



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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Assistant Priest:

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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

Livestreaming:

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

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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

A Pilgrim Church

We conclude our first part of our Vatican 2 series looking at the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium.

Chapter six of Lumen Gentium offers an explanation of the Church's understanding of the call to Religious life. This is the vocation of those, who, for the sake of witnessing to the reality and absolute supremacy of the Kingdom of God, and in an effort to live out the Lord's call to strive for Christian perfection, leave all worldly comforts and earthly pursuits behind, and embrace the evangelical counsels of holy poverty, chastity for the Kingdom of heaven, and obedience. Those persons called to embrace a vocation to the religious life strip themselves of everything that is not conducive to living a radically Christ-centred lifestyle, in imitation of our Lord, who proposed this way of life to those who could accept it. A vocation to the religious state of life, from the vantage point of the hierarchy, should not be thought of as a state of life that is "in between" the lay state and the clerical state. Rather, individuals from both of these states—lay and clerical alike—may assume the religious vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Thus, many male religious societies are comprised of both non-ordained and ordained brothers alike. The same, however, cannot be said of women's religious societies, as women are not permitted to be ordained deacons, priests, or bishops within the Catholic Church; all women religious are necessarily, non-ordained sisters (LG 43-47).

Chapter Seven focuses on the topic of the eschatological nature of the pilgrim Church on earth, and our profound union with the Church in heaven. Section 48 begins: *"The Church, to which we are all called in Christ Jesus, and in which we acquire sanctity through the grace of God, will attain her full perfection only in the glory of heaven, when there will come the time of the restoration of all things. At that time, the human race as well as the entire world, which is intimately related to man and attains to its end through him, will be perfectly re-established in Christ"*. The document here talks of our union with those who have died, both praying for those who have died so they may be freed from their sins, but also praying for the intercession of the saints, who as witnesses and model of holiness have entered heaven, and are joined with us in Christ. Lastly, Section 50 explains that it is precisely through participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that the Pilgrim Church on earth, or the Church Militant, is most closely and perfectly united with the Heavenly Court, the Church Triumphant. (LG 48-51).

The final chapter of Lumen Gentium is dedicated to the role of 'Our Lady', the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of the Church. The document affirms Mary's unique place in salvation history as the Mother of God and emphasizes her cooperation in the redemptive work of Christ, but also states that this is not the place for a complete doctrine on Mary. It goes on to describe the role of Mary in the Economy of Salvation, stating that from the account of her Annunciation *'the holy Fathers see her as used by God not merely in a passive way, but as freely cooperating in the work of human salvation through faith and obedience'*. The document continues by looking at Mary's role in the Church pointing to her as a model of faith to which the *'Church, in her apostolic work also, justly looks to her, who, conceived of the Holy Spirit, brought forth Christ, who was born of the Virgin that through the Church He may be born and may increase in the hearts of the faithful also.'* The chapter on the Mary continues by looking at the cult of the Blessed Virgin, emphasizing that devotion to Our Lady has existed throughout the history of the Church and is encouraged, but such devotion must *'always look to Christ, as the source of all truth, sanctity and piety.'* The document concludes by pointing to Mary as a sign of hope and solace to the wandering people of God as we look to be happily gathered together in peace and harmony into one people of God, for the glory the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SAT 16TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am 4.00pm	GIFT - Family Day Altar Server Training	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 19TH SEPTEMBER	4.30pm 7.00pm	Youth Choir Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 20TH SEPTEMBER	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 21ST SEPTEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 24TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am	SVP Coffee Morning	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 16TH SEPTEMBER <i>SS CORNELIUS, POPE & CYPRIAN, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Eddie & Ursula (Ints.)	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 17 TH SEPTEMBER <i>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Michael Byrne RIP 11am Intentions of the Catenians 6pm David Cook RIP (3 rd Anniv.)	10.30am Abi Wakeem RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 18 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		
TUESDAY 19 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		9.30am Dan Maini RIP
WED 20TH SEPTEMBER <i>ST ANDREW KIM TAE-GŎN, PRIEST, PAUL CHŎNG HA-SANG & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Staff & Pupils of St John's School	
THU 21TH SEPTEMBER <i>ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE</i>	9.30am Michael Feord RIP 1pm Funeral - Patrick Walsh RIP		
FRIDAY 22 ND SEPTEMBER	9.30am Freda Hinselwood RIP		
SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER <i>ST PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST</i>	9.30am For the clergy	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 24 TH SEPTEMBER <i>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY 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 Coppen RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns In Thanksgiving		

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

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'. If you are unable to do this we will be able to help with this over the coming weeks through the support of our volunteers at times to be announced at Mass.

PATRICK 'JONNY' WALSH RIP

The funeral of Patrick Walsh will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 1pm on Thursday 21st September. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

PRAY FOR DEVON

This weekend Devon Petrie, who has links with our parishes and has been helping in the office over the past couple of weeks, is travelling to Spain to begin his formation for the priesthood for our diocese of Westminster. Please keep Devon and all those beginning this journey in your prayers.

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!

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY - 17TH SEPTEMBER

The third Sunday in September, formerly called Home Mission Sunday, is now Evangelii Gaudium Sunday. Named after Pope Francis' first (solo) Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of the Gospel, the day offers the Catholic community in England and Wales the opportunity to celebrate the beauty of our faith and our commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ. Please support the second collection this weekend which provides funding for the Bishops' national work of evangelisation. More information can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/what-is-evangelii-gaudium-sunday/>

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.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

One of the times that we need support the most is when we lose someone that is close to us. The journey to the funeral can be very busy organising things, and lots of people step forward to support the bereaved, but often, once the service is over, many feel isolated and alone. As a Christian community we should be offering more support to the bereaved, and so we would like to create a group whose main aim is to befriend those in the parish who are grieving, to journey with them, pray for them and support them. This would not be a professional counselling service, but those involved would receive training in journeying with those who are bereaved with compassion and care. Please contact Fr Andrew if you are interested in being a part of this group.

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

Autumn Jumble Sale & Nearly New will be held on Saturday 23rd September at 10.30am. Our *Book Sale* will be held on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th September from 7 to 9pm. 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.

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

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm on the following Wednesdays: 20th September and 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.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE - CANCELLED

We have unfortunately had to cancel our pilgrimage to Walsingham, as not many parishioners signed up this year. Parishioners who have already paid for the coach will be contacted in due course and refunded.

MILL END FOOD BANK

Chess Valley SVP will be collecting specific items needed by the food bank to supplement their food boxes. We will be monitoring what is needed by the Food Bank regularly and update this list accordingly both in the Parish newsletter and on the boxes. At present the Food bank are now short of: **Jam, custard, rice pudding, tea bags, coffee (both original and decaf), tinned fruit, fruit juice or squash, washing-up liquid, shower gel, shampoo and conditioner, chocolates.**

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@caplifefskills.org

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES - please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

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.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions. Missio has collected £60 for the recent used Stamp collection from the Parish which will be donated to The White Fathers who are Missionaries to Africa. Please keep them coming!
Sheila H.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

COFFEE AND TEA AFTER 10.30AM MASS

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

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

LADIES MEETING

The next meeting is at Rosemary's house on Tuesday 19th of September at 2.30pm. All are very welcome. Coffee and biscuits served. Please ring Rosemary on 01923 282500 for information.

TEA AND COFFEE will be served after Mass next 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 17th December 3pm - Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service - Mill End