



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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 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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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

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

The Universal Call to Holiness

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

In chapter three "Lumen Gentium" discusses the relationship between the hierarchical structure of the Church and the independence of individual bishops. It upholds the authority of the Pope as the supreme shepherd, while also emphasizing the autonomy and authority of bishops within their own dioceses. This balanced perspective reflects the tension between centralization and local self-governance that has characterized the running of the Catholic Church. (LG 18-29)

Chapter four discusses the "The Laity" asking the questions 'Who is the Laity?' The document provides the following answer: *"The term 'laity' is here understood to mean all the faithful except those in holy orders and those in the state of religious life specially approved by the Church. These faithful are, by baptism, made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are, in their own way, made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out, for their own part, the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world."* The chapter goes on to state that while different members of the one body are called to various ministries and are granted unique charisms, these charisms are particular to each member's distinct calling and secular profession. Therefore, all share the same dignity as adopted sons and daughters of the Father, through, with, and in, Christ (LG 32). What is more, the laity, on account of the distinctively "secular" roles which they assume within society, are afforded a unique access to persons who would otherwise not be exposed to officially designated Ministers of the Word and the sacraments. Hence, the laity are in a privileged position to act as the "salt of the earth" by carrying the Good News of Christ, into those worldly arenas that Sacred Ministers would likely not have access to. The laity are called to act as a leaven in the world, while they live "in" the world without being "of" the world. Together with the offering of the Lord's body, they are most fittingly offered in the celebration of the Eucharist" (LG 34).

Further, the laity, through their baptism into the Mystical Body of Christ, and as members of the Royal Priesthood of Christ are truly called to exercise their priestly office through our participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy, offering ourselves, our prayers, works, joys, and especially our sufferings, through, with, and in Christ, to the perfect glory of God the Father and for the salvation of sinful souls. The document highlights that this is the exalted vocation of all of the laity, the Priestly People of God, and is, by no means, to be taken for granted. At the moment one receives the Eucharist, he/she becomes participants in the Priestly, Prophetic, and Kingly offices of Christ, the Eternal High Priest.

This leads into Chapter five entitled 'The call to Holiness' which shows how central to the understanding of the Church presented in "Lumen Gentium" is the concept of the "universal call to holiness." The document asserts that all members of the Church, regardless of their role or vocation, are called to pursue holiness. We read *'it is evident to everyone, that all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity;(4*) by this holiness as such a more human manner of living is promoted in this earthly society'.* (LG40) This notion challenges the dichotomy between clergy and laity, emphasizing that holiness is attainable and necessary for every Christian. By doing so, "Lumen Gentium" reshapes the traditional understanding of sanctity, emphasizing the sanctification of everyday life and activities.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SAT 9TH SEPTEMBER	11.30am 4.00pm	Baptisms Altar Server Training	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
MON 11TH SEPTEMBER	7.00pm	JPPC Meeting	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 12TH SEPTEMBER	4.00pm 7.00pm	Youth Choir Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 14TH SEPTEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 16TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am 4.00pm	GIFT - Family Day Altar Server Training	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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 RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Molly & Michael O'Sullivan RIP
MONDAY 11 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		
TUESDAY 12 TH SEPTEMBER	9.30am Matilda Riddleston (Ints.)		9.30am Helena Duckett (Ints.)
WED 13TH SEPTEMBER <i>ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM</i>	9.30am Holy Souls	9.30am Fr Pat Egan RIP	
THU 14TH SEPTEMBER <i>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</i>	9.30am Holy Souls		
FRI 15TH SEPTEMBER <i>OUR LADY OF SORROWS</i>	9.30am Sean Sheehan RIP		
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
SANCTUARY LAMPS			This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for a Private Intention



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

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 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.

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 next 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/>

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

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

JUNE	Envelopes	SO & Online	Loose & Contactless	TOTAL
Our Lady Help of Christians	120.00	4101.00	1692.37	5913.37
St John the Evangelist	301.00	1581.00	677.28	2559.28
St John Fisher	30.00	1887.83	132.91	2050.74
JULY	Envelopes	SO & Online	Loose & Contactless	TOTAL
Our Lady Help of Christians	189.00	4701.00	2319.59	7209.59
St John the Evangelist	373.10	1725.00	578.88	2676.98
St John Fisher	35.00	1705.83	238.86	1979.69

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.

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

EDDIE O'SULLIVAN'S MARRIAGE

As some will already know, Eddie, our parishioner of many years, is marrying Ursula at 1pm on Saturday 16 September at Christ Church, Chorleywood. The couple will be very pleased to welcome any of our congregation to the service and also invite them to cake and drinks at The Junction afterwards. Please keep Eddie and Ursula in your prayers.

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.

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