



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)

fgholly@hotmail.com

Jo Rodrigues (Faith in Action)

jorodrigues425@gmail.com

Lizzie Quinn (Families & Youth)

elizabeth_quinn@icloud.com

Richard Booth (Evangelisation)

boothrm1925@gmail.com

Address for all correspondence:

5 Park Road, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU

Telephone: 01923 773387

 @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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) 26TH APRIL 2026

The Interior Discovery of God's Gift

Every vocation begins with the awareness and experience of a God who is love. He knows us profoundly; he has envisaged for each person a unique path of holiness and service. Yet this awareness must always be reciprocal. We are invited to know God through prayer, listening to the Word, the Sacraments, the life of the Church and works of charity. Like the young Samuel, who unexpectedly heard the voice of the Lord during the night and learned to recognize it with the help of Eli, we too must create a space for interior silence in order to hear what the Lord desires for our happiness. This is not a matter of lofty ideas or scholarly learning, but of a personal encounter that transforms one's life. God dwells in our hearts. A vocation entails an intimate dialogue with the One who calls and invites us to respond, despite the deafening noise of the world, with true joy and generosity.

Dear young people, listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ. Make time for Eucharistic adoration; meditate faithfully on the word of God, so that you may put it into practice each day; and participate actively and fully in the sacramental and ecclesial life of the Church. In this way, you will come to know the Lord. Through the intimacy of his friendship, you will discover how to give of yourselves, whether through marriage, the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or consecrated life. Every vocation is an immeasurable gift for the Church and for those who receive it with joy. To know the Lord means above all learning to entrust oneself to him and to his providence, which is abundant in every vocation.

Life reveals itself as a continual act of trusting in the Lord and abandoning ourselves to him, even when his plans unsettle our own. Let us consider Saint Joseph, who, despite the mysterious and unexpected pregnancy of the Virgin, trusted the divine message revealed in a dream and welcomed Mary and her child with an obedient heart. Joseph of Nazareth is an example of complete trust in God's designs. He trusted even when everything around him seemed shrouded in darkness and uncertainty, when events appeared to diverge from his own plans. He trusted and abandoned himself to God, certain about the goodness and fidelity of the Lord.

As the Jubilee of Hope reminded us, it is necessary to cultivate firm and steadfast trust in God's promises, without ever yielding to despair. We must overcome fears and doubts, confident that the Lord of history — both of the world and of our own personal story — is risen. He does not abandon us in our darkest hours, but comes to dispel every shadow with his light. Through the light and strength of his Spirit, even amid trials and crises, we can see our vocation grow and mature, reflecting ever more fully the beauty of the One who has called us — a beauty shaped by fidelity and trust, despite our wounds and failures.

Indeed, a vocation is not a fixed point, but a dynamic process of maturation sustained by intimacy with our Lord. To grow in one's vocation means being with Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to act in our hearts and in the circumstances of life, and reinterpreting everything in light of this gift. Our whole lives must be rooted in a strong and vital bond with the Lord, so that we may more wholeheartedly respond to his call through our trials and necessary "pruning." A vocation is not an immediate possession, it is a path that unfolds much like life itself. The gift we have received must not only be protected but also nourished by a daily relationship with God in order to grow and bear fruit. *"This is helpful, since it situates our whole life in relation to the God who loves us. It makes us realize that nothing is the result of pure chance but that everything in our lives can become a way of responding to the Lord, who has a wonderful plan for us."*

Dear brothers and sisters, I encourage you to cultivate your personal relationship with God through daily prayer and meditation on the Word. Pause, listen and entrust yourselves. In this way, the gift of your vocation will mature, bringing you happiness and yielding abundant fruit for the Church and the world.

*Extract from message of Pope Leo XIV, for the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations,
26 April 2026*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 26TH APRIL	9.30am 11.30am 6.00pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall Youth Choir sing at Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
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	9.30am 11.00am 11.30am	Coffee Morning - Hall Reception & Confirmation - Dweyme De Freitas McGarry Tea & Coffee - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 25TH APRIL <i>ST MARK</i>	11am Justin Quinn RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 26TH APRIL <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Siobhan Bradshaw RIP 11am Michael Townend RIP & Mike Nelson RIP 6pm Lamar Davidson RIP	10.30am Romana & Silester (Ints.)	9am John Leadbetter RIP (1 st Anniv.)
MONDAY 27TH APRIL	9.30am Imelda Wainwright RIP		
TUESDAY 28TH APRIL	9.30am Patricia Norman RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WED 29TH APRIL <i>ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN</i>	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Hugh Nolan RIP (3 rd Anniv.)	
THURSDAY 30TH APRIL	9.30am Patrick O'Neill RIP (Anniv.)	ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH	
FRIDAY 1ST MAY	9.30am Private Intention (M.R.)		
SATURDAY 2ND MAY <i>ST ATHANASIUS</i>	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 3RD MAY <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Alec Ray RIP 6pm John Rees RIP	10.30am Fr Colin McLean RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Peter Scally RIP		This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Mike Opie RIP (Blessed Sacrament) & John Edwards RIP (Our Lady's)
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, 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 Edward and Mary-Ann Cash who were married in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 25th April. May they be blessed with many years of happiness and be a witness and reminder to us of God's faithful love, made present in the sacrament of their marriage.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND - SUPPORTING FUTURE PRIESTS

Today, on Good Shepherd Sunday, there is a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund supports the formation of men who are responding to God's call to serve as priests in our diocese. Their journey involves years of preparation — human, spiritual, and pastoral — equipping them to serve parish communities in the years ahead. Your support helps make this formation possible. It is a direct way of strengthening the life of the Church and ensuring that future generations will continue to receive the sacraments and pastoral care. If you are able, please give generously in today's collection. You may also donate via rcdow.org.uk/PriestTrainingFund Please also continue to pray for vocations and for those currently in formation.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

In our Pastoral Letter this weekend, 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 **men to be open to God's call to 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

A new season of 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.

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.

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.

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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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, from Sunday 26th April. 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.

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.

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.

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 MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 26th April for our SVP 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: 26th April, 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
9th September - Annual Parishes Meeting