



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

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
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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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 1ST OCTOBER 2023

The Eucharist, Sacramentals & the Divine Office

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

Chapter 2 of the document focuses on the Most Sacred Mystery of the Eucharist. It states that *'the Church earnestly desires that Christ's faithful, when present at this mystery of faith, should not be there as strangers or silent spectators. On the contrary they should take part in the sacred action, conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration.'* SC48

The document then decrees that the rite of the Mass be revised and simplified, with parts which over time were duplicated being omitted, and other parts that were lost, as accidents of history, being restored. There is an emphasis on opening up the treasures of the Bible and the amount of scripture read at Mass over time was expanded into a three year cycle. The homily was to be seen as an esteemed part of the liturgy and not an optional extra, and the prayers of the faithful were to be encouraged. It was also 'warmly recommended' that the faithful receive Communion at Mass, and under both kinds when the bishops 'think fit'. The document also emphasises the need for pastors to encourage the faithful to be present at both the liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as they are two parts that form one single act of worship. The chapter finished by extending permission for the clergy to concelebrate at Mass, when not the main celebrant.

In Chapter 3 the Council sought to instruct the faithful on the other Sacraments and Sacramentals. It comments that the Sacraments confer grace, but also by the very act of celebrating them, the faithful are disposed to this grace to their profit, to worship God duly and to practise charity. Sacramentals are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the Sacraments, in that they signify effects, which are obtained through the Church's intercession, and they should point us to receive the Sacraments. However, the Council recognised that over time certain features in some rites of Sacraments and Sacramentals had rendered their nature and purpose far from clear to the people of today and so made some revisions. This included the introduction of the vernacular language, as to receive the sacraments and sacramentals in your own language *'can often be of very great help'*. It also led to the restoration of the catechumenate for adults to give instruction to those receiving the Sacraments of initiation, and a revision of the rites of Baptism of infants, Confirmation, Penance, Ordination and Matrimony. It also emphasised that 'Extreme Unction' should more fittingly be called the 'Sacrament of the Sick' and should not only be for those who are at the point of death, but for anyone in danger of death from sickness or old age. Funeral rites were also to be revised to express more clearly the paschal character of Christian death.

In Chapter 4 of the document the Council reflected on the Divine Office, the prayer of the Church devised so that the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praise of God. It encouraged both the clergy and faithful to pray the divine office, whilst taking into account the conditions of modern life in which those who are engaged in apostolic work must live. It encouraged the faithful to take steps to improve their understanding of the Bible, and in particular the Psalms so as to attune their minds with their voices in praying the Office. The Council also extended the time over which the Psalms would be prayed, from a one-week cycle to a four-week cycle, and a wider variety of scripture readings and a careful selection of works of the Church fathers, doctors and ecclesiastical writers be included. It also confirmed the duty of clerics in certain communities to pray the Divine Office in common, and of others to pray the entire office every day personally. It was also stated that the prayer should be said in the traditional Latin, but in individual cases the Ordinary could grant the use of the Vernacular recitation of the Office.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 1ST OCTOBER	9.30am 6.00pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Youth Choir sing at Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 3RD OCTOBER	4.30pm 7.00pm	Youth Choir Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 4TH OCTOBER	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 5TH OCTOBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 7TH OCTOBER	11.15am	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER <i>ST JEROME, PRIEST</i>	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm Seamus Fagan RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER <i>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY 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
MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER <i>THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS</i>	9.30am Holy Souls		
TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		NO MASS TODAY
WED 4TH OCTOBER <i>ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI</i>	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Philip Dean RIP	
THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER	9.30am Holy Souls		
FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER	9.30am Joan Harbird RIP (3 rd Anniv.)		
SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER <i>OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY</i>	9.30am Giovanni & Alice Vescovo (Ints.)	6pm Eddie McLaughlin RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER <i>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am For the Synod of Bishops 11am Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Pat O'Connor RIP	9am Teresa Hukowski RIP



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 1st October we welcome Monsignor Canon Paul McGinn who will be celebrating the 8.30am Mass in Rickmansworth, and the 10.30am Mass in Mill End whilst Fr Matteo is away. There will be no Mass on Tuesday in Chorleywood and Wednesday in Rickmansworth.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL - FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER

Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most, fast – so when her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get her children the treatment they needed. Please donate to CAFOD so that more families can get the expert help they need. Use the envelope or give online at cafod.org.uk.

A NEW CHALLENGE

The Cardinal has recently appointed Fr Andrew as the Acting Director for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Please keep Fr Andrew and all those involved in organising the pilgrimage in your prayers.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

Over the next three weekends the Mass count will be taking place at all Sunday Masses as part of the diocesan requirement for it's statistics. Please can you be generous to our Welcomers who count everyone into Mass, by doing your best to be with us before Mass begins, so they are able to participate without distraction.

MASS FOR DECEASED PARISHIONERS

On Saturday 4th November we will have a Mass for all deceased members of our parishes at 11am in Our Lady Help of Christians Church. At this Mass we will particularly remember all those who have died over the past year so please do encourage those recently bereaved to attend. This Mass will be immediately followed by the blessing of graves at Our Lady's Garden of Rest and refreshments in our Lady's Parish Hall.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

During November Fr Andrew and Fr Matteo will be blessing graves in the local cemeteries: Sunday 5th November - 2pm Chorleywood Road Cemetery; Saturday 11th November - 2pm Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery; Sunday 19th November - 2pm Woodcock Hill Cemetery .

JUSTICE AND PEACE PARISH CONTACT

We are looking for volunteer to provide a link between our parish and the Westminster Justice & Peace Commission, which is an agency of the Diocese. The main task of the contact person is to receive the monthly E-Bulletin and, where possible, promote events and actions for peace and justice within the parishes. A role description can be found here: <https://westminsterjusticeandpeace.org/parish-contacts/> Please let Fr Andrew know if this is something you may like to support the parishes with.

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/>

CHESS VALLEY SVP

Members can offer regular visits to people who need company in our local community. If you know of anyone who is isolated or lonely and would appreciate a visit please email chessvalleysvp@gmail.com, you will need their permission to do so. All our members are recruited in line with our safer recruitment policy (including a DBS) and follow our Safeguarding policies.

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group starts again Tuesday 17th October 6.30pm till 8pm in Our Lady's Hall. This is for anyone in secondary school. Come and have fun, food and make new friends or bring a friend with you. We look forward to seeing you. Parents please let us know who is coming by texting 07788 721222.

WARM WINTER COATS WANTED THIS OCTOBER

There will be a collection of warm winter coats for the charity "Calling London" who distribute coats to various charities helping the homeless, refugees, elderly and those in low income households. Any coats are welcome as long as they are clean and warm, so if you are thinking of having a clear-out they can make good use of your coats. Donations should be left in **St John's Mill End church porch**. Collection of coats can also be arranged. For more information, or if you would like to be involved please email coatdrivewd3@gmail.com or message 07852813420. The last date for donations is Sunday 29th October.

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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

SVP TWINNING INDIA - WILL YOU SPONSOR A STUDENT'S EDUCATION FOR £15?

The Vidya Jyothi Scheme (meaning "Knowledge and Light") enables children in India to attend school. This provides a pathway out of poverty through education for them and their families. For only **£15** you can sponsor one primary school student for a year. This covers their school fees, uniforms, books, transport and food - a bargain at any price! If you opt in to Gift Aid the amount increases to **£18.75**. Leaflets giving information are on the SVP noticeboard in the church porch. Alternatively visit <https://svp.org.uk/student-sponsorship/primary-school> to donate online. Thank you for your generosity!

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 12.30pm. Book your free place by contacting Elaine Hawkings on 07786 608303 or elainehawkings@caplifefskills.org

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**.

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.

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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall for our coffee morning after Mass this Sunday. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions, the box is in the church porch. Please keep them coming! *Sheila H*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Can you help with our Children's liturgy team? We need adult helpers to supervise the classes. We would also like to invite secondary school age children to help run the classes, this volunteering can count towards DofE awards. All classes are pre written for catechists to follow and crafts are pre prepared. All you need to do is be at the 10.30am Sunday Mass on the day to help out with the class (over 18's need to have a DBS check). For more information or to volunteer please speak to Liz Townsend or any member of the Children's liturgy team or email liztownsenduk@gmail.com

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

The September quarter collection amounted to £182.80. I think this is the highest September ever. Very many thanks to one and all. New donors very welcome. Best love, *Mary*

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 5th November 2pm - Blessing of Graves at Chorleywood Road Cemetery
Saturday 11th November 2pm - Blessing of Graves at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery
Sunday 19th November 2pm - Blessing of Graves at Woodcock Hill Cemetery
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