



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:

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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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@ChessValleyRC



ChessValleyParishes



ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

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

THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

The Role of the Church in the Modern World

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

The third chapter of Part One of the document is entitled 'Man's Activity in the Universe' and begins by observing that thanks to an increased understanding of science and technology, in recent years humanity has grown in its questioning of things which were assumed to be part of the plan of God. It goes on to state that *'far from considering the conquests of man's genius and courage as opposed to God's power..., Christians ought to be convinced that the achievements of the human race are a sign of God's greatness and fulfilment of his mysterious design'* (GeS34). Rather than disproving the existence of God, human discoveries are evidence of this, as without a creator there can be no creature. However, with human progress comes grave temptations, such as pride and inordinate self-love, and these must be purified and perfected by the cross and resurrection of Christ. The Word of God reveals to us that 'God is love' and at the same time teaches us that the fundamental law of human perfection and consequently transformation of the world is the new commandment of love. It is by this revelation that we know that the form of this world that is distorted by sin is passing away and we look forward to the new dwelling God is preparing for us. This expectation means that rather than diminishing our concern to develop this earth, we should be spurred on in spreading the fruits of our nature and our enterprise, of human dignity, brotherly communion, and freedom always aware that *'here on earth the kingdom is mysteriously present; when the Lord comes it will enter its perfection'* (GeS39).

The Constitution continues with a chapter dedicated to the 'Role of the Church in the Modern World'. It tells us that proceeding from the love of the Father, the Church was founded on Christ and gathered into one in the Holy Spirit. It therefore has a saving and eschatological purpose which can only be attained in the next life, but here on earth it is called to unite the family of God and to increase it continually until the Lord comes. The Church is therefore entrusted with the task of revealing to humanity the mystery of God and in doing so open up the meaning of our own existence and the innermost truth about ourselves, satisfying the deepest cravings of the human heart. The Church also has the role of raising the dignity of human nature above all fluctuating opinions, upholding the rights of man in accordance with the spirit of the Gospel and preserved from false autonomy. This role extends beyond the individual to the whole of society, as the Church's mission is a religious one which can be the source of commitment, direction and vigour to establish and consolidate the community according to the law of God.

The Council warns against the danger of shirking our earthly responsibilities due to our knowledge that this is no lasting city, but also by immersing ourselves in the things of the earth and keeping religion separate as the fulfilment of a few acts of worship and moral obligations. It states *'one of the gravest errors of our times is the dichotomy between the faith which many profess and the practice of their daily lives... the Christian who shirks his temporal duties shirks his duties towards his neighbour, neglects God himself and endangers his eternal salvation'* (GeS43). It encourages us to follow the example of Christ, living in the world but directing all things towards the glory of God.

The Council also recognises that the Church has much to receive from the modern world, particularly from its experts in its organisations and its forms of training, which can enrich both believers and unbelievers in coming to a better understanding of truth in the light of the Gospel.

The chapter concludes with the statement: *'Whether it aids the world or whether it benefits from it, the Church has but one sole purpose – that the kingdom of God may come and the salvation of the human race may be accomplished'* (GeS45). This is why Christ came to us in the flesh, why he died and then rose again for us, and why with his Spirit we continue to move forward together towards the consummation of history which fully corresponds to his plan of love.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 12TH NOVEMBER	10.30am 2.00pm 2.30pm	Youth Choir sings at Mass Community Act of Remembrance Remembrance Sunday Service	St John the Evangelist Reach Free School St Mary's Church
TUE 14TH NOVEMBER	12 noon 4.30pm 7.00pm	Mass for Deceased Clergy of the Watford Deanery Youth Choir Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall	Holy Rood St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 16TH 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 18TH NOVEMBER	9.30am	GIFT Family Day	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 19TH NOVEMBER	10.00am 2.00pm	Coffee Morning Blessing of Graves	St John Fisher Woodcock Hill Cemetery

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER <i>St MARTIN OF TOURS</i>	9.30am Holy Souls	6pm Kathleen Herlihy RIP	
SUNDAY 12 TH NOVEMBER <i>THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY</i> <i>IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Special Intentions 11am For those who died in war 6pm Fr Tim O'Connor RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Andy Kelly RIP
MONDAY 13 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		
TUESDAY 14 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		9.30am Colin Dowling RIP
WEDNESDAY 15 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Frank Roche RIP	9.30am Holy Souls	
THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER <i>St EDMUND OF ABINGDON</i>	9.30am Holy Souls		
FRIDAY 17 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		
SATURDAY 18 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls	6pm Adam Budzynski RIP	
SUNDAY 19 TH NOVEMBER <i>THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN</i> <i>ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Dora, Christopher, Michael & Margaret Conway RIP 11am Ann Mulholland RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Verity (Ints.)	10.30am Special Intention	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Peter Scally RIP	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for Shane Jobe RIP (Anniv.)	



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

MISSION APPEAL

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

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' collection last weekend. Your generosity means our sick and retired priests will receive the care and support they need. If you haven't had the chance to make your donation, there is still time. You will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can donate online through the Diocese website – look out for the 'QR Code' on the envelopes and poster. Alternatively, take a Patron's leaflet and consider giving on a regular basis, assuring the care of our priests in their old age, or at a time of illness. This fund is a priority of the Church, and it provides us a chance to come together and say 'Thank you' to the priests who have served us. May God bless you for your kindness.

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.

PATRICK WALSH RIP

The ashes of Patrick Walsh will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 11.00am Mass on Thursday 23rd November. Please note there won't be 9.30am Mass that day,

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group (for those in secondary school) is on Tuesday 21st November 6.30-8pm. Sharing food and fun with friends. We will be planning the Youth Mass at this meeting so come and join us. Parents/guardians please let us know who's coming - text Belinda 07788 721222.

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.

DEANERY MASS FOR THE DECEASED CLERGY OF THE WATFORD DEANERY

The clergy of Watford deanery will be celebrating a Mass on Tuesday 14th 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.

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

Fr Andrew and Fr Matteo will be blessing graves at Woodcock Hill Cemetery on Sunday 19th November at 2pm.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Remembrance Sunday Service will take place on Sunday 12th 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.

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 an Open Day for prospective parents to view our school and find out more about the admission process. This will be taking place on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 1.45pm. To book a place at our open day, please contact the school office either by email admin@stjohns705.herts.sch.uk or call 01923 774004.

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

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

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

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.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to our October winners - Pat Kelly (£37.50), Mary Thomson (£22.50) and Roger Harbird (£15).

Thank you to everyone who has just joined the 200 Club Draw and to all those who continue to support us each year. Good luck to you all. If you would still like to join from next month, it is not too late - please contact Louise on rickmansworthcof@rcdow.org who will send you the relevant details. If you asked for details, and have not yet received an email from Louise - please do get in touch as some emails sent have been returned. Many thanks

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

We will be open on the next two 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 19th 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. The Cardinal Hume Centre need all the help we can give! Thank you all, Mary 284975

UPCOMING EVENTS

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