



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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Parish Administrator:

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 @ChessValleyRC

 ChessValleyParishes

 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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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:
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Youth Choir Director:

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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR A) 28TH DECEMBER 2025

Looking back, looking forward

As we continue our Christmas celebrations and prepare to enter into 2026 we have an opportunity to stop and reflect. The month of January is named after the roman god Janus who was depicted as the two-faced god of doorways who looks to the past and future. It is a reminder to us that it is important to look back at the year of 2025 before we enter into our new year, both in our life as a community but also privately in prayer. There will be things we wish to forget or move on from, but there will also be things we can learn from to help us to grow to be the person God wants us to be.

The past year has of course has been Jubilee Year in the Church, with the particular focus of us being Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis encouraged us that: *"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."* Has this Holy Year been a special year for us in our faith? In our parishes we have reflected on the theme of the hope we find in faith through our newsletter reflections and homilies, in Lent we had a retreat day on the Holy Year, we took part in pilgrimages in London, Walsingham and Lourdes. Many have also travelled to Rome to walk through the Holy Doors in this Jubilee Year, joining millions of other pilgrims from around the world. 2025 was of course also the year when Pope Francis died, reminding us of our great hope of being united with God in the glory of heaven. Following that dramatic Easter Monday announcement, we witnessed his moving funeral, and then journeyed through the Conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV, where it was illustrated so powerfully, how inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Universal Church is here to help guide us on our own journeys through life.

As we look back we have much to give thanks for, and in particular I would like to thank all of you for your engagement and participation in the life of our parishes. So many people give much time, energy and resources to help us live out our mission to bring Christ's presence into our community. Thank you all for your support and sharing your gifts with us in this way.

And looking forward, what does the year 2026 hold? In the diocese we have the installation of our new Archbishop, Richard Moth, to look forward to in February. A new leader for our Diocese and a new leading voice for us Catholics in England and Wales. There will be a number of new ways for us to continue to grow in our faith in our parishes and in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our Salvation History talks from 11th January will help open our eyes to God's love and plan for us. We also plan to focus this year on the treasure of Catholic Social Teaching and to make our prayer more intentional towards our mission as Catholics in Rickmansworth, Mill End and Chorleywood. In the year ahead, we will also continue to work together across our three parishes to ensure that this mission is sustainable and continues to bear fruit for us to hand on to those who come after us.

As we enter 2026 please do pray for our parishes and for all of us who lead them – that through God's grace we will be faithful to the vision of our parishes and to God's plan for them.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a blessed new year.

God Bless
Fr Andrew

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

The Catholic Parishes of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Mill End
aspire to share the Good News of God's saving love.

We are vibrant, welcoming communities, united in worshipping God
and serving our neighbours.

We invite every person to join us in growing together
in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,
experiencing and living through the power of the Holy Spirit.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 27TH DECEMBER <i>ST JOHN, APOSTLE</i>	10am Holy Souls	6pm For the Benefactors of St John's Parish	
SUNDAY 28 TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</i>	8.30am Anne O'Meara RIP 11am Reynaldo Inton RIP & Patricia Dixon RIP 6pm James O'Brien RIP	10.30am John Smith RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MON 29TH DECEMBER <i>ST THOMAS BECKET</i>	9.30am Sergio Coco RIP		
TUESDAY 30 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 31 ST DECEMBER	NO MASS TODAY	9.30am Holy Souls	
THU 1ST JANUARY <i>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</i>	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		9am For the People of the Parishes
FRI 2ND JANUARY <i>SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN</i>	9.30am Kenny D'Cruz RIP		
SATURDAY 3 RD JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 4 TH JANUARY <i>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY</i>	8.30am Mary Daly RIP 11am Maria De Gabriele RIP (1 st Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Alan Moss RIP (20 th Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for the intentions of the Boehler Family (Blessed Sacrament) & for Victor Boehler RIP (Our Lady's)	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for the Intentions of the Smith Family	
MONDAY 5 TH JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		7pm For the People of the Parishes
TUESDAY 6 TH JANUARY <i>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.) 7pm For the People of the Parishes	11am For the People of the Parishes	NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 7 TH JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls	NO MASS TODAY	
THURSDAY 8 TH JANUARY	9.30am Michael Jubber RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 9 TH JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls		
SATURDAY 10 TH JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 11 TH JANUARY <i>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Helen Acreman RIP 11am Brian Feehely RIP (9 th Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Percy & Kathleen Mathews RIP	9am Derek Treanor RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for Imelda Wainwright RIP		

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have generously given us Christmas cards, gifts and best wishes over the past few days in the build-up to Christmas. We hope and pray that you have a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and new year, Fr Andrew, Fr Dom and Kerry .

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Tuesday 6th January is The Epiphany of the Lord and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be taking place on Monday 5th January at 7.00pm in Chorleywood (Vigil), and on Tuesday at 9.30am and 7.00pm in Rickmansworth and 11.00am in Mill End (with pupils from St John's School attending).

NEWSLETTER

Please note there will be no newsletter next weekend.

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 29th 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.

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 11th, in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND LED BY FR ANDREW GALLAGHER, 28TH SEPTEMBER – 2ND 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.

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.

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



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 7th 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/>

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

6TH 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 3rd 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

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. Thank you, *Sheila H*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE (PSR)

After over 20 years service to our parish Matthew McKiernan will be stepping down as our PSR on 31st December 2025. He has played a key part in our parish in Safeguarding matters and we thank him for his incredible commitment to the role in helping to keep our parish communities safe from harm and abuse by creating safe environments where everyone flourishes. A replacement for Matthew has been found and the candidate is currently undergoing training for the role. As this takes place if you have any Safeguarding concerns in the parish then please contact either Fr Andrew or one of the other parishes PSRs for assistance whose details are on the front of the newsletter.

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will take place on the following dates: 11th & 25th January, 1st & 8th February, 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th March (Palm Sunday).

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

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 29th December 10am - CAFOD Fun Run (meeting at Our Lady's Hall)