



### 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  
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#### 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)

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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)

Youth Choir Director:

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

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025

#### Bishop Richard Moth appointed new Archbishop of Westminster

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has today, 19 December, appointed the Right Reverend Richard Moth as Archbishop of Westminster. Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3 July 1982, Archbishop-elect Moth has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015. Prior to that, he was the Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009 to 2015.

Archbishop-elect Moth will become the 12<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who has served in the role since 2009. Cardinal Nichols will now become Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Westminster until Archbishop-elect Moth is Installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 14 February 2026.

On hearing of his appointment, Archbishop-elect Moth said: "I am moved greatly by the trust that Pope Leo has placed in me, in appointing me to the Diocese of Westminster. As I prepare to move to the Diocese, I am so grateful for the support being given to me by Cardinal Vincent Nichols at this time. He has given dedicated service to the Diocese and will be missed greatly.

"Serving the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton has given me the wonderful opportunity of sharing the Church's mission with lay faithful and clergy, and I give thanks for the many blessings of these last ten years. My first task will be to get to know the priests and people of Westminster and I look forward, now, to serving them. With them, and building on the firm foundations that have been laid by so many down the years, I look forward to continuing the great adventure that is the life of the Church and witness to the Gospel."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: "I am delighted at this news. Archbishop-elect Richard will bring to our Diocese many gifts and considerable episcopal experience from his years of ministry in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, and before that as Bishop of the Forces. I look forward very much to his Installation as our new Archbishop on Saturday, 14 February 2026. It is, of course, St Valentine's Day, as well as the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, co-Patrons of Europe. I remember being present in Westminster Cathedral on 29 September 2009 for the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Richard as Bishop of the Forces. So today I can say: 'Welcome back, dear Bishop Richard. You are most welcome indeed.'"

Biography: Bishop Richard Moth was born in Chingola, Zambia, in 1958. He was brought up in Kent and, after leaving The Judd School, Tonbridge, began formation for the Priesthood at St. John's Seminary, Womersley. He was ordained Priest for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3 June 1982.

He served as assistant priest at St. Bede's, Clapham Park, before pursuing studies in Canon Law at St. Paul University, Ottawa. In 1987, he was appointed assistant priest at St. Saviour's Lewisham, during which time he also served as a Territorial Army Chaplain with 217 General Hospital RAMC(V). He served as Private Secretary to Archbishop Michael Bowen from 1992 until 2001, during which time he was also President of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Second Instance of Southwark and Vocations Director. In 2001 he was appointed Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese. He was ordained Bishop of the Forces on 29 September 2009 in Westminster Cathedral and served in this capacity, until his appointment as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton on 21 March 2015.

He is Chair of Governors at St. Mary's University, Twickenham, Chair of the Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and Liaison Bishop for Prisons. He serves on the Standing Committee of the Bishops' Conference. He chairs The Plater Trust, dedicated to the support of projects across England and Wales that put into practice the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. He is also a member of the Mixed Commission of the Bishops' Conference.

Bishop Richard has been an Oblate of Pluscarden Abbey for over 40 years and is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, travelling many times to the Holy Land. In 2020 he was appointed Prior of the Southern Section of the Lieutenantancy of England and Wales. He enjoys horse riding and walking.

*Let us keep Archbishop-elect Richard Moth in our prayers as he prepares to lead our diocese.*

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER</b>	11.30am	Tea & Coffee - Hall	St John the Evangelist
<b>MON 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.00am	Advent Holy Hour & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SUN 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	11.30am	Tea & Coffee - Hall	St John the Evangelist

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 20 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls	<b>6pm</b> John Smith RIP	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 21 <sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> John Philips RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Justin Quinn RIP <b>6pm</b> Jack & Kathleen Crossan RIP (Anniv.)	<b>10.30am</b> Pascal Rock RIP (Anniv.)	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>MONDAY</b> 22 <sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls (B.B.)		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 23 <sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls		<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 24 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>NO 9.30AM MASS</b> <b>6pm</b> Arles Borghi RIP (Anniv.) <b>11pm</b> Elliot Breach RIP	<b>NO 9.30AM MASS</b> <b>5.30pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>8pm</b> Mary Parry RIP
<b>THURSDAY</b> 25 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</i>	<b>8.30am</b> For the People of the Parishes <b>11am</b> For the People of the Parishes	<b>10.30am</b> John Smith RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>FRI 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</i>	<b>10am</b> Special Intention		
<b>SAT 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>ST JOHN, APOSTLE</i>	<b>10am</b> Holy Souls	<b>6pm</b> For the Benefactors of St John's Parish	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 28 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Anne O'Meara RIP <b>11am</b> Reynaldo Inton RIP & Patricia Dixon RIP <b>6pm</b> James O'Brien RIP	<b>10.30am</b> John Smith RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week both our Sanctuary Lamps (Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's) burn for the intentions of Denise.		
<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, Alec Ray and Sean.

**St John the Evangelist:** Paul O'Connor, Louise Borg, Sandie Tew 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

### **PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND LED BY FR ANDREW GALLAGHER, 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2026**

Visiting Krakow, The Salt Mine in Wieliczka, Wadowice – the birthplace of Pope St John Paul II, The Divine Mercy Basilica in Lagiewniki, and the Marian Shrine in Czestochowa. The pilgrimage also includes a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau remembering those who died during the Holocaust including St Maximilian Kolbe. Price: £799 plus flights. For full details please contact the parish office.

### **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.

### **CAFOD CHRISTMAS FUN RUN RETURNS!**

Come and join us to work off some of the Christmas indulgences and raise money for CAFOD by running or walking 5km on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December, meeting at Our Lady's at 10am. Warmth and refreshments will be available in the hall afterwards. For more info and donations visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/chessvalleyparishes> or contact Jane Irwin 07590 010902 or Ana Ingles 07872 580058.

### **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

The offerings at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are your personal gift to your priests. The Christmas and Easter offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Andrew and Fr Dom. If you wish to make a Christmas offering, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details (please reference your gift as Christmas Offering). If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Christmas Offering. There are also blue one-off gift aid envelopes available. Thank you

### **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/>

### **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.

### **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.

### **SPONSORED SANCTUARY LAMPS**

In each of our churches 2 sanctuary lamp candles burn throughout the week – one by the tabernacle indicating the Lord's presence, and the other by the statue of Our Lady. Would you like one of these to burn in memory of a loved one, or for a particular intention? If so, we are asking for a donation of £10 per week, for your intention to be remembered and recorded in the weekly newsletter. Please hand your donation into the Parish Office or to one of the priests marked 'Sanctuary Lamp Donation', together with a note stating your particular intention, and the Church and the location of the lamp that you would like to burn for that intention.

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### **VISIO DIVINA: PRAYING WITH ART - Fr Patrick van der Vorst Thursday 15 January, 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Part of the 'Continuing the Journey' series for new Catholics to feed and deepen their relationship with Christ. Fr Patrick will guide us in using the medium of art to pray. Booking in advance is essential. Scan the QR code or email [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk)



### **SERVICE OF ECUMENICAL VESPERS**

Service of Ecumenical Vespers giving thanks for the recognition of St John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church. This will take place in Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 20 January 2026, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at 5.00pm. The preacher will be Archbishop Rowan Williams. All are warmly invited to attend.

### **THE ANNUAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

Will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm at Westminster Cathedral. This will be preceded by a talk at 11.30am in Westminster Cathedral Hall by Dr Kieran Moriarty on the extraordinary story of the Lourdes miracle of Jack Traynor, the man from Liverpool whose miraculous healing was declared a miracle in 2024. Tickets for the talk are £5 per person, available from the link found on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/>

## 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.

### 6<sup>TH</sup> RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Members of our Parish Cubs and Scouts were very pleased to once again support the work of the SVP by making up 200 Vinnie Packs ready for distribution to homeless people. We were pleased to hear that some of these have already gone out to major towns and cities around the Country. As far north as Preston, as far south as Cornwall and across to Wales. An excellent opportunity for our young people to put their Scout Promise 'to help others' into action.

### SVP VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237 . Thank you so much for your support."

### 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>

### SVP TWINNING - Annual appeal for South Sudan

Please consider helping the SVP with their projects of vocational training for young adults, provision of a home for young boys, meals for infants and free healthcare for rural families. These life-saving projects need your help against a backdrop of continuous conflict, food insecurity and a growing humanitarian crisis. To donate please go to <https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/SouthSudan>

### SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

Chess Valley SVP will host their Community lunch every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 12.30pm. This is now in the Church Hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End. We look forward to welcoming our regular guests and parishioners from across the three parishes. If you know of someone who would benefit from this please let them know. 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

### 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

### CHRISTMAS EVE 5.30PM MASS CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

Children wishing to take part in the presentation of the Nativity story should come to the hall at 5.00pm for a rehearsal (costumes provided, no speaking parts required).

### COFFEE AND TEA AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Tea and coffee is available in the parish hall after the 10.30am Mass each Sunday. Do please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### MISSIO/APF/RED BOX DONORS

So many thanks to our small but very generous group who give each quarter to our hard working Missionaries around the world. Remaining totals for 2025 - December: £161.56; for the Year £661.91 plus 25% of Gift Aid £103. Grand total £764.91. New donors very welcome. Blessings to all, Mary 07795276728

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 10am - CAFOD Fun Run (meeting at Our Lady's Hall)