



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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 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

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Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:
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Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir
Director rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 19TH NOVEMBER 2023

Marriage, Family & the Proper Development of Culture

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

The second part of Gaudium et Spes begins with focusing on the dignity of marriage and the family, in light of the challenges that are faced in the modern world in these relationships. The Council reminds us that God himself is the author of marriage and has endowed with it various merits and with certain ends in view. We read *'by its very nature the institution of marriage and married love is ordered to the procreation and education of the offspring and it is in them that it finds its crowning glory'* (48). In married life Christian Spouses are called to love each other with enduring fidelity, as God loves the Church, and they are made holy as together they give glory to God. Children in their own way contribute to this sanctification of their parents, by their gratitude, affection and trust that they give to them in return for their love. The Council also recognised the challenges of marriage, recognising that *'outstanding courage is required for the constant fulfilment of the duties of this Christian calling'*, as well as the need for grace found in the Sacrament, for authentic married love to be lived out. It also highlighted the importance of educating our children through witness and instruction of the dignity and importance of married love.

The Council reiterated that marriage and married love are by nature ordered to the procreation and education of children, and that married couples should co-operate with the love of God the Creator in this mission. This should be fulfilled with *'a sense of human and Christian responsibility and the formation of correct judgements through docile respect to God and with consideration of their own good and the good of their children already born or yet to come'* (50). The document continues by acknowledging that there are some situations in married life which hinder the number of children a couple can have, but this must not lead to the endangering of the life of children from the moment of conception, through abortion, infanticide or any methods of birth regulation not approved of by the Church in its interpretation of the divine law. This important chapter concludes with: *'The family is the place where different generations come together and help one another to grow wiser and harmonize the rights of individuals with other demands of social life; as such it constitutes the basis of society'* (52). It then calls for all members of society to devote themselves to the welfare of marriage and the family.

The Constitution continues with a chapter dedicated to the proper development of culture. It recognises that there have been profound changes on the social and cultural level and we have entered a new age of human history as a result of the expansion of the natural and human sciences, the increase of technology, and the advances in developing and organising media of communication. This has led to positive developments but also creates huge challenges, but *'in spite of these conflicting issues human culture must evolve today in such a way that it will develop the whole human person harmoniously and integrally, and will help all men to fulfil the tasks to which they are called'* (56).

The document goes on to stress the importance of always keeping at the heart of our work the pilgrimage to the heavenly city, knowing there is more than what we experience on this earth. It also encourages us to share the good news of our salvation, being aware our faith can always enrich the society in which we live. However, it also reminds us that culture must always be subordinate to the integral development of the human person, to the good of the community and of the whole of mankind. The Council also remind us it is our duty to ensure that all people are aware of their right to culture and their duty to develop themselves and their fellows through proper education, and this includes women, who are entitled to play their part fully. The chapter concludes by observing that over the years the Church has contributed largely to the progress of culture and that this should continue by active engagement with those in the arts, as well as collaboration with those working in the expanding world of the sciences. It is hoped that the increase of study of theology will help this progress to continue with God at its heart.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 19TH NOVEMBER	10.00am 2.00pm	Coffee Morning Blessing of Graves	St John Fisher Woodcock Hill Cemetery
MON 20TH NOVEMBER	7.30pm	Catechist Training - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 21ST NOVEMBER	4.30pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	Youth Choir Youth Group - Hall Prayer & Life Workshop - Hall Upstairs	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 22ND NOVEMBER	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 23RD 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
SUN 26TH NOVEMBER	9.30am	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 18 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls	6pm Adam Budzynski RIP	
SUNDAY 19 TH NOVEMBER <i>THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN 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
MONDAY 20 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am James Harbird RIP (Anniv.)		
TUESDAY 21 ST NOVEMBER <i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am Holy Souls		9.30am Holy Souls
WED 22ND NOVEMBER <i>ST CECILIA, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Deceased clergy of the diocese	9.30am Karen & Paul Parsons (Ints.)	
THURSDAY 23 RD NOVEMBER	11.00am Patrick Walsh RIP		
FRIDAY 24 TH NOVEMBER <i>ST ANDREW DUNG-LAC, PRIEST & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	9.30am Dora, Christopher, Michael & Margaret Conway RIP		
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



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

This weekend Sr Helena 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.

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.

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.

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.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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

DIOCESAN NOTICES

RED WEDNESDAY 2023

Red Wednesday is an important opportunity for UK Christians to express their support for persecuted Christians worldwide. Throughout the day Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) encourages everyone to wear an item of red (representing martyrdom) and to help to achieve ACN's target of 100k Decades of the Rosary and £100k 'Matched' Challenge for Africa. As part of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)'s #RedWednesday 2023 celebrations on 22nd November, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, will celebrate a special evening Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Red Wednesday events in London will start at 5.30pm with a gathering in the Cathedral's Courtyard before Mass at 6pm. For more information you can go to www.acnuk.org. If you wish to get involved in the charity, or if you wish to be an ACN parish volunteer, please contact John Ravi on 07932973650, John.Ravi@acnuk.org

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

Four online talks by Fr John Deehan focusing on the Prayers and Gospels of the Christmas Masses. **23rd November:** The Vigil Mass; **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

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

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.**

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.

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@redow.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

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

Today after Mass, Marguerite will be selling her cakes and refreshments will be on sale in the Church Lounge. There will also be a display of our raffle prizes with raffle tickets on sale. The raffle will be drawn at our final open session (10.30am-12.30pm) in Mary's Garage on Saturday 25th at 12pm. All proceeds will be sent to the Cardinal Hume Centre for the homeless where they will be doubled by benefactors. Keep on praying, we are doing quite well so far. Love from Mary 285975 xx

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 19th November 2pm - Blessing of Graves at Woodcock Hill Cemetery

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