



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

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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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Livestreaming:

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:

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Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir

Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

Confirmation:

rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023

The Church: the Light of the Nations

In the first part of our Vatican 2 series we look at the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium.

One of the most influential documents produced by the Council is "Lumen Gentium" which translates to "Light of the Nations." This document, with its profound insights and perspectives on the nature of the Church, continues to shape the modern understanding of Catholic ecclesiology to guide the Church and the faithful even today.

Chapter one is entitled "The Mystery of the Church" and illustrates how at the heart of "Lumen Gentium" is a profound understanding of the Church as a "mystery." The document emphasizes the Church's divine origin and nature, rooted in the Holy Trinity. The Church is described as the "People of God," a term that highlights the participation of all believers in the priesthood of Christ. This concept affirms the fundamental equality of all members of the Church and underscores their shared responsibility for the Church's mission. "Lumen Gentium", also puts an emphasis on the nature and mission of the Church. The document seeks to express the Church's identity as the People of God, highlighting the unity and diversity within this community. It presents a shift from the more hierarchical model of the Church as an institution to a more inclusive vision, one that acknowledges the shared responsibility of all believers in the Church's mission. This emphasis on the People of God underscores the Church's essential nature as communal, rather than solely a clerical or hierarchical structure. "Lumen Gentium" underscores the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel and bring salvation to all people. The document underlines the importance of evangelization, calling all members of the Church to share in this mission. The Church is seen as both a recipient and a communicator of divine truth, charged with spreading the message of Christ's love and salvation to the ends of the earth. (LG 1-8)

The second chapter 'The people of God' begins with an explanation of the communal nature of God's call to, and work of, holiness and salvation; specifically, how God chooses to sanctify and save us as a "people." We read that "God ... does not make men holy and save them merely as individuals, without bond or link between one another. Rather, has it pleased him to bring men together as one people, a people who acknowledges him in truth and serves him in holiness". Section 13 of the document addresses one of the single most misunderstood and controversial dogmas of the Church: "Outside the Church, there is no salvation". The document reaffirms that "the Church, now sojourning on earth as an exile, is necessary for salvation. Christ, present to us in his body which is the Church, is the one Mediator and the unique way of salvation. In explicit terms, he himself affirmed the necessity of faith and baptism and thereby affirmed also the necessity of the Church. In fact, through baptism, as through a door, men enter the Church. Whosoever, therefore, knowing that the Catholic Church was made necessary by Christ, would refuse to enter or to remain in it, could not be saved" (LG 14). From what has been stated, the Council is clear that it is precisely through membership in Christ's Mystical Body that the "divinization" of human nature is made possible. Salvation simply cannot take place outside of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Thus, if any person of any faith tradition, receives from God the tremendous grace of eternal salvation at the pivotal moment of death, it will necessarily have been through, with and in Christ and his Mystical Body the Church, which cannot be separated from Christ, her head; regardless of the theological beliefs of individuals throughout the course of their earthly existence.

Another significant aspect of "Lumen Gentium" is its treatment of the relationship between the Church and other Christian communities, as well as non-Christian religions. The document acknowledges the presence of elements of truth and sanctification in other faith traditions and recognizes the possibility of salvation beyond the visible boundaries of the Church. This ecumenical perspective marked a departure from the more juridical stance that had been prevalent in Catholic thought for centuries. "Lumen Gentium" acknowledges the importance of fostering unity among Christians and promoting dialogue with other religions. This reflects the Council's desire to engage with the modern world and create bridges of understanding. (LG 15)

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SAT 2ND SEPTEMBER	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John the Evangelist
SUN 3RD SEPTEMBER	9.30am 11am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Baptisms Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 5TH SEPTEMBER	7.00pm	Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 6TH SEPTEMBER	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 7TH SEPTEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 8TH SEPTEMBER	10.00am	Coffee Morning - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 9TH SEPTEMBER	11.30am 4.00pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms Altar Server Training Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
SUN 10TH SEPTEMBER	11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	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 2 ND SEPTEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls	6pm Fr Pat Egan RIP	
SUNDAY 3 RD SEPTEMBER <i>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Fr Pat Egan RIP 11am For all Staff and Students at the start of the academic year 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 4 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Peggy Smythe RIP		
TUESDAY 5 TH SEPTEMBER	No 9.30AM MASS 10am Funeral - Martin Rooney RIP		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WEDNESDAY 6 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	
THURSDAY 7 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For Persecuted Christians		
FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am Fr Pat Egan RIP		
SATURDAY 9 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am For the Laity	6pm Fr Pat Egan RIP	
SUNDAY 10 TH SEPTEMBER <i>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Andy & Brigid Rogers (Ints.) (50 th Wedding Anniv.) 11am Pauline Walsh RIP 6pm Bridget, James & Jim O'Brien	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Molly & Michael O'Sullivan RIP

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

As you will see on the extra leaflet this week, 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.

MARTIN ROONEY RIP

The funeral of Martin Rooney will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 10am on Tuesday 5th September, followed by committal at Rothwell Road Cemetery, Kettering. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

BLESSING OF SCHOOL BAGS

This Sunday, 3rd September, at Mass we will be offering a blessing of school bags marking the start of the new academic year. Please do encourage families to come and join us with their new or trusted old school bags on this weekend to ask for the Lord's blessing on their studies.

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.

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.

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.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

A new season of Prayer and Life Workshops will take place weekly from Tuesday 5th September 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.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm on the following Wednesdays: 6th and 20th September and 4th and 18th October to discuss a DVD on The Holy Spirit.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

A reminder that there will be training for all current Altar Servers on Saturday 9th September at 4pm in St John the Evangelist Church, Mill End and Saturday 16th September at 4pm in Our Lady's Church, Rickmansworth. Please could all servers attend one of these sessions.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

The diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 23rd September. We will be organising a coach from the parishes with a cost of £30 per adult and £15 per child for the day with an 8am departure and returning around 7pm. Please contact the parish office to book your place and for further details.

GIFT AID

Thank you to everyone who has Gift-Aided their offering. Gift Aid adds 25p to the value of every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your offering please contact Kerry. Please let us know if your tax circumstances have changed (2022/23 tax year) so that we do not ask for a tax refund if you haven't paid the associated tax. We will also need to know if you have changed your address recently.

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.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure. After the summer break especially if some of you have travelled abroad, we would like you to put all your foreign coins/notes aside; we will be collecting all your foreign currency in September/October with special Mary's Meals 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

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.**

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.

WATFORD, HEMEL AND ST. ALBANS NHS HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

On admission to hospital, please ensure that your religion is registered and ask for a visit from hospital chaplaincy team. Chaplains visit the wards during the week and will organise sacramental and pastoral care for you; they also provide an 'oncall' service in case of emergency. Please let Fr Andrew or Fr Matteo know if you or a close relative are in hospital. Our Catholic Chaplain is Theresa Taylor-Brookes and the contact number for the chaplaincy is 07776 598 704 or 01923 217 994; email: westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass this Sunday 3rd September for our coffee morning. 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

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

Saturday 23rd September – Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham
22nd - 27th October - Pilgrimage to Florence, Siena and Assisi led by Fr Andrew
Saturday 4th November 11am - Deceased Parishioners Mass at Our Lady's