



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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Parish Administrator:

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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:

rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Youth Choir Director:

rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) 22ND MARCH 2026

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

Concluding extract from Lenten Message of Pope Leo XIV, 5 February 2026

Our Parish Prayer

God our Father, we thank You for calling our parish communities together as one family who share the gift of our Catholic faith.

Jesus, may we grow in our relationship with You as we encounter You in prayer,

listen to You in the Scriptures, and adore You in the Eucharist.

Holy Spirit, transform us into true missionary disciples who fan Your flame as we serve our neighbours with faith, hope and love.

God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit –

unite us and inspire us to share the Good News of Your saving love in our homes, schools, places of work and local communities.

We ask this in Your name.

Amen.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 22ND MARCH	9.30am 11.30am 7.15pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUES 24TH MARCH	10.00am 3.30pm	Holy Hour and Confessions Youth Choir	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
WED 25TH MARCH	10.00am 7.00pm	Holy Hour and Confessions RCIA - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 26TH MARCH	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 27TH MARCH	12 noon 7.00pm	Wedding - Ben Sadler and Sabrina Mills Stations of the Cross	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
SAT 28TH MARCH	10.00am	Holy Hour and Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 29TH MARCH	11.30am	Tea & Coffee - Hall	St John the Evangelist

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 21 ST MARCH	9.30am Eileen McConway RIP (Anniv.)	6pm Mary & John Gibbs RIP	
SUNDAY 22 ND MARCH <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am Deceased members of the Scally & Townend Family 6pm Mary Davis RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Private Intention
MONDAY 23 RD MARCH	9.30am Fr David Kelly RIP		
TUESDAY 24 TH MARCH	11.00am Funeral: Jane Vos RIP		9.30am Holy Souls
WED 25TH MARCH <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am Holy Souls	9.30am Mission of the Parishes	
THURSDAY 26 TH MARCH	9.30am Mary & Evandro Girolami RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 27 TH MARCH	9.30am Mission of the Parishes		
SATURDAY 28 TH MARCH	9.30am Kathleen Jardine RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 29 TH MARCH <i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Fr David Kelly RIP 11am For the People of the Parishes <i>(beginning with blessing of Palms at Calvary Cross Garden)</i> 6pm Jim O'Brien RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes <i>(beginning with blessing of Palms from top of Field Way)</i>	9am Malcolm Stacey RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS			
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, 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 and Sandie Tew.

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

JANE VOS RIP

The funeral of Jane Vos will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Tuesday 24th March, 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.

THE VEILING OF CROSSES AND STATUES

From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday the crosses and statues of our churches are veiled in purple cloths. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of “fasting” from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

EASTER OFFERING

The offering at the Easter Masses is your personal gift to your priests. The Easter and Christmas offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Andrew and Fr Dom. If you wish to make an Easter offering, you can do so via BACS, or through the parish websites using the Donate tab. Please reference this as ‘Easter Offering’. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Easter Offering. Thank you.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Planned Giving envelopes are available for collection from the sacristy this weekend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will be at St John Fisher, Chorleywood at 7.00pm on Friday 27th March. The devotions will be led by parishioners. We hope that many parishioners from across the three parishes will come and join us for this important aspect of our Lenten spirituality.

CAFOD LENTEN 10KM WALK - SATURDAY MARCH 28th 2PM

The CAFOD 10km Lenten walk returns! Same route as last year, taking in the canal, Ebury Way, Croxley Moor and Aquadrome. It'll take approx 1.5 - 2 hours, depending on your preferred speed of walking. Refreshments and an Easter egg hunt will be on offer in St John's Parish Hall on your return! No need to sign up, just be at St John the Evangelist, Mill End for a 2pm set off. Sponsorship and donations can be made directly to CAFOD via the following link <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/teams/chess-valley-parishes-for-cafod>. Hope to see you there!

RICKY MARKET FAITH STALL RETURNS - SUNDAY MARCH 29th 10am - 2pm

With spring round the corner, the Ricky Sunday Market returns on March 29th. If you would like to join the team and offer your time, ideas, and/or resources, you are most welcome! Over the last year, many market-goers have shown their appreciation of our presence by joining us for conversation and expressing gratitude and interest in the prayer cards and other resources we've been able to offer. If you would like to get involved or are interested in finding out more, please call Jane Irwin on 07590 010902, or come and visit us on Sunday, March 29th.

GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP: 3rd April 9.30am at St John's Church, Mill End

A morning of crafts and activities for primary aged children based around the events of Good Friday. This will be followed by our 11am Family Service which the children will help us to lead. All are welcome. To register your children please email rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk stating your child's name, age and your contact phone number. This will allow us to ensure we have enough resources for the morning.

NEW MEN'S GROUP - SAVE THE DATE

We are proposing to start a new men's group for the three parishes to encourage social interaction, exchange of ideas, prayer and mutual support. Francis Holly (St John Fisher and SLT) is launching this with a meeting on Tuesday 14th April at 8pm at the Old Shepherd in Chorleywood. Please email Francis to register your interest: fgholly@hotmail.com

COMBINED FIRE AWARENESS AND HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING on Saturday 18th April 10am - 12.30pm

Training will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Hall, Rickmansworth for all volunteers across our parishes. If you are able to attend please let the parish office know via rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

A new season of Prayer and Life Workshops will take place weekly from Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm at St John the Evangelist's Parish Hall. These workshops offer us a possibility of a deeper relationship with Christ in prayer, learning different models of prayer over a period of 15 weeks. Further details can be found on our website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/parish-groups/prayer-and-life-workshops/> Do consider this life-changing and spiritually enriching workshop to help you grow in faith. Please bring a bible, pen & notebook. All are welcome.

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

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

CWL members will be collecting items to assemble into PACT Packs - practical bundles of essential items for people being released from prison with very few possessions. These packs are intended to offer a seed of comfort and provide basic necessities until further support can be arranged through their probation officer. The packs will be distributed via PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust). Crates will be placed at the back of the churches over the next few weeks. We are collecting: toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, face flannels, liquid soap, shampoo, deodorant, men's underpants (M, L, XL), women's underpants (sizes 14 or 18), notebooks, pens, socks, scarves. We are able to purchase thermal woolly hats at low cost, so financial donations are also very welcome. Thank you for your generosity and support.

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS

Easter is only a few weeks away and as in previous years we are still planning to order some "Real Easter Eggs" – the only Easter egg which is both Fairtrade chocolate, supports charitable projects and has an Easter story in the box. They are no longer available in the shops so if you would like to order an egg for collection from Helen Nolan (near Tesco Express) or local delivery within Rickmansworth, please email helenvnolan@ntlworld.com or ring or message 01923 499523 / 07980 600549. www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 25th March, 8th & 22nd April, 13th & 27th May and 10th & 24th June. All welcome to join us and share thoughts with other parishioners over a cup of tea.

WARM WINTER SPACE

The last session for a Warm Winter Space provided by Chess Valley SVP will take place next Thursday 2nd April in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End. We hope to resume providing a warm space for all those who wish to come along for a hot drink and friendly company in October.

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.

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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

SVP COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 22nd March for our SVP Coffee Morning.

11AM CHOIR

Would you like to sing in the 11am choir? We practise from 10am most Sundays, and are now working towards Easter. It's a lovely way to contribute to the Mass - no experience needed, and you don't need to read music. See Cormac before or after Mass any Sunday, or just turn up!

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will take place on the following dates: 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

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

Huge thanks to our small band of donors for our Missionaries around the world. This March quarter we have raised the sum of £232.30. I think this is the highest ever amount for an individual March quarter for us!! New donors very welcome, call Mary Latimer 07795 276728 xx

UPCOMING EVENTS

28th March 2pm 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