



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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Mill End Parish

TBA

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Diocesan Safeguarding

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YOUTH MINISTRY

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Youth Choir Director:
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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 18TH JANUARY 2026

An unarmed peace

Shortly before being arrested, Jesus said to those who were with him: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”* And he immediately added: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid”* (Jn 14:27). Their distress and fear were certainly connected to the violence soon to befall him. But, more deeply, the Gospels do not hide the fact that what troubled the disciples was his nonviolent response: a path that they all, Peter first among them, contested; yet the Master asked them to follow this path to the end. The way of Jesus continues to cause unease and fear. He firmly repeats to those who would defend him by force: *“Put your sword back into its sheath”* The peace of the risen Jesus is unarmed, because his was an unarmed struggle in the midst of concrete historical, political and social circumstances. Christians must together bear prophetic witness to this novelty, mindful of the tragedies in which they have too often been complicit.

Although many people today have hearts ready for peace, they are often overcome by a great sense of powerlessness before an increasingly uncertain world. When we treat peace as a distant ideal, we cease to be scandalized when it is denied, or even when war is waged in its name. We seem to lack those “right ideas,” the well-considered words and the ability to say that peace is near. When peace is not a reality that is lived, cultivated and protected, then aggression spreads into domestic and public life. In the relations between citizens and rulers, it could even be considered a fault not to be sufficiently prepared for war, not to react to attacks, and not to return violence for violence. Far beyond the principle of legitimate defence, such confrontational logic now dominates global politics, deepening instability and unpredictability day by day. It is no coincidence that repeated calls to increase military spending, and the choices that follow, are presented by many government leaders as a justified response to external threats. The idea of the deterrent power of military might, especially nuclear deterrence, is based on the irrationality of relations between nations, built not on law, justice and trust, but on fear and domination by force.

And yet, “those who truly love peace also love the enemies of peace.” Saint Augustine thus advised not to burn bridges or persist in reproach, but to prefer listening and, where possible, engaging in discussions with others. Sixty years ago, the Second Vatican Council concluded with a renewed awareness of the pressing need for dialogue between the Church and the contemporary world. Reiterating the appeal of the Council Fathers, and considering dialogue to be the most effective approach at every level, we must acknowledge that further technological advances and the military implementation of artificial intelligence have worsened the tragedy of armed conflict. There is even a growing tendency among political and military leaders to shirk responsibility, as decisions about life and death are increasingly “delegated” to machines. This marks an unprecedented and destructive betrayal of the legal and philosophical principles of humanism that underlie and safeguard every civilization.

It is necessary to denounce the enormous concentrations of private economic and financial interests that are driving States in this direction; yet that alone would not be enough, unless we also awakened conscience and critical thought. The Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* presents Saint Francis of Assisi as a model of such awakening: *“In the world of that time, bristling with watchtowers and defensive walls, cities were a theatre of brutal wars between powerful families, even as poverty was spreading through the countryside. Yet there Francis was able to welcome true peace into his heart and free himself of the desire to wield power over others. He became one of the poor and sought to live in harmony with all.”* This is a narrative that we are called to continue today, and that means joining forces to contribute to a disarming peace, a peace born of openness and evangelical humility.

*Extract from Message of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
for the World Day of Peace, 1st January 2026.*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 18TH JANUARY	10.00am 11.00am 11.30am 12.30pm 7.00pm	Tea & Coffee First Holy Communion - Martha Campbell Tea & Coffee - Hall SVP Community Lunch - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 20TH JANUARY	3.30pm 6.30pm	Youth Choir Youth Group	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 21ST JANUARY	7.00pm	RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 22ND JANUARY	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
FRI 23RD JANUARY	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 25TH JANUARY	11.30am 7.00pm	SVP Tea & Coffee - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians 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
SAT 17TH JANUARY <i>ST ANTHONY, ABBOT</i>	9.30am For Our Gift Families	6pm Edda Ali RIP	
SUNDAY 18 TH JANUARY <i>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Pat Hanley RIP 11am William Farrell RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Geri Moss Ints.	9am Hattie & Will Ints. (10 th Wedding Anniv.)
MONDAY 19 TH JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		
TUESDAY 20 TH JANUARY	9.30am Jacqueline O'Driscoll (Ints.)		9.30am Holy Souls
WED 21ST JANUARY <i>ST AGNES, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Andrew Dagiiesh (Doug) RIP	9.30am Phillip McLoughlin (Ints.)	
THURSDAY 22 ND JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls 2pm Memorial Mass - Elliot Breach RIP		
FRIDAY 23 RD JANUARY	9.30am Mervyn Mascarenhas RIP (Anniv.)		
SAT 24TH JANUARY <i>ST FRANCIS DE SALES</i>	9.30am Tom Tingling RIP	6pm Bavy Owens (Ints.)	
SUNDAY 25 TH JANUARY <i>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am Alec Ray & Family (Ints.) 6pm Bridget Ginty RIP	10.30am Heather & Berti Kean RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS			
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSION	Sundays 5pm - 5.40pm	Saturdays 5pm - 5.40pm	Confessions on request and by appointment

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to Martha Campbell who made her First Holy Communion this Sunday at the 11.00am Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians. Please keep Martha and her parents in your prayers.

ELLIOT BREACH RIP

A Memorial Mass for Elliot Breach will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 2.00pm on Thursday 22nd January. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

VERONICA DUNNE RIP

The funeral of Veronica Dunne will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 12 noon on Wednesday 28th January, followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

BLESSING OF CATECHISTS

At all the Sunday Masses this weekend our Catechists will receive a Blessing to mark the beginning of the new year.

YOUTH GROUP

Congratulations to our Youth Group whose artwork that they submitted to the Westminster Youth Ministry competition in this Year of Hope came runner-up from entries across the diocese. The artwork will be going on tour over the coming weeks across our parishes so everyone can see what talented young people we have in our parishes.

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 in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

PEACE SUNDAY - 18th JANUARY

The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Pax Christi's vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, Pax Christi works with all who share its values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. If you would like to make a contribution to the work of Pax Christi, donation envelopes are available this weekend. Donations can also be made on their website: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/donation/>

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group will meet at Our Lady's on Tuesday 20th January 6.30pm - 8pm (for anyone in Secondary School). Why not make a New Year's Resolution to meet new people and make new friends? Come along and join us! Parents/guardians, please let us know if your child will be attending by sending a message to 07788 721222.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STARTING 23RD JANUARY

We invite you to join us for Season 3 of The Chosen, a compelling portrayal of the life of Jesus through the perspectives of those who encountered Him. The group will meet for eight sessions, every Friday evening between 7-9pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall, starting on 23rd January, to watch an episode followed by discussion.

HCPT BAKE SALE

On Sunday 25th January after the Rickmansworth 8.30am and 11am Masses and the Mill End 10.30am Mass, some members of Fr Andrew's HCPT group (Group 10) will be present selling cakes raising money to travel to Lourdes at Easter. HCPT - The Pilgrimage Trust is a charity that enables disabled and disadvantaged children and young people to enjoy a life changing pilgrimage holiday in Lourdes each year. They are supported by volunteer helpers, nurses and priests. For more information about the Trust go to <https://www.hcpt.org.uk/>

IGNITE

A discipleship event for Catholics aged 14-18 (Year 9+) 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 31st January at Our Lady & St Michaels, Garston. 6pm Vigil Mass followed by event. Organised by the ASCAT Youth Ministry Team. Please let the Parish Office know if you are planning to attend.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

There will be a special Mass in thanksgiving for the ministry of Cardinal Vincent Nichols over his 16 years as Archbishop of Westminster on Thursday 5 February 2026 at 5.30pm in Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome. Please also keep Archbishop-elect Richard Moth in your prayers as he prepares for his installation as our new Archbishop on Saturday 14th February.

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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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/>

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

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 28th January, 11th & 25th February and 11th & 25th March. All welcome to join us and share thoughts with other parishioners over a cup of tea.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

Chess Valley SVP will host their Community lunch every 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.30pm in the hall of St John the Evangelist. 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.

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>

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

MILL END FOOD BANK

The following items are needed: 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 MORNING

Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass next Sunday, 25th January, for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will be a Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday 1st February. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHILDRENS LITURGY

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you have any Safeguarding concerns in the parish please contact either Fr Andrew or the diocesan safeguarding team via safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

TEA AND COFFEE

Tea and coffee will be served after Mass in the lounge today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12th-14th March Quarant-Ore Forty Hours Devotion
28th March 3pm CAFOD Lenten Walk (10km) - St John the Evangelist
17th May after 11am Mass Rickmansworth Marian Procession
7th June after 10.30am Mass Mill End Corpus Christi Procession
21st June after 9am Mass Chorleywood St John Fisher Procession
12th July 12.30pm - 3pm Brass on the Grass Social Event