to stop and help those who suffer and be evangelical witnesses of closeness and service to the sick and most vulnerable.

One of the ways in which we do this in our diocese, is through supporting the sick and the vulnerable on our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes each summer. As you will know, I have the privilege of being the Director of this Pilgrimage for Westminster, taking 700-1000 pilgrims to the shrine answering the call of Our Lady to St Bernadette to encourage people to go to Lourdes in procession. Each time I have gone I have seen lives transformed, and it has been a place that has had a major impact on my own faith journey.

In going to Lourdes, we are following the example of pilgrims who for nearly 170 years have travelled to this great shrine where so many have received healing and discovered God’s love. In 2023 the 71st healing to be proclaimed a miracle was that of the pilgrim from Liverpool, Jack Traynor, whose catastrophic injuries from World War One were miraculously healed during a visit to the grotto. Many other healings, although less dramatic, have had an enormous impact on the lives of so many, and this is a good news story we should want to share.

Travelling with the diocesan pilgrimage is also an opportunity for all of us to discover more about the Westminster Diocese, and the opportunities we have to love our neighbour both on pilgrimage but also when we return home.

The pilgrimage this year takes place on **17th-24th July 2026**. Last year several parishioners and 4 of our young people from the parishes joined the pilgrimage, and returned strengthened and revitalised in their faith. If you are interested in joining our pilgrimage as a volunteer, a member of our medical team, a praying pilgrim or an assisted pilgrim, or if you feel you are able to support others to go to Lourdes in 2026, please do go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact the pilgrimage office on 0207 798 9173 for further details.

Fr Andrew

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

O ever-immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfort of the Afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary whence you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and bodily. I come therefore with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, my requests. Through gratitude for your favours I will endeavour to imitate your virtues, that I may one day see your glory. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes — pray for us!

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 8TH FEBRUARY	11.30am 7.15pm	Tea & Coffee - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 10TH FEBRUARY	7.00pm	Young Adults Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 11TH FEBRUARY	7.00pm	RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 12TH 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 13TH FEBRUARY	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 15TH FEBRUARY	11.30am 12.30pm 7.15pm	Tea & Coffee - Hall SVP Community Lunch The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	St John the Evangelist 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 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 Dorothy Upton RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 9 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		
TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY <i>St SCHOLASTICA</i>	9.30am Christopher Templin RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 11 TH FEBRUARY	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Betty Livingston (Ints.)	
THURSDAY 12 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the parishes		
FRIDAY 13 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Holy Souls		
SAT 14TH FEBRUARY <i>SS CYRIL, MONK & METHODIUS, BISHOP</i>	NO MASS TODAY	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 15 TH FEBRUARY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am In Thanksgiving (Aga & Sara) 6pm Brendan Mooney RIP	10.30am Archbishop Richard Moth (Ints.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSION	Sundays 5pm - 5.40pm	Saturdays 5pm - 5.40pm <i>(not on Sat. 14th February)</i>	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

WELCOME

We welcome Fr Tony Pellegrini who will be celebrating the 8.30am Mass in Rickmansworth and 10.30am Mass in Mill End this weekend.

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. 21st February at 4pm at St John the Evangelist Parish Hall, 22nd February at 10am at St John Fisher and 22nd February at 4pm at Our Lady's Parish Hall

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.

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.

SOLEMN VESPERS ON THE EVE OF THE INSTALLATION OF ARCHBISHOP-ELECT MOTH

Will take place at 5.30pm on Friday 13 February. The Cathedral will now be open to all, without a ticket. Both the Vespers and the Mass on Saturday 14th February at 12pm (ticket-only) will be live-streamed via the Cathedral website www.westminstercathedral.org.uk. The video of the Mass of Installation will remain on the site to view on-demand.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group meets on Tuesday 17th February 6.30-8pm (for anyone in Secondary School) at Our Lady's Hall Rickmansworth. Make a New Years resolution to make new friends so come and join us. Parents/guardians please let us know who is coming send a message to 07788 721222.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the solemn season of Lent, is on 18th February. Masses (with the imposition of ashes) across the three parishes will be as follows: 7pm Vigil (17th February) at St John Fisher, 11am at St John the Evangelist; 9.30am and 7pm at Our Lady Help of Christians.

ASH WEDNESDAY

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!

DEANERY MASS OF WELCOME FOR ARCHBISHOP RICHARD MOTH

Archbishop-elect Moth will be touring the diocese celebrating Mass and meeting everyone over the next couple of months. His Mass in the St Albans and Watford Deaneries takes place on Tuesday 3rd March at 6.30pm at Our Lady and St Michael's Church, Garston. All are welcome to join him for the celebration.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 6 MARCH 2026 – A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

The WDP service for 2026 has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria, with the theme, 'I will give you rest, come'. The WDP service for the greater Rickmansworth area will take place at 2.00 pm on Friday, 6 March 2026 at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Berry Lane, Mill End, Rickmansworth WD3 7HG, and will be followed by refreshments. This is not only for women - all are most welcome to attend and we strongly encourage parishioners to support this short service. This is an opportunity to show solidarity with the Christians of Nigeria where so many face persecution, and also to meet with our local Christian communities in a spirit of prayerful and convivial fellowship. If anyone needs a lift, please contact Geraldine (07725 748490) or Cristina (07470 266284).

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 is led by Fr Dom on Sundays at 7.15pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND LED BY FR ANDREW GALLAGHER, 28TH SEPTEMBER – 2ND OCTOBER 2026

Visiting Krakow, The Salt Mine in Wieliczka, Wadowice – the birthplace of Pope St John Paul II, The Divine Mercy Basilica in Lagiewniki, and the Marian Shrine in Czestochowa. The pilgrimage also includes a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau remembering those who died during the Holocaust including St Maximilian Kolbe. Price: £799 plus flights. For full details please contact the parish office.

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

There is a current shortage of the following items: Tinned vegetables in greatest need, long life milk, juice/squash, rice pudding and cereal. **Please ensure that food items donated are not out of date.** Non food items: shampoo, shower gel, laundry products, deodorant, toothpaste. 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: 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