



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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Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz
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Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

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@ChessValleyRC



ChessValleyParishes



ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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Mill End Parish

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Chorleywood Parish

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:

rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir

Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

The Sacred Liturgy

In the second part of our Vatican 2 series we look at the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium.

'It is the Liturgy through which, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, "the work of our redemption is accomplished", and... especially, that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.' SC 2

The first chapter of the document is concerned with the general principles for the restoration and promotion of the Sacred Liturgy. It begins with a reflection on the nature of the Liturgy and its importance to the Church. The Council recognised that just as Christ was sent by the Father, so he also sent the Apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, so they might preach the Gospel. But he also willed that the work of salvation that they preached should be set within the tradition of sacrifice and sacraments. Because every liturgical celebration is an action of Christ the Priest and of his Body, the Church, it is a sacred action surpassing all others. The earthly liturgy is a foretaste of the heavenly liturgy toward which we journey as pilgrims, and although it does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church, it is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, as well as the fount from which all her power flows. In order that the liturgy may be able to produce its full effects *'it is necessary that the faithful come to it with proper dispositions, that their mind be attuned to their voices, and that they co-operate with heavenly grace, lest they receive it in vain'* SC11.

The document continues by stating *'Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active, participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy, and to which Christian people... have a right and obligation by reason of their baptism'* SC14. To fulfil this aim the Council reiterated the need for clergy's own formation to be improved, so that they could then instruct the faithful to have an active internal and external participation in the liturgy.

The chapter then moves onto the reform and restoration of the Liturgy observing that *'the liturgy is made up of unchangeable elements divinely instituted, and of elements subject to change. These latter... ought to be changed with the passage of time, if they have suffered from the intrusion of anything out of harmony with the inner nature of the liturgy or have become less suitable'* SC21. This was based on the understanding that the Christian people should be able to understand the liturgy and take part fully, actively and as a community. The document then goes on to describe General Norms that should be followed in making this happen, including that any changes are done very carefully within the authority of the Church led by the bishops, which means that no one else (including the priest) can change things under their own authority. It also notes that any new forms should grow organically from forms that already exist, and should be based around Sacred Scripture.

Then the document encourages the role of ministers in serving, reading and singing, stating that they must discharge their offices with sincere piety and decorum. It also highlights that active participation means to be able to take part by acclamations, responses, psalms, hymns and actions and highlights the importance of the rites being distinguished by a 'noble simplicity', so they can be within people's comprehension and should not require much explanation. Here, the document comments on the need for instruction for the laity, with the use of the vernacular being of great advantage, although it also emphasised that the use of the Latin language be preserved in the Latin rites. How much, the language should be in the vernacular was left to the bishops of the region.

The Chapter concludes by recognising that there cannot be a rigid uniformity imposed on people of many different races and nations, and that there is a place for local cultural adaptations in the Liturgy *'provided they harmonize with its true and authentic spirit'*. However, such adaptations must always be made under the authority of the bishop and the diocese to which a community belongs.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 24TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am 10am	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
TUE 26TH SEPTEMBER	4.30pm 7.00pm	Youth Choir Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 27TH SEPTEMBER	8.00pm	GIFT Parents Session	<i>Via Zoom</i>
THU 28TH SEPTEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 30TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am - 12 noon	Gardening Day	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 1ST OCTOBER	9.30am	Coffee Morning - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 23RD SEPTEMBER <i>St PIUS OF PIETRELCINA,</i> <i>PRIEST</i>	9.30am For the Clergy	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 24 TH SEPTEMBER <i>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY</i> <i>IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Private Intention (JS) 6pm Michael Draper RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Eve Clark RIP	9am Freya Copen RIP
MONDAY 25 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Joshua Tomlinson RIP		
TUESDAY 26 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		NO MASS TODAY
WED 27TH SEPTEMBER <i>SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL,</i> <i>PRIEST</i>	9.30am For the work of the Chess Valley SVP	NO MASS TODAY	
THURSDAY 28 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		
FRIDAY 29 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER <i>St JEROME, PRIEST</i>	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm Seamus Fagan RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 1 ST OCTOBER <i>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY</i> <i>IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Nalene (Ints.) 11am Roger Barker RIP (20 th Anniv.) 6pm For the Synod of Bishops	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am For the People of the Parishes



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, Agnes Harper, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Maureen Douglas, Michael Gaukroger, Molly Gray, Leslie Edwards, Pauline Williams, Gloria Warmington, Veronica Finnegan and Sean

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Alfredo Rock, Paul O'Connor and Antoinette Moss

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Angela Hoy, Colin Dowling, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, Pam Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris and Derek Treanor

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

MASSES THIS WEEK

On 24th September we welcome Fr Joe Ryan who will be celebrating the 9am Mass in Chorleywood and the 11am Mass in Rickmansworth, whilst Fr Matteo is away.

There will be no weekday Mass in Chorleywood or Mill End this week.

CLARE MCLEOD RIP

The funeral of Clare McLeod will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on Tuesday 26th September. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

NEW WEBSITE & REGISTRATION

We have a new joint website combining information from across our parishes. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/> Do look at it today! We also encourage all parishioners to register for the parish using the new 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.

MARK 10 MISSION

Mark 10 Mission are a Catholic charity creating weekly online videos to share the Sunday Gospel with our children. Each video contains the Gospel, followed by a short reflection which helps children to contemplate what God is saying to them through the scriptures. This then leads into a time of prayer and song. This is a powerful way to prime children for the liturgy. Do take a look and think about whether this is something you could use to help prepare your family for Mass:

<https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/>

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Each year in our parishes we produce an information card about our service times over Christmas. This year we invite our young people to draw/ paint/ design an image to go on the front cover of this card. It must be linked to the Christmas Nativity Story and be in Portrait layout. Please submit it to the parish office by Monday 13th November with your child's name and age. The winner will be announced the following weekend, as the card goes to print.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

This year the Mass count will take place on the last weekend in September and three weekends in October (each parish is required by the Diocese to count the number of people attending Mass). The details are forwarded to the Diocese along with other parish statistics at the end of the year. So, if you see someone "clicking you in" at Mass you will know why!

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

A Certificate of Catholic Practice is exactly what it says - it confirms, for the purposes of a Catholic school application, that families are practising Catholics, i.e. attend Mass every weekend. The school form states that families practice the faith and are known to the priest signing the form. If you do not attend Mass every weekend and are not known to Fr Andrew, he is unfortunately unable to sign the form. If you have recently moved into the area, your previous parish priest can provide certification. If you require a CCP to be signed by Fr Andrew, in the first instance, please see him after Mass.

PARENTS AND TODDLERS GROUP

Working with St Peter's C of E Church in Mill End, we are looking to set up a parents and toddlers group together. This would be a weekly group based in Mill End. In order for this to begin, we need volunteers ready to lead the project. Is this something you could help with? Please contact the parish office if it is.

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 and refreshment 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 also 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 email the parish office (rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) with the names of each of your family, the children's ages and a contact phone number. Further details will then be sent to you.

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir (aged 8-13) sing on a Sunday once a month at Our Lady's and once a month at St John's, Mill End. There are rehearsals for the choir on a Tuesday evening each week from 4.30-5.45pm. If your child is interested in joining the choir please could you contact the parish office. If there are any adults willing to assist Jaison in supervising the children during the rehearsals then please also contact the parish office for more details.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Our **Book Sale** will be held on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th September from 7 to 9pm. Current and Past Supporters are reminded that help is needed to run these events.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies

OTHER NOTICES

YOUNG CITY CATHOLICS

Ceilidh Gaelic Dancing and live music on Saturday 28th October from 8-10.30pm at St Mary Moorfields Church, EC2M 7LS. Tickets £20. All are welcome.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The offertory collection figures for the month of August are below. Thank you for your generous donations.

AUGUST	Envelopes	SO & Online	Loose & Contactless	TOTAL
Our Lady Help of Christians	142.00	4339.00	1948.83	6429.83
St John the Evangelist	246.00	1591.00	511.20	2348.20
St John Fisher	35.00	1682.83	193.50	1911.33

MARYS MEALS APPEAL 2023

Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure (envelopes available at the back of church). 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. *We will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender. The final day of this collection will be **Sunday 15th October**.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm on Wednesday 4th and 18th October to discuss a DVD on The Holy Spirit.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

Prayer and Life Workshops take place weekly on a Tuesday at 7pm at the Parish Hall of Our Lady Help of Christians Church. 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. You will also learn how to find spiritual freedom from life's conflicts. Do consider this life-changing and spiritually enriching workshop to help you grow in faith. All are welcome.

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Have you, or someone you know, been thinking about becoming a catholic? Are you a baptised catholic but have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would now like to complete your initiation? If the answer to either of these questions is 'yes', please drop an email to Fr Andrew to have a chat about what is involved and how our parishes can help you to take the next step.

NEW LIFE SKILLS COURSE

The following 8 session course will run at Mill Cafe, Methodist Church, Berry Lane, WD3 7HJ. This course is free to participants. Join a friendly community and gain skills to lift the pressure of life on a low income. The course covers topics around Healthy Finances, Healthy Eating and Healthy Relationships. Course Starts: Friday 13th October. 11am course, free lunch at 12.30. Book your free place by contacting Elaine Hawkings on 07786 608303 or elainehawkings@caplifskills.org

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

GARDENING DAY - SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

We are in need of some assistance with the garden and invite parishioners to join us 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.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 24th September for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will also be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 1st October. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

200 CLUB

July: congratulations to Ann Dodson £29, Clare Loose £21.75, Annie Kent £14.50 and Pauline Starck £7.25

August: congratulations to Christine Mantle £29, Sean Godfrey £21.75, Theresa Jubber £14.50 and Clare Loose £7.25

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

NO COFFEE AND TEA AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Tea and coffee won't be served after Mass until the kitchen works have been completed.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

TEA AND COFFEE

Tea and coffee will be served after Mass this weekend. All are welcome.

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

The September quarter is now upon us. Could you please let me have your red boxes or your cash or cheque by 24th September. All to help our Missionary Priests across the World. New donors very welcome. Thank you all, Mary 284975

UPCOMING EVENTS

30th September 9.30am - Gardening Day at Our Lady's

22nd - 27th October - Pilgrimage to Florence, Siena and Assisi led by Fr Andrew

Saturday 4th November 11am - Deceased Parishioners Mass at Our Lady's

Sunday 3rd December 6pm - Parishes Youth Mass & Celebration at Our Lady's

Sunday 17th December 3pm - Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service at St John's, Mill End