



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
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Assistant Priest:

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Parish Administrator:

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Francis Holly (Discipleship)
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Jo Rodrigues (Faith in Action)
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Lizzie Quinn (Families & Youth)
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WD3 1HU
Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish
Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish
Anjali Kemwal-Button
millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) 3RD MAY 2026

LOVE IN ACTION

In April the first Catholic Social Teaching Principle we will be reflecting on together as part of our Love in Action journey is:

THE DIGNITY OF WORKERS

"Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work."

Pope Francis, On Fraternity and Social Friendship

Helen has always been a hard worker. It's how she was brought up. They've never had much, but they've always made do, and she's instilled in her children to also work hard. For most of her life she's been a cleaner. She enjoys the satisfaction of seeing something shine after it's been filthy, although all the bending down has taken its toll on her over the years. When she saw a job advertised at her local church hall to do some cleaning a couple of hours a few mornings a week, it seemed ideal as it was closer to home, and fitted around some of her other clients. The amount of money she was on was roughly the same as she got for her other jobs.

One day she had a meeting with the Parish Priest. The Parish Council had decided to review the contracts in the parish. Helen worried she would be let go. Actually, she got a pay rise. They had been thinking about how they treated others. Although Helen had been receiving just above the minimum wage, they'd realised that this wasn't a fair amount for what she did. They started paying her the living wage, almost £10 an hour. Helen feels far more valued as a person, and although it's only a few extra pounds a week, she's able to put some of the money aside and although money is still tight, she's not quite so worried about each bill that comes in.

We're all involved in employing people – whether directly, or through the places we shop and socialise, the products we buy. How do we ensure the rights and dignity of all those who labour are respected?

Within our communities, how might we support those seeking work? How might different generations work together to practise interview techniques, work on CVs together, or share IT expertise for online applications?

Is our parish community paying its workers a living wage? Are those who volunteer within the parish treated fairly, even if not being paid? Have we worked towards Fairtrade Parish status?

How can we better support refugees and asylum seekers within our parish and/or local community?

The Parish Workshop on this theme of Catholic Social Teaching will take place on Thursday 21st May @Our Lady's Parish Hall 6.30pm - 7.30pm

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 3RD MAY	11.00am 11.30am	Reception & Confirmation - Dweyme De Freitas McGarry Tea & Coffee - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
WED 29TH APRIL	7.00pm 7.00pm	Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall RCIA - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 30TH APRIL	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 3RD MAY	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 2ND MAY <i>ST ATHANASIUS</i>	9.30am Bella Caushi RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 3RD MAY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Deirdre Edwards RIP (1 st Anniv.) 11am Alec Ray RIP 6pm John Rees RIP	10.30am Fr Colin McLean RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 4TH MAY <i>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</i>	9.30am Linda Goodship RIP		
TUESDAY 5TH MAY	9.30am For Vocations to the Priesthood		9.30am Andrew Young (Ints.)
WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY	9.30am For Peace in the Middle East	9.30am For Vocations to the Priesthood	
THURSDAY 7TH MAY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes		
FRIDAY 8TH MAY	9.30am For Our Confirmation Candidates		
SATURDAY 9TH MAY	11.00am Pauline Harrison RIP	6pm Mavis Livingston RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 10TH MAY <i>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Alec Ray RIP 6pm Ann Cassidy RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Rosanna Hanson RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS			
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSION	Sundays 5pm - 5.40pm	Saturdays 5pm - 5.40pm	Confessions on request and by appointment



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, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Maureen Douglas, Michael Gaukroger, Pauline Williams, Gloria Warmington, Veronica Finnegan Mark & Janet Kirwan, Ann Aldridge, 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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dweyme De Freitas who completed her initiation into full communion with the Catholic Church on Sunday 3rd May. We wish her joy and happiness in the faith.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

Archbishop Richard has launched a month-long campaign of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood. This week the Archbishop asks us in particular to pray for **those currently discerning the priesthood**. Do make use of the times of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our parishes and pray the rosary in particular for this intention over the coming week.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

Prayer and Life Workshops takes place weekly on a Wednesday 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.

PHILOMENA BANKS RIP

Philomena (Philo) Banks formerly of St John the Evangelist, Mill End Parish passed away peacefully on Saturday 4th April. Her funeral will be held at St Bedes Church in Croxley Green at 11am on Wednesday 6th May. Her son John Banks sadly passed away on Friday 3rd April after illness. His funeral will take place at Hemel Crematorium on Tuesday 5th May, 2.30pm. Please keep them and their family in your prayers.

PAULINE HARRISON RIP

The ashes of Pauline Harrison will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 11am Mass on Saturday 9th May.

MEN'S GROUP

On Tuesday 12th May the parishes' men's group will meet at 8pm in Our Lady's Church for prayer and a short talk on 'Manhood in the Church' given by Fr Dom, followed by an informal drink in a pub. The invitation is extended to all adult men across our parishes, with no age limit. For further details, please contact Francis on fgholly@hotmail.com

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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

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.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)

Our family catechesis for all those with children aged 5-11 takes place once a month. The sessions are engaging, spirit filled and fun, and they are for all the family. We celebrate Mass, enjoy a time of fellowship before sharing catechesis and activities on a different theme each month. **GIFT Parents** As part of GIFT we also hold Faith Formation for parents on one evening each month online (Zoom). These sessions are designed to help all our parents grow in their own faith, enabling them to lead their family on their journey of faith. **In our parishes participation in GIFT is a gateway to discerning with you the readiness of your children to begin preparation for the Sacraments.** If your family would like to sign up for GIFT then please register via our parish website under 'Parish Life' or contact the parish office.

SPONSORED SANCTUARY LAMPS

In each of our churches 2 sanctuary lamp candles burn throughout the week – one by the tabernacle indicating the Lord's presence, and the other by the statue of Our Lady. Would you like one of these to burn in memory of a loved one, or for a particular intention? If so, we are asking for a donation of £10 per week, for your intention to be remembered and recorded in the weekly newsletter. Please hand your donation into the Parish Office or to one of the priests marked 'Sanctuary Lamp Donation', together with a note stating your particular intention, and the Church and the location of the lamp that you would like to burn for that intention.

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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

MARRIAGE SUPPORT

From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - if you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443.

DETONATE 2026

Monday 27th July to Friday 31st July at the Russell School. We are excited to invite you to the 25th Detonate. You can pre-register your child, one form per child. Booking goes live on Sunday May 9th at 10am, when you submit the form with payment. Please ask if you require help with a bursary. Booking forms and other information can be found on the web site detonate.org.uk If any teenagers or adults feel able to volunteer you would be very welcome and can apply in the Team section on the web site.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

SAFEGUARDING

Being alert to matters of Safeguarding (ensuring the care and welfare of children and vulnerable adults) is something to which are all invited to attend. There are information posters at the back of church - including warning signs to look out for, contact numbers and websites for information and support.

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.

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

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday 3rd May. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

BANK HOLIDAY BIG HELP OUT

On Bank Holiday Monday 4th May we will be having a parish gardening morning in Rickmansworth. We are in need of some assistance in clearing up the parish site and some basic works around the grounds to ensure it is ready for the summer, and invite parishioners to join us on that day from 9.30am - 12pm as part of our investment in our own parish community. If you are ready and able to help then please contact Mike Quinn on Michael.Quinn@6thrickyseascouts.org.uk, so he can organise the day.

MARIAN PROCESSION

Our annual Marian Procession and parish picnic will take place once again after the 11am Mass on Sunday 17th May. Tea and coffee will be provided by our Faith and Friendship Group. All members of our parishes are welcome to come and join the community for this great tradition.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will take place on the following dates: 3rd & 10th May, 7th, 14th & 28th June, 5th & 12th July.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

THE CARDINAL HUME CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS

We hope to be holding another *Raffle* and *Silent Auction*, in the lounge at our Church on Sunday 24th May after Mass together with the Coffee Morning. We will be grateful to receive your gifts of bottles, unwanted and unloved presents, cash donations and broken (or whole!) gold and silver and old coins, etc. Your generosity is so much appreciated. If you have any queries please speak to Mary in the back row or phone 07795 276728. Blessings and thanks xxx

UPCOMING EVENTS

4th May - Bank Holiday Big Help Out at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth
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