



### 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 Dom Matokovic  
[domagojmatokovic@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:domagojmatokovic@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator:**

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

Francis Holly (Discipleship)

[fgholly@hotmail.com](mailto:fgholly@hotmail.com)

Jo Rodrigues (Faith in Action)

[jorodrigues425@gmail.com](mailto:jorodrigues425@gmail.com)

Lizzie Quinn (Families & Youth)

[elizabeth\\_quinn@icloud.com](mailto:elizabeth_quinn@icloud.com)


Richard Booth (Evangelisation)

[boothrm1925@gmail.com](mailto:boothrm1925@gmail.com)

Address for all correspondence:

5 Park Road, Rickmansworth  
WD3 1HU

Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

 ChessValleyParishes

**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)

Youth Choir Director:

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

## OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (YEAR C) 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

### Friends, therefore witnesses

Christian witness arises from friendship with the Lord, who was crucified and rose for the salvation of all. This witness is not to be confused with ideological propaganda, for it is an authentic principle of interior transformation and social awareness. Jesus chose to call his disciples “friends.” He made known to them the Kingdom of God, asked them to remain with him, to become his community, and sent them to proclaim the Gospel. So, when Jesus tells us, “Be witnesses,” he is assuring us that he considers us as his friends. He alone fully knows who we are and why we are here; young people, he knows your heart, your indignation in the face of discrimination and injustice, your desire for truth and beauty, for joy and peace. Through his friendship, he listens to you, motivates you, and guides you, calling each of you to a new life.

Jesus, always wants nothing but our good... He does not want us to be servants, nor “activists” of a political party; he calls us to be with him as friends, so that our lives may be renewed. And witness arises spontaneously from the joyful newness of this friendship. It is a unique friendship that grants us communion with God, a faithful friendship that helps us discover our dignity and that of others, an eternal friendship that not even death can destroy, because the risen and crucified Lord is its source.

Let us consider the message the Apostle John gives us at the end of the fourth Gospel: “This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true” (Jn 21:24). The entire account is summarized as a “testimony,” full of gratitude and wonder, from a disciple who never reveals his name, but calls himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” This title reflects a relationship: it is not the name of an individual, but the testimony of a personal bond with Christ. That is what really matters to John: being a disciple of the Lord and feeling loved by him. We understand, then, that Christian witness is the fruit of a relationship of faith and love with Jesus, in whom we find the salvation of our lives. What the Apostle John writes also refers to you. You are invited by Christ to follow him and sit beside him, to listen to his heart and share closely in his life! Each one of you is a “beloved disciple” for him, and from this love comes the joy of witness.

Another courageous witness to the Gospel is the Precursor of Jesus, John the Baptist, who came “to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him”. Although he enjoyed great fame among the people, he knew well that he was only a “voice” pointing to the Saviour when he exclaimed, “Behold, the Lamb of God”. His example reminds us that true witnesses do not seek to occupy the centre stage, nor to bind their followers to themselves. True witnesses are humble and inwardly free, above all from themselves, that is, from the pretence of being the centre of attention. Therefore, they are free to listen, to understand, and also to speak the truth to everyone, even in the presence of those who are powerful. From John the Baptist, we learn that Christian witness is neither a proclamation of ourselves nor a celebration of our spiritual, intellectual or moral abilities. True witness is recognizing and pointing to Jesus when he appears, as he is the only one who saves us. John recognized him among sinners, immersed in common humanity. To that end, Pope Francis insisted so often that if we do not go beyond ourselves and our comfort zones, if we do not go to the poor and those who feel excluded from the Kingdom of God, we cannot encounter Christ and bear witness to him.

I invite each of you to imitate Jesus’ friends and witnesses in the Bible. As you read the Gospel, you will find that they all discovered the true meaning of life through their living relationship with Christ. Indeed, our deepest questions are not heard or answered by endlessly scrolling on our cell phones, which captures our attention but leaves us with tired minds and empty hearts. The fulfilment of our authentic desires always comes through going beyond ourselves.

*Extract from Message of Pope Leo XIV for 40<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day,  
Solemnity of Christ the King 2025.*

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	9.30am 11.00am 11.30am	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall First Holy Communion - Lorelai Conner Tea & Coffee - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
<b>MON 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	7.30pm 7.30pm - 8.30pm	Alpha - Hall Alpha Holy Hour - Church	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>TUE 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	3.30pm - 4.45pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
<b>THU 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	2.00pm 8.00pm	SVP Warm Winter Space - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	11.15am	Baptism - Sonny McNicholas	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SUN 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	11.30am - 1.00pm 6.00pm	Advent Fair - Hall Youth Mass. Youth Choir sing at Mass.	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 22 <sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Margaret Jones RIP	<b>6pm</b> Tommy Livingston RIP (Anniv.)	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 23 <sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER <i>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Christopher, Margaret, Dora & Michael Conway RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> John Culkin RIP <b>6pm</b> Jessie Pione RIP	<b>10.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>9am</b> Tony & Pat Finucane RIP (Anniv.)
<b>MONDAY</b> 24 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER <i>ST ANDREW DŨNG-LŨC &amp; COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Mark Anthony Xavier RIP (14 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.)		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 25 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Special Intention		<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 26 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls	<b>9.30am</b> Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.)	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 27 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 28 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 29 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls	<b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 30 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Christopher, Margaret, Dora & Michael Conway RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Sheila Callanan RIP (Anniv.) <b>6pm</b> James 'Jim' Michael O'Mahoney RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Holy Souls	<b>9am</b> Richard Hale RIP
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>			
<b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSION</b>	<b>Sundays 5pm - 5.40pm</b>	<b>Saturdays 5pm - 5.40pm</b>	<b>Confessions on request and by appointment</b>

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

**Our Lady Help of Christians:** Kathleen Collins, Neville Mathews, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Maureen Douglas, Michael Gaukroger, Leslie Edwards, Pauline Williams, Gloria Warmington, Veronica Finnegan, Mark & Janet Kirwan, Ann Aldridge, Judy Gordon and Sean.

**St John the Evangelist:** Paul O'Connor, Louise Borg, Sandie Tew, John Smith and Grace Haddad

**St John Fisher:** Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Angela Hoy, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Julian Harris, Edith Moid and Sue Treanor.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to George Etherington who was baptised at Our Lady's on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Congratulations to Lorelai Conner who made her First Holy Communion this Sunday at the 11.00am Mass at Our Lady's.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

### SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund 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. Please do 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.

### YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR

Are you passionate about music and working with young people? Do you have the vision and energy to lead and develop our choir of boys and girls aged 7 and above. This is a unique opportunity to inspire the next generation through music and worship. The parishes are currently advertising for a new Director of our Youth Choir, to take up the position in the new year. For further information please go to <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

### SAFEGUARDING

Being alert to matters of Safeguarding (ensuring the care and welfare of children and vulnerable adults) is something to which we are all invited to attend. There are information posters at the back of church - including warning signs to look out for, contact numbers and websites for information and support.

### YOUTH MASS

All are welcome to join our Youth Mass on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth. Please join us afterwards in the hall for food and fun.

### FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please join us to make new friends in the parish and to follow a DVD about getting to know the Bible.

### IGNITE

A discipleship event for Catholics aged 14-18 across Hertfordshire. An opportunity to connect with other young Catholics from Watford, Hemel & St Albans, and grow in faith through teaching, discussion, prayer, doughnuts and games. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at SS Alban & Stephen, St Albans. 6pm to 7.30pm beginning with the Vigil Mass at 5.00pm. Organised by the ASCAT Youth Ministry Team. Please let the Parish Office know if you are planning to attend.

### THE CHOSEN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

We invite you to join us for a Christmas Special on 6<sup>th</sup> December 5-7pm, where we will be watching two Christmas related videos from The Chosen series and have a discussion afterwards. Please let us know if you would like to join by emailing [santoshialles@yahoo.com](mailto:santoshialles@yahoo.com) or feel free to turn up on the day.

### THE HISTORY OF SALVATION - TALKS

Sometimes life poses challenges which we don't know how to tackle. You may feel crushed or oppressed, and alone in it. But God sees the sufferings of his people, and comes to save them by his powerful Word. Come to a journey through the Bible, and find that it speaks about your life, too! The course will be led by Fr Dom, and it will take place over 11 weeks on Sundays at 7pm, beginning on January 11<sup>th</sup>, in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

### 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. Full information on how to prepare our funerals can be found at the diocesan website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/liturgy/preparing-for-a-funeral/>

### 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.

### YOUTH CHOIR

Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at St John's Church, Mill End from 3.30-4.45pm and all those in Year 3 and above are welcome to join. Please email [rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk) or contact the parish office for more information.

### 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 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 a gateway to discerning with you the readiness of your children to begin preparation for the Sacraments.** One parent has recently fed back *"Participating in GIFT has been the best decision not only for my child but for me as a Catholic"*. If your family would like to sign up for GIFT then please register via our parish website under 'Parish Life' or contact the parish office.



## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### OUR PARISHES' SEA SCOUT GROUP

The Group are always pleased to welcome young people to join in with the variety of activities offered by the various sections. We are also in need of adult volunteers for all age groups to help us continue with this provision within the Parish and wider community. For further information please contact: [info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk](mailto:info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk)

### PIANO AVAILABLE

The parishes have a piano that we no longer need. If you are interested in having it then please contact the parish office for further details.

### FROM CHESS VALLEY SVP - Helping Sudanese refugees

Because of security and corruption issues the SVP cannot donate directly to Sudan to help deal with their appalling refugee crisis. However the UNHCR is one of the few agencies which can operate there to help with shelter, clean water and food. Please consider donating via this link: <https://donate.unrefugees.org.uk/general/~my-donation>

### DECEMBER SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Chess Valley Community Lunch will take place a week earlier than usual on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We look forward to welcoming our regular guests and parishioners from across the three parishes. We hope you can join us.

### 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. 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)

### URGENTLY NEEDED – MILL END FOOD BANK

There is a current shortage of tinned soup, tinned vegetables, tinned custard/rice pudding, tinned meat e.g. casseroles/ mince (not corned beef), baked beans, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, snacks e.g. cup of soup/pot noodles/cereal bars, long life juice/squash, tea, coffee. **Please ensure that food items donated are not out of date.** Non food items: shampoo, shower gel, laundry products, deodorant, toothpaste – adult and children's. Items can be placed in the boxes provided at the back of each church.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### COFFEE MORNINGS

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass this Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, for our SVP Coffee Morning.

There will be a Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund

### STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions, the box is in the church porch. Please remember to save your Christmas card and parcel stamps too! Thank you, *Sheila H*

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S ADVENT FAIR

This year's Fair will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November after the 10.30am Mass from 11.30am-1pm in the church hall. There will be Sunday brunch available along with Christmas stalls and a visit from Father Christmas! Please make a note in your diaries to come along and support the Fair. Donations of bottles and sweets for the tombolas are greatly appreciated and can be left in the church porch from now on. Raffle tickets are on sale after all weekend Masses so please bring some cash to Mass! A reminder that the fair will also be cash only. Thank you for your support.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's liturgy this term will take place on the following dates: 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> December. 24<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm Christmas Eve Mass, Children are invited to participate in the Story of the Nativity (costumes provided, no speaking parts required).

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### MARY'S GARAGE SALE IN AID OF THE CARDINAL HUME CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS

Saturday's Garage Open Day was a lovely day, filled with happy customers, tasty food, and wonderful helpers.

At Sunday's Coffee Morning, we held both the Raffle and the Silent Auction. Thank you to our youngest volunteers, George and Caitlin, who did a great job, and to everyone who assisted with the refreshments. We're also grateful to Stephen Currid and his family from the Cardinal Hume Centre for joining us. We still have two more weeks to go in the garage, by appointment, and a few Silent-Auction items remain in the lounge. As at the end of this last weekend, our total interim figure was £3,670. Thank you all so much for your continued support. Much love, Mary 07795 276728

### MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

To our small and loyal group of donors may I please have your donations by the first week in December (so I can get the annual return done). Love and thanks from Mary.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 11.30am to 1.00pm - Advent Fair at St John the Evangelist Parish Hall

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6pm - Youth Mass at Our Lady's Church

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 5pm - Chosen Christmas Special at Our Lady's Parish Hall.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 3pm - Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service at St John the Evangelist Church