



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



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) 19TH APRIL 2026

Christ is risen! Happy Easter!

Easter is the victory of life over death, of light over darkness, of love over hatred. It is a victory that came at a very high price: Christ, the Son of the living God, had to die on a cross. He took upon himself the sin of the world and thus freed us all, from the dominion of evil. But *how* was Jesus able to be victorious? What is the strength with which he defeated once and for all the ancient adversary, the prince of this world? What is the power with which he rose from the dead, entering into eternal life and thus opening the passage from this world to the Father?

This strength, this power, is God himself for he is Love who creates and generates, Love who is faithful to the end and Love who forgives and redeems. Christ, our “victorious King,” fought and won his battle through trusting abandonment to the Father’s will, to his plan of salvation. He walked the path of dialogue to the very end, not in words but in deeds: to find us who were lost, he became flesh; to free us who were slaves, he became a slave; to give life to us mortals, he allowed himself to be killed on the cross.

The power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent. It is like that of a grain of wheat which, having rotted in the earth, grows, breaks through the clods, sprouts, and becomes a golden ear of wheat. It is like that of a human heart which, wounded by an offense, rejects the instinct for revenge and, filled with compassion, prays for the one who has committed the offense. This is the true strength that brings peace to humanity, because it fosters respectful relationships among individuals, families, social groups, and nations. It does not seek private interests, but the common good; it does not seek to impose its own plan, but to help design and carry out a plan together with others.

Christ’s resurrection is the beginning of a new humanity; it is the entrance into the true promised land, where justice, freedom, and peace reign, where all recognize one another as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father who is Love, Life, and Light. Through his resurrection, the Lord confronts us with the dramatic reality of our freedom. Before the empty tomb, we can be filled with hope and wonder, like the disciples, or with fear like the guards and the Pharisees, forced to resort to lies and subterfuge rather than acknowledge that the one who had been condemned is truly risen! In the light of Easter, let us allow ourselves to be amazed by Christ! Let us allow our hearts to be transformed by his immense love for us! Let those who have weapons lay them down! Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace! Not a peace imposed by force, but through dialogue! Not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them!

We are growing accustomed to violence, resigning ourselves to it, and becoming indifferent. Indifferent to the deaths of thousands of people. Indifferent to the repercussions of hatred and division that conflicts sow. Indifferent to the economic and social consequences they produce, which we all feel. There is an ever-increasing “globalization of indifference.” We cannot continue to be indifferent! And we cannot resign ourselves to evil! Saint Augustine teaches: “*If you fear death, love the resurrection!*”. Let us love the resurrection, which reminds us that evil is not the last word, because it has been defeated by the Risen One. He passed through death to give us life and peace: “*I leave you peace; I give you my peace. Not as the world gives it, I give it to you*”. The peace that Jesus gives us is not merely the silence of weapons, but the peace that touches and transforms the heart of each one of us! Let us allow ourselves to be transformed by the peace of Christ! Let us make heard the cry for peace that springs from our hearts!

On this day of celebration, let us abandon every desire for conflict, domination, and power, and implore the Lord to grant his peace to a world ravaged by wars and marked by a hatred and indifference that make us feel powerless in the face of evil. To the Lord we entrust all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only he can give. Let us entrust ourselves to him and open our hearts to him! He is the only one who makes all things new.

Extract from “Urbi et Orbi” Easter Sunday Message of Pope Leo XIV, 5 April 2026

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 19TH APRIL	11.30am 12.30pm 4.30pm	Tea & Coffee - Hall SVP Community Lunch Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 21ST APRIL	6.30pm	Youth Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 22ND APRIL	2.15pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 23RD APRIL	6.30pm 8.00pm	Love in Action - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 25TH APRIL	2.30pm	Wedding - Ned and Mary-Ann Cash	Our Lady Help of Christians
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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 18 TH APRIL	9.30am For Vocations to the Priesthood	6pm Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 19 TH APRIL <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am Alec Ray RIP 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Annie Scully RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 20 TH APRIL	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		
TUESDAY 21 ST APRIL	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		9.30am Fr Colin McLean RIP
WEDNESDAY 22 ND APRIL	11am Funeral - Alec Ray RIP	9.30am Audrey Ferguson RIP	
THU 23RD APRIL <i>ST GEORGE, MARTYR</i>	11am Funeral - Mike Eaton RIP		
FRI 24TH APRIL <i>SS ERKENWALD & MELLITUS</i>	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes		
SAT 25TH APRIL <i>ST MARK</i>	11am Justin Quinn RIP	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 26 TH APRIL <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Michael Townend RIP & Mike Nelson RIP 6pm Lamar Davidson RIP	10.30am Fr Colin McLean RIP	9am John Leadbetter RIP (1 st Anniv.)
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, 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

ALEC RAY RIP

The funeral of Alec Ray will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11am on Wednesday 22nd April, followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

MIKE EATON RIP

The funeral of Mike Eaton will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11am on Thursday 23rd April, followed by committal at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

We will have a Holy Hour from 4.30pm on Sunday 19th April at Our Lady, Rickmansworth uniting our prayers with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales who will also be praying for this important issue whilst in Rome together. Please make every effort to join us.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Next weekend, on Good Shepherd Sunday, there will be a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund plays a crucial role in supporting men who are discerning and preparing for the priesthood. Their formation includes academic study, spiritual development, and pastoral training - all of which are essential for their future ministry. As we reflect on Christ as the Good Shepherd, we are reminded that He continues to call shepherds for His Church today. Please keep our seminarians and those considering this calling in your prayers. Next weekend, you will have the opportunity to support this important work. Thank you for your generosity.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group are meeting again Tuesday 21st April 6.30pm - 8pm at Our Lady's. This is for anyone in secondary school, all are welcome. Parents/guardians please let us know who will be coming 07788 721222.

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.

JUSTIN QUINN RIP

The ashes of Justin Quinn will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 11am Mass on Saturday 25th April.

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 families 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 Lągowiki, 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.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

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

REGISTRATION

We encourage all parishioners to register for the parish using the Churchsuite system, available via the website under 'Register with the parishes'. As part of the registration system you will also be sent an updated skills audit. Please do complete this to help us find a way that you can invest in your parish using your gifts and in the time available to you.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY at Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2.30pm.

Archbishop Richard is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email).

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

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.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 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.

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.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Mark Kirwan (£40), John Steele (£24) and Theresa Jubber (£16).

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions, the box is in the church porch. Thank you, *Sheila H*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

NEW SAFEGUARDING REP

Thank you to Anjali Kemwal-Button for kindly stepping forward to take on the role of safeguarding representative.

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will take place on the following dates: 26th April, 3rd & 10th May, 7th, 14th & 28th June, 5th & 12th July.

COFFEE AND TEA AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Tea and coffee is available in the parish hall after the 10.30am Mass each Sunday. Do please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

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

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