



### 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  
[andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Matteo Di Giuseppe  
[matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz  
[p.matarewicz@gmail.com](mailto:p.matarewicz@gmail.com)

#### Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts  
[anne@themessagemachine.com](mailto:anne@themessagemachine.com)


#### Mill End

Geraldine Page  
[geraldine.page21@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.page21@gmail.com)

Address for all correspondence:

5 Park Road, Rickmansworth  
WD3 1HU

Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

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#### Livestreaming:

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

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841  
[rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747  
[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry  
Leadership Team:

[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir

Director [rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk)

## THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

### The Church in the Modern World

*In the fourth part of our Vatican II series we begin to look at the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Gaudium et Spes.*

*Gaudium et Spes* begins with the observation that the Church at all times carries the responsibility of reading the signs of the time and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel, if it is to carry out its task. It particularly notes that we live in an age of history with critical and swift upheavals spreading to all corners of the earth, which result in real social and cultural transformations which both advance humanity but also inevitably lead to problems in us recognising permanent values and applying them to recent discoveries. This has an impact on our traditional structures of communities, as well as major changes in our attitudes, morals and religions. The introduction concludes *'The Church... maintains that beneath all that changes there is much that is unchanging, much that has its ultimate foundation in Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever.'* (GeS 10)

The Constitution is divided into two sections, with Part One entitled 'The Church and Man's Vocation', encouraging us to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to discern the purpose of God in our world today. The first chapter of this section is entitled 'The Dignity of the Human Person', reflecting on our belief from sacred scripture that we are created in the image of God, able to know and love our creator, and to give him glory. We are then reminded that because of our sin we are divided in ourselves, experiencing the struggle in life between good and evil. However, because God gives us freedom, through the diligent use of our intellect, of truth and of wisdom, we continue to look for and to love what is true and good. Deep within us we have a law inscribed by God, and our dignity lies in observing this law which is grounded in our conscience. It is our responsibility to not allow our conscience to go astray through ignorance, but to correctly form it by seeking to find out what is good and true. The chapter continues by stating that *'the dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God'*, but there are increasingly those who do not perceive or who explicitly reject this bond of man to God. Although it is tempting to blame Atheists themselves for this view, the Council recognised that believers sometimes share the blame for this situation, because we are careless about our instruction in the faith, or present teaching falsely, or even fail in our religious, moral or social life, so that we conceal rather than reveal the true nature of God and of religion. The chapter concludes that the Church has the responsibility to counter Atheism by presenting true teaching in a fitting manner and by the fruitfulness of the full and complete life of the Church and of her members, which ultimately can only be found through Christ.

The second chapter of the section is entitled 'The Community of Mankind' and seeks to show that by our nature of being made in God's image, we are designed to be communal beings. It states *'life in society is not something accessory to man himself: through his dealings with others, through mutual service, and through fraternal dialogue, man develops all his talents and becomes able to rise to his destiny'* (GeS 25). Due to the increase in awareness of those across the whole world, we also are witnessing a widening of the role of the common good. The Council stressed the need for respect for the human person, with equality for all, highlighting the need for everyone seeing their neighbour as another self, particularly the weak and the vulnerable. This also includes treating our enemies with respect and love, as Jesus calls us to. The chapter concluded by pointing out our responsibility to act for the common good according to our own personal means and the needs of others, and to encourage each other in this duty and foster this outlook with our young people. This is in line with the teachings of Christ himself, who called all those in communion with him to have solidarity in our mission and to love our brothers and sisters, until we come together as one family to give perfect glory to God.

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	9.30am 2.00pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Blessing of Graves	Our Lady Help of Christians Chorleywood Road Cemetery
<b>TUE 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	4.30pm 7.00pm	Youth Choir Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>WED 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THU 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	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
<b>SAT 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	2.00pm	Blessing of Graves	Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery
<b>SUN 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	2.00pm 2.30pm	Community Act of Remembrance Remembrance Sunday Service	Reach Free School St Mary's Church

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <i>ST CHARLES BORROMEO</i>	<b>11.00am</b> For all deceased members of our parishes	<b>6pm</b> Anne Doherty (Ints.)	
<b>SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <i>THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Erma Harrington (Ints.) <b>11am</b> Giuseppe Reda RIP <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> Ray Shaw	<b>9am</b> Gregory McEwen RIP (Anniv.)
<b>MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		
<b>TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Julia & Phyllis Rice RIP (Anniv.)		<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls
<b>WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Stuart Taperell RIP	
<b>THU 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <i>THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Alexander & Carmen Buhagiar RIP		
<b>FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <i>ST LEO THE GREAT, POPE</i>	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	<b>11.00am</b> Memorial Mass - Tom Cuff RIP	
<b>SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <i>ST MARTIN OF TOURS</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls	<b>6pm</b> Kathleen Herlihy RIP	
<b>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> <i>THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Special Intentions <b>11am</b> For those who died in the war <b>6pm</b> Fr Tim O'Connor RIP	<b>10.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>9am</b> Andy Kelly RIP
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Peter Scally 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, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Ann & Martin Penn, Pam Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris and Derek Treanor

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### **SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION**

Our second collection today will be in support of the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support. Last year, the Diocese provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund today, you can help us to ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need. If you took a donation envelope last weekend, please place it in the collection bag today. If you are able, please consider filling out a standing order form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests. Thank you for your generosity and please remember to pray for our clergy, in active ministry, retired or ill.

### **MISSION APPEAL**

On the weekends of 12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> November Sr Mary Sebastian Ogwuike from the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ will be making an appeal at our Masses for work of the Missionary Sisters of England and Wales in supporting the poor and the marginalised around the world. Please support this appeal through your generous donations and prayers.

### **DEANERY MASS FOR THE DECEASED CLERGY OF THE WATFORD DEANERY**

The clergy of Watford deanery will be celebrating a Mass on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon at Holy Rood, Watford for all those priests who have served our parishes and died. All are welcome to join the deanery for this Mass.

### **YOUTH SUMMIT**

Join the Westminster Youth Ministry for an evening of food, games, and an encounter with Jesus at Holy Rood Church, Watford on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 7-9pm. The Summit is an evening for youth (13-18) as an opportunity to meet young people from the Watford deanery and delve deeper into their faith through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confession. Please let Fr Matteo know if you are planning to join this event.

### **ACCOMMODATION SOUGHT**

A young male teacher who has recently been appointed at a local Catholic school is looking for affordable accommodation during the week in the area, preferably in a Christian/Catholic household or studio. If you have anywhere suitable, please get in touch with the parish office.

### **PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN NOVEMBER**

November is a month when we traditionally pray for the repose of the faithful departed, remembering in a special way our departed family members and friends. Holy Souls sheets on which you can write the names of your departed loved ones and friends are available from this weekend. These can then be placed inside one of the brown "November Dead" envelopes, with any offering you wish to make, and then be placed in the "Holy Souls" box provided. During the month of November weekday Masses across the three parishes will be offered for the Holy Souls and your intentions will be placed in a special box in front of the altar as a focus for our prayer for the faithful departed.

### **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/>

### **BLESSING OF GRAVES**

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

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The Remembrance Sunday Service will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm at St Mary's Church (CofE), Rickmansworth. It will be preceded by the Remembrance Sunday Parade beginning at Our Lady Help of Christians at 2.00pm. Parishioners are invited to join us to mark this solemn and historic occasion. The Community Act of Remembrance in Mill End and Maple Cross is taking place again this year at the Reach Free School from 2.00pm.

### **FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

Will meet at 2.15pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November (DVD about Saints), and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December (special meeting to welcome People Connex).

### **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 13<sup>th</sup> November with your child's name and age. The winner will be announced the following weekend, as the card goes to print.

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### **ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The designs for our new school building which will be completed in 2025 can be seen on our website: <https://www.stjohns705.herts.sch.uk/Our-future-school/> We have two Open Days for prospective parents to view our school and find out more about the admission process. These will be taking place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 9.30am and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 1.45pm. To book a place on one of our open days, please contact the school office either by email [admin@stjohns705.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjohns705.herts.sch.uk) or call 01923 774004.

### **JUBILEE 2025: YEAR OF THE COUNCIL**

Two online talks on two of Vatican II's Constitutions with Fr Brian O'Mahony. 7<sup>th</sup> November - Lumen Gentium – How the Church Looks at herself; 28<sup>th</sup> November - Gaudium et Spes – How the Church Looks at the World. Please register with Warren Brown [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk)

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### REGISTRATION

We encourage all parishioners to register for the parish using the 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.

### 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](mailto:chessvalleysvp@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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

There will be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

### ADVENT FAYRE

Donations being collected for the Advent Fayre on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair will be taking place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, after the 10.30am Mass. Raffle tickets will go on sale from next weekend, 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:liztownsenduk@gmail.com)

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

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

Our first open morning was held last Saturday and we were glad to welcome all who came. We will be open on next three Saturdays 10.30am - 12.30pm and any other time by appointment. Please continue to bring Raffle and Silent Auction Prizes to the garage or to church. There will be a **Coffee Morning** after Mass on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November for the sale and collection of Marguerite's delicious cakes. These can be pre-ordered from Marguerite 282780 or via Mary or come and buy on that morning. We will also be displaying the raffle prizes and selling tickets for that, too. Please, could any energetic person volunteer to take posters to the shops in the village. The Cardinal Hume Centre need all the help we can give! Thank you all, Mary 284975

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2pm - Blessing of Graves at Chorleywood Road Cemetery  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2pm - Blessing of Graves at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2.00pm - Community Act of Remembrance at Reach Free School  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2.30pm - Remembrance Sunday Service at St Mary's Church (CofE)  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2pm - Blessing of Graves at Woodcock Hill Cemetery  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 6pm - Parishes Youth Mass & Celebration at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 3pm - Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service at St John's, Mill End