



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

 ChessValleyParishes

Livestreaming:

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Mill End Parish

TBA

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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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR A) 11TH JANUARY 2026

“Peace be with you!”

This ancient greeting, still in use today in many cultures, was infused with new life on the evening of Easter on the lips of the risen Jesus. “Peace be with you” (Jn 20:19, 21) is his Word that does not merely desire peace, but truly brings about a lasting transformation in those who receive it, and consequently in all of reality. For this reason, the Apostles’ successors give voice every day throughout the world to the most silent of revolutions: “Peace be with you!” I would like to reiterate that this is the peace of the risen Christ – a peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God who loves us all unconditionally.

The Good Shepherd, who gives his life for the flock and has other sheep not of this fold (cf. Jn 10:11,16), is Christ, our peace, who has conquered death and broken down the walls of division that separate humanity (cf. Eph 2:14). His presence, his gift and his victory continue to shine through the perseverance of many witnesses through whom God’s work carries on in the world, becoming even more visible and radiant in the darkness of our times.

The contrast between darkness and light is not only a biblical image describing the labour pains of a new world being born; it is also an experience that unsettles us and affects us amid the trials we face in our historical circumstances. In order to overcome the darkness, it is necessary to see the light and believe in it. This is a call that Jesus’ disciples are invited to live in a unique and privileged way; yet it also finds its way into every human heart. Peace exists; it wants to dwell within us. It has the gentle power to enlighten and expand our understanding; it resists and overcomes violence. Peace is a breath of the eternal: while to evil we cry out “Enough,” to peace we whisper “Forever.” Into this horizon the Risen One has led us. Sustained by this conviction, even amid what Pope Francis called “a third world war fought piecemeal,” peacemakers continue to resist the spread of darkness, standing as sentinels in the night.

Sadly, it is also possible to forget the light. When this happens, we lose our sense of realism and surrender to a partial and distorted view of the world, disfigured by darkness and fear. Many today call “realistic” those narratives devoid of hope, blind to the beauty of others and forgetful of God’s grace, which is always at work in human hearts, even though wounded by sin. Saint Augustine urged Christians to forge an unbreakable bond with peace, so that by cherishing it deeply in their hearts, they would be able to radiate its luminous warmth around them. Addressing his community, he wrote: “If you wish to draw others to peace, first have it yourselves; be steadfast in peace yourselves. To inflame others, you must have the flame burning within.”

Dear brothers and sisters, whether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey. Even when it is endangered within us and around us, like a small flame threatened by a storm, we must protect it, never forgetting the names and stories of those who have borne witness to it. Peace is a principle that guides and defines our choices. Even in places where only rubble remains, and despair seems inevitable, we still find people who have not forgotten peace. Just as on the evening of Easter Jesus entered the place where his disciples were gathered in fear and discouragement, so too the peace of the risen Christ continues to pass through doors and barriers in the voices and faces of his witnesses. This gift enables us to remember goodness, to recognize it as victorious, to choose it again, and to do so together.

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

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 11TH JANUARY	11.30am 7.00pm	Tea & Coffee - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 13TH JANUARY	3.30pm 7.00pm	Youth Choir Young Adults Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 14TH JANUARY	2.15pm 7.00pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 15TH 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
SAT 17TH JANUARY	9.30am	Gift Family Session	Our Lady Help of Christians
SUN 18TH JANUARY	11.30am 12.30pm 7.00pm	Tea & Coffee - Hall SVP Community Lunch - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	St John the Evangelist 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
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 Bridget Ginty RIP	10.30am Percy & Kathleen Mathews RIP	9am Derek Treanor RIP
MONDAY 12 TH JANUARY	9.30am Rita Bolger RIP		
TUESDAY 13 TH JANUARY	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		9.30am Holy Souls
WEDNESDAY 14 TH JANUARY	9.30am Fr Terry Tastard RIP	9.30am Elsie Roberts (Ints.)	
THURSDAY 15 TH JANUARY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of our Parishes		
FRIDAY 16 TH JANUARY	9.30am Private Intention		
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.)
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for the intentions of Alec Ray & Family		This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for the intentions of Sue Treanor
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

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.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next meeting of the Young Adults Group, for anyone aged 18 to roughly 35 in our parishes, will be on Tuesday 13th December at 7.00pm in the parish hall at Our Lady's. For further details contact Ben at +44 7704 049263.

BLESSING OF CATECHISTS

At all the Sunday Masses next weekend (17th/18th January) our Catechists will receive a Blessing to mark the beginning of the new year.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 14th & 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.

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.

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.

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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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

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/>

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 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

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

200 CLUB

Congratulations to John Steele (£40), Chris Doran (£24) and Clare Loose (£16).

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

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).

PARISH SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you have any Safeguarding concerns in the parish please contact either Fr Andrew or one of the other parishes PSRs for assistance whose details are on the front of the newsletter.

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

12th-14th March Quarant-Ore Forty Hours Devotion
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