



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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 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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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:

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) 15TH MARCH 2026

Placing the Mystery of God back into the centre

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the centre of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life. Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. The Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through **Listening**. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone. In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery. Even today God shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church."

If Lent is a time for listening, **Fasting** is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbour.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity." Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly." As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic." In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Extract from Lenten Message of Pope Leo XIV, 5 February 2026

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 15TH MARCH	11.30am 12.30pm 7.15pm	Tea & Coffee - Hall SVP Community Lunch - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUES 17TH MARCH	6.30pm	Youth Group – Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 18TH MARCH	7.00pm	RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 19TH MARCH	2.00pm 6.30pm 8.00pm	SVP Warm Winter Space - Hall Love in Action - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 20TH MARCH	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St John the Evangelist
SAT 21ST MARCH	9.30am	Lenten Retreat Day - Hall	St John the Evangelist
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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 14 TH MARCH	No Mass Today	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 15 TH MARCH <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Alessandro Pomfret RIP 11am Patrick Tarrant RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Bill Graham RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Margaret Walshe RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 16 TH MARCH	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		
TUESDAY 17TH MARCH <i>ST PATRICK, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Edward Linney RIP (Anniv.)		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 18 TH MARCH	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Mission of the Parishes	
THURSDAY 19TH MARCH <i>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am John D’Cruz RIP		
FRIDAY 20 TH MARCH	9.30am Mission of the Parishes		
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
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, Mike Eaton 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

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We wish all mothers and grandmothers a wonderful Mothering Sunday. At the end of all the Masses this weekend there will be a special blessing for all the mothers and grandmothers present.

PARISH CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MERGER OF OUR PARISHES

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. The Consultation ends on Monday 16th March.

MARY'S MEALS APPEAL

Mary's Meals will be with us this weekend. The charity, based in Scotland, serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. Mary's Meals will also have a special announcement to make.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group meets on Tuesday 17th March 6.30-8pm (for anyone in Secondary School) at Our Lady's Hall Rickmansworth. Parents/guardians please let us know who is coming send a message to 07788 721222. Looking forward to seeing you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The praying of Lenten Stations of the Cross will once again circulate around the parishes on a Friday at 7pm as follows: St John the Evangelist, Mill End: 20th March; St John Fisher, Chorleywood: 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

LENTEN RETREAT DAY

There will be a retreat day open to all on Saturday 21st March, led by our Prayer & Life Workshop Group, from 9.30am - 3.30pm at St John the Evangelist, Mill End. During the retreat we will fill our souls with the loving and enveloping presence of God, our Father; submerging ourselves into the path of pain and love made by Jesus as a supreme sign of love for the Father and love for us. A path that Jesus, a faithful servant, travelled as a suffering offering and a tribute of love to his dear Father. Please bring a pack lunch, a bible, pen and notebook.

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.

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

SEEDS OF HOPE - EVANGELISATION DAY

11.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 21st March 2026, Our Lady and St Vincent's Parish Hall, Potters Bar. Do you ever feel a desire to share your faith but aren't quite sure how? *Seeds of Hope* is a welcoming day of prayer, inspiration and practical encouragement, helping you grow in confidence to share the hope of Christ with the people God has placed in your life.

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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL: “Because we are formed in faith, we are sent in love.”

As we continue our journey through Lent, thank you to everyone who has already supported the Lenten Appeal. The priorities of the appeal touch the lives of parishioners every day: families seeking support, young people shaping their future, individuals facing difficult circumstances, and parishes responding with care and compassion. This special Appeal provides a meaningful way for people to contribute to our shared work. I invite you to pray, to reflect, and to give as you are able, so that together we may continue this vital work of faith, hope, and love across our diocese.

www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal

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 If you prefer to buy locally, there are Fairtrade Easter Eggs available in Waitrose and the Coop locally. Make sure your purchases support ethical practices and the fair treatment of cocoa farmers, a good example of Love in Action.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Our **Book Sale** will be held on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March from 7 to 9 pm. Any donations of items can be brought to the Scout HQ behind Our Lady’s Church on Thursday/Friday Evenings or collection can be arranged by telephoning – 246169 / 776035. Current and Past Supporters are reminded that help is needed to run these events.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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

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.

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

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

Missio, APF, Red Box Collections for our Missionaries who look after the poorest people in the world. Please could you let me have your donations by the middle of March. New donors very welcome. Many thanks and blessings, Mary 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