



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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Rickmansworth

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 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

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 Jeyaventhan - Youth Choir
 Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (YEAR A) - 26TH NOVEMBER 2023

The economy, politics and peace

We conclude looking at the fourth part of our Vatican II series on the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Gaudium et Spes.

Chapter 3 of part 2 of the document begins ‘in the sphere of economics and social life, the dignity and entire vocation of the human person as well as the welfare of society as a whole have to be respected and fostered; for man is the source, the focus, and the end of all economic life’ (63). It shows concern for the increase in the ‘economic mentality’ which permeates people’s personal and social lives. It also highlights the dangers of inequality in society, with the gap between rich and poor continuing to grow. The Council encouraged economic development in the service of man, but stated that this must always be done to fulfil the requirements of justice and equity, and every effort must be made to end the immense economic inequalities existing in our world. It also called on support to be given to developing countries to improve their production and marketing capabilities. The document states that it is every man’s right to work, and society have the duty to ensure that all have the opportunity to do so, and receive the appropriate remuneration for their role and productivity. It also reminds the reader that all who work must be allowed ‘sufficient rest and leisure to cultivate their family, cultural, social and religious life’ (67). Finally, it calls on those responsible for investment to ensure there is sufficient income for people today and in the future, and for all those with private property and large estates to use their situation for the common good.

The Constitution moves onto reflect on the political community, which holds the responsibility to uphold ‘the rights and duties of the individual in the exercise of civil liberty and in the achievement of the common good’ (73). It recognises that with cultural, economic and social progress there is an increase in awareness of the need to uphold the rights and dignity of minorities. There is also a rejection of those political systems that hinder civil and religious liberties. The document highlights the need for all people to continually devote themselves to the public good and, for those able, to take on the burdens of public office, but to never put their own interests before the common good. It then concludes that it is important that the political community and the Church are autonomous and independent of each other in their own fields, but also both be devoted to the personal vocation and welfare of man.

The final chapter of the document urges us to devote ourselves to the cause of peace with renewed vigour, reminding us that the true nature of peace flows from love of one’s neighbour and derives from the peace of Christ. All Christians are therefore to speak the truth in love and to join all peace-loving men in pleading for peace and trying to bring it about. It reminds us that any action that deliberately violates the natural law and commands violence against others is deplorable, and that those tasked with defending the vulnerable, must always ‘look upon themselves as the custodians of the security and freedom of their countrymen... contributing to the maintenance of peace’ (79). The Council also warns of the dangers of the arms race, saying that stockpiling weapons only enhances tensions. It also calls for a universally acknowledged public authority to be given power to ensure security for all and to bring peace to places in danger of war. This authority would have to seek to remedy the sources of discord and seek to pursue the common good in an appropriate and effective way. It calls on an increased solidarity between nations in economic matters based on a just world commerce and on sincere dialogue. Christians should also wholeheartedly and willing support the establishment of an agency for international aid to assist those nations who find themselves unable to support their people in times of crises.

The Constitution concludes by calling on all peoples to live by the principles it has put forward. It tells us that ‘Christians can yearn for nothing more ardently than to serve the men of this age... [and to pray] that men all over the world will awaken to a lively hope that they will one day be admitted to the haven of surpassing peace and happiness in their homeland radiant with the glory of God’ (93).

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 26TH NOVEMBER	9.30am	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 28TH NOVEMBER	4.30pm 7.00pm	Youth Choir Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall Upstairs	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 30TH NOVEMBER	2.00pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Warm Space - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 2ND DECEMBER	11.15am	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 3RD DECEMBER	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Advent Fayre - Hall First Communions at Mass Youth Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians 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 25 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Mark Anthony Xavier RIP (Anniv.)	6pm James O'Connor RIP	
SUNDAY 26 TH NOVEMBER <i>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Mary & John Bond RIP 6pm Jeunakipillai, Annaci, Joseph	10.30am Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.)	9am Colin Dowling RIP
MONDAY 27 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		
TUESDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		9.30am Tony & Pat Finucane RIP (Anniv.)
WEDNESDAY 29 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls	NO MASS TODAY	
THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER <i>ST ANDREW, APOSTLE</i>	9.30am Holy Souls		
FRIDAY 1 ST DECEMBER	9.30am Verna Kendrick RIP (Anniv.)		
SATURDAY 2 ND DECEMBER	9.30am Maura Malone (Ints.)	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 3 RD DECEMBER <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Dora, Christopher Michael & Margaret Conway RIP 11am Private Intention 6pm Daniel Corden RIP	10.30am Robert Gibson RIP	9am Richard Hale RIP (1 st Anniv.)
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for a Special 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, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Ann & Martin Penn, Pam Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris and Derek Treanor

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

Praying for the dead

One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the dead. We therefore encourage all parishioners who are able to come to any funeral or memorial service that is taking place in our parish to act out this work of mercy and attend. This is particularly important at a time when many mourners who come to our Church are unfamiliar with the liturgy and responses, and need support from those of us who regularly come to Mass.

YOUTH MASS

All are welcome to join our Youth Mass on Sunday 3rd December at 6.00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth. Please join us afterwards in the hall for food and fun. Any young people who would like to take part please email Margaret rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk or text Belinda 07788 721222.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Will meet at 2.15pm on Wednesday 6th December (special meeting to welcome People Connex).

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

FUNERAL PLAN

November is a month where we should think about our own death and be helping the community to pray for us when that time comes. The Church encourages us to be prepared for the day when our lives are ended, and to support our family and friends by having a plan for our funeral written down. Sheets to help us with this will be available to take away throughout November. Information on how to prepare our funerals can be found at <https://rcdow.org.uk/liturgy/preparing-for-a-funeral/>

DIOCESAN NOTICES

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Pilgrimage will take place from 19th to 26th July 2024. Join the pilgrimage as a pilgrim. Serve the sick as a St Frai Helper (18+). Support the sick by sponsoring a St Frai helper to care for them on the pilgrimage and praying for our care team. For more information go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173.

FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Westminster Cathedral, the mother Church of our diocese, has improved the lighting of its main sanctuary. The previous aged and inefficient system had to be replaced as spare parts were no longer available. The improved lighting is of great benefit on major occasions particularly if they are being broadcast or live streamed. The improvements are being funded by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. They are asking for our help by supporting their Big Give Campaign with online donations. For donations made from 12 noon on Tuesday 28 November and before 12 noon on Tuesday 5 December every £1 given is worth £2 with matched funding and £2.25 if you can tick the Gift Aid box. The link to the donation site is <https://bit.ly/FriendsBG23>

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS RECRUITMENT

The All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT) is currently seeking to appoint up to 5 additional Foundation Directors to the Trust board as part of the ongoing expansion of the Trust in line with the Diocese of Westminster's Academy Strategy. Foundation Directors are key strategic decision-makers in a Catholic Academy Trust (CAT). The legal responsibility for the performance of each academy rests with them. Their role is strategic rather than operational much in the same way that the role of a Foundation Governor is within a single non-academy Catholic school. This is an exciting opportunity to play a role in a vibrant and collaborative Trust that is in the process of expansion and development. The role of Foundation Director is incredibly rewarding and the benefits include personal and professional development; Supporting the local and wider Catholic community; gaining insight into the Education Sector ; and having impact on the Schools in the Trust. If this is something that is of interest please contact Christina Reffold at governance@ascat.co.uk

More information is available on the Trust website <https://www.ascatonline.co.uk/Become-a-Foundation-Director/>

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP

Was established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. SMG is now delivering 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities' to encourage local action and to prevent human trafficking and modern slavery taking place in our midst. **On Thursday 30th November the Santa Marta Group will hold an information meeting in the parish hall of Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Catholic Church, 16, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS, from 7pm – 9pm.** Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent anti-slavery Commissioner and currently chief advisor to the Santa Marta Group will lead the meeting. All are welcome to come to learn more about the prevalence of human trafficking and modern slavery in our communities and the steps we can take to prevent it.

WITNESS TO HOPE

Online talks (7.30pm - 8.30pm) by Fr John Deehan focusing on the Prayers and Gospels of the Christmas Masses.

30th November: The Night Mass; **7th December:** The Dawn Mass; **14th December:** The Day Mass. A donation of £5 is requested per talk. Please register with Warren Brown catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

JUBILEE 2025: YEAR OF THE COUNCIL

An online talk on Vatican II's Constitutions with Fr Brian O'Mahony on 28th November - Gaudium et Spes – How the Church Looks at the World. Please register with Warren Brown catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

WARM WINTER SPACE

Chess Valley SVP will once again be providing a Warm Winter Space in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End, every Thursday afternoon between 2 to 4pm for the duration of the winter months. Hot drinks, cakes and biscuits will be provided. Please let those you feel would benefit from this know. For further information, please email chessvalleysvp@gmail.com

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, cartons of long-life milk and long-life orange juice.**

CHRISTMAS DINNER ON CHRISTMAS DAY AT 12 NOON

Mill End Community Centre would like to invite anyone that is alone for Christmas Day to come and join us for Christmas Dinner with the RVS Volunteers. £10 per person. First come first served due to limited places. To book please call the Community Centre on 01923 493344. Don't be alone this Christmas.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

COFFEE MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 26th November for our SVP Coffee Morning.

ADVENT FAYRE

Donations being collected for the Advent Fayre on Sunday 3rd December for the raffle and tombola. Prizes required are beer, wine, spirits, boxes of chocolates, new toiletries, and new unwanted gifts. If you can supply a small prize, please leave in the box in the church porch, your support is very much appreciated.

FOOTWAY SURFACING IN SCOTS HILL

Please note that works will be taking place between Thursday 23rd to Thursday 30th November, which means access to the church car park may not be possible by vehicles at some point during that week.

CAR PARK

Please be careful to follow the one way system and to drive slowly around the car park to ensure all our parishioners are safe when coming to Church. **Please also remember to register your vehicle if you are using the site out of our regular Mass times.**

APF MISSIO

Would promoters please collect the magazines and calendars from the church porch and please start collecting monies.

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair will be taking place on Sunday 10th December, after the 10.30am Mass. Raffle tickets will go on sale from this weekend, 11th/12th November. As always, we rely on the generosity of our parishioners for donations of bottles and sweets for the tombolas, along with any unwanted gifts for the raffle - these can be left in the boxes at the back of the Church, thank you! More details to follow but please make a note in your diaries to come and support the Fair.

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

MARY'S OPEN GARAGE IN NOVEMBER - Fundraising for The Cardinal Hume Centre for the Homeless

Mary's fundraising for the Cardinal Hume Centre for the homeless finished on Saturday 24th November with the drawing of the 20 item raffle and refreshments. Very many thanks to all who helped with this great effort, especially to Marguerite who raised £512 by her cake sale alone. Any last minute donations can be given to Mary before 28th November and the total will be announced next Sunday. An especially huge thank you to Mary for all her efforts throughout the month in hosting the sale in her garage and organising the coffee morning and raffle last Sunday for this worthy cause. *Fr Andrew*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 3rd December 9am - Advent Fayre at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

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

Sunday 10th December 11.30am - Christmas Fair at St John the Evangelist, Mill End

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