



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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Assistant 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

TBA

Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry

Leadership Team:

rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Youth Choir Director:

rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) 22ND FEBRUARY 2026

Let us enter into the School of the Lord's Service

On 25 March 1976, I was privileged to be in this great Cathedral Church, for the Episcopal Ordination of the late Cardinal Basil Hume. On that day, the text that we have just heard, from St. Paul's second letter to Timothy, was proclaimed: *"Fan into flame the gift of God... for God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control."* (2 Tim 1:6-7). God's call to us is not a call to power as so often exercised in the world, to achieve dominion over others. Rather it is characterised by self-control, not a self-control 'generated' as it were from within ourselves, but a self-control guided, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is characterised by love, a love that reflects to all the love that we see in Christ. This is a love that is total-self-giving, self-emptying to the point of the death that we see depicted so clearly in the great rood here, above the Sanctuary.

This is Christ-like Service, that brings Faith, Love and Hope to a world that, in our present age, cries out for Hope. This Service is our Mission as Christ's Church. St. Paul reminds us that we receive the gifts that come to us through the Holy Spirit, often experienced in gentleness and in the silence of prayer. These gifts are experienced in their fullness, fanned into flame, through our living out of the Mission to which we are called. We receive the grace of the Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation, as well as through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, so the words Paul spoke to Timothy are for all of us today. I rejoice that the Lord has called me to share with you, people and clergy of this Diocese, the mission He has given to us. It is the same mission that He gave to the seventy-two. Let us ensure that the light of the Gospel shines brightly in our parish communities, in our homes and our schools. At every opportunity, let us shed the light of the Gospel on the world of our day, in our universities, our places of work.

Let us not be afraid to shine this light in the public square for, as Pope Benedict XVI reminded us when he spoke in Westminster Hall in 2010: *"The world of reason and the world of faith...need one another and should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilisation. Religion...is not a problem, but a vital contributor to the conversation."* This encounter will, at times, require the boldness that we see in Paul and Barnabas in today's first reading, but we need not fear. The great questions of our time: the need for all peoples to live in peace, the value and dignity of every person, the right to life at every stage, the protection of the vulnerable, the plight of the refugee and the dispossessed, the protection of our common home, all of these call for the light of the Gospel to be shone upon them. This task is intrinsic to the work of evangelisation.

The reality is that the power of the Church is the power of service. It is the power of service in the way that Jesus serves, emptying of self for the salvation of all. It is in the Eucharist that Jesus nourishes us with His very self for our work as His disciples. It is from the Eucharist and from prayer that our work of evangelisation flows, for evangelisation is a call to a relationship, the relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. The seventy-two had walked with Jesus, sat with Him, listened to Him. We must, therefore, walk with Jesus on the journey of prayer, listen to Him in the Scriptures, sit with Him in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, welcome Him in the Eucharist. These are gifts beyond our imagining, rooted in the mystery of God's love. They are gifts we have the privilege and joy to share.

This mission of evangelisation takes time. The time we have is a gift from God and He calls us, very simply, to use this gift in Service. May our parish communities, our schools, our chaplaincies, our whole diocese grow as a School of the Lord's Service, service of the One who died and rose from the dead for us and Service of those whom we encounter.

Extract of Archbishop Richard Moth's Homily given at his Mass of Installation, Westminster Cathedral, 14 February 2026.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 22ND FEBRUARY	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am 4.00pm 7.15pm	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Tea and Coffee Merger Consultation Meeting Merger Consultation Meeting The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 25TH FEBRUARY	2.15pm 7.00pm	Faith & Friendship - Hall RCIA - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 26TH FEBRUARY	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 27TH FEBRUARY	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 28TH FEBRUARY	4.00pm	Baptisms: Evie Gardner and Ivy Muirhead	St John the Evangelist
SUN 1ST MARCH	9.30am 7.15pm	Coffee Morning - Hall The History of Salvation Talks - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SAT 21ST FEBRUARY	9.30am For the Parishes RCIA Candidates	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 22 ND FEBRUARY <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Special Intention 11am Noreen Dillon RIP 6pm Una & Patrick McHale RIP	10.30am Karen Hand RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 23 RD FEBRUARY	9.30am Holy Souls (B.B.)		
TUESDAY 24 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Private Intention (M.B.)		9.30am Archbishop Richard Moth (Ints.)
WEDNESDAY 25 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes	9.30am Holy Souls	
THURSDAY 26 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Bridget & Michael McDonogh & Family (Ints.)		
FRIDAY 27 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Clare Clarke (Ints.)		
SATURDAY 28 TH FEBRUARY	9.30am Archbishop Richard Moth (Ints.)	6pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 1 ST MARCH <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</i>	8.30am Joe & Jacqueline Grove RIP (Anniv.) 11am Martin Rowley RIP 6pm Bridget Ginty RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Kitty Finucane RIP (Anniv.)
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

PARISH CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MERGER OF OUR PARISHES

On Sunday 25th January a consultation was launched regarding the merging of our three parishes into one canonical parish, to ease the administrative burden on our clergy, staff and volunteers. Leaflets giving further details regarding this proposal are available in each of the parishes. Please do take one and read them carefully before giving your feedback via the QR code, our website or the paper feedback forms which can be left in the boxes provided. The Consultation ends on Monday 16th March.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL NEW HOME

This week St John's move into their brand new school building, 4 years after their old building was closed and then demolished due to RAAC failure. Please keep the school community in your prayers as they move into their new home.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - Friday 27th February

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

DEANERY MASS OF WELCOME FOR ARCHBISHOP RICHARD MOTH

Archbishop Moth will be touring the diocese celebrating Mass and meeting everyone over the next couple of months. His Mass in the St Albans and Watford Deaneries takes place on Tuesday 3rd March at 6.30pm at Our Lady and St Michael's Church, Garston. All are welcome to join him for the celebration. If you would like to watch the Installation Mass of Archbishop Moth you can do so via Westminster Cathedral's YouTube channel.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 6 MARCH 2026 – A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

The WDP service for 2026 has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria, with the theme, 'I will give you rest, come'. The WDP service for the greater Rickmansworth area will take place at 2.00 pm on Friday, 6 March 2026 at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Berry Lane, Mill End, Rickmansworth WD3 7HG, and will be followed by refreshments. This is not only for women - all are most welcome to attend and we strongly encourage parishioners to support this short service. This is an opportunity to show solidarity with the Christians of Nigeria where so many face persecution, and also to meet with our local Christian communities in a spirit of prayerful and convivial fellowship. If anyone needs a lift, please contact Geraldine (07725 748490) or Cristina (07470 266284).

QUARANT'ORE (FORTY HOURS)

From 6pm on Thursday 12th March to 12pm on Saturday 14th March we will have perpetual (constant) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament across our three parishes, giving us an opportunity to pray at all hours of the day before Jesus Christ for the mission of our parishes. The timetable for this will be: **Thursday 12th March** 6pm Mass of Exposition in Mill End; **Friday 13th March** 12pm Benediction before transfer to Chorleywood; 12.30pm Mass of Exposition in Chorleywood; 5pm Vespers & Benediction before transfer to Rickmansworth; 6pm Mass of Exposition in Rickmansworth; **Saturday 14th March** 12pm Blessed Sacrament Procession & Benediction led by our GIFT Families in Rickmansworth. Please do sign-up and pledge to be present during this time via the sign-up sheets in the Church porches.

COMBINED FIRE AWARENESS AND HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING on Saturday 18th April 10am- 12.30pm

Training will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Hall, Rickmansworth for all volunteers across our parishes. If you are able to attend please let the parish office know via rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

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 is led by Fr Dom on Sundays at 7.15pm 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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

COME & SEE VOCATIONS MORNINGS 2026

A morning for men who may be considering a call to the diaconate or priesthood will take place on Saturday 14th March, 12 noon - 3.30pm - St Bonaventure's Church Hall - 81 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JF. To find out more and to register your attendance please contact: Canon Roger Taylor - Vocations Promoter rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira – Assistant Director Permanent Diaconate or titopereira@rcdow.org.uk.

SEEDS OF HOPE - EVANGELISATION DAY

11.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 21st March 2026, Our Lady and St Vincent's Parish Hall, Potters Bar. Do you ever feel a desire to share your faith but aren't quite sure how? *Seeds of Hope* is a welcoming day of prayer, inspiration and practical encouragement, helping you grow in confidence to share the hope of Christ with the people God has placed in your life.

ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC SCHOOL, RICKMANSWORTH

St Joan of Arc is seeking to appoint a new Headteacher. Further details and application information can be found here: <https://www.eteach.com/job/headteacher-1532216>

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 17TH – 24TH JULY 2026.

Registration is now open at <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk/registration-form/> or via the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173. If you would like to sponsor or fundraise for an Assisted Pilgrim, member of the medical team or volunteer then please also contact the Pilgrimage Office for further details.

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: 25th February and 11th & 25th March. All welcome to join us and share thoughts with other parishioners over a cup of tea.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3

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 to watch an episode followed by discussion.

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."

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

There is a current shortage of the following items: Tinned vegetables in greatest need, long life milk, juice/squash, rice pudding and cereal. **Please ensure that food items donated are not out of date.** Non food items: shampoo, shower gel, laundry products, deodorant, toothpaste. 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 on Sunday 22nd February for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will be a Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday 1st March. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Thank you for your generous donations - we've raised £165 for Our Lady's Building Fund.

11AM CHOIR

Would you like to sing in the 11am choir? We practise from 10am most Sundays, and are now working towards Easter. It's a lovely way to contribute to the Mass - no experience needed, and you don't need to read music. See Cormac before or after Mass any Sunday, or just turn up!

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHILDRENS LITURGY

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you have any Safeguarding concerns in the parish whilst we await the appointment of our new Parish Safeguarding Representative, 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 in the lounge after Mass today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

22nd February 10am Merger Consultation Meeting – St John Fisher
22nd February 4pm Merger Consultation Meeting – Our Lady's Parish Hall
6th March 2pm World Day of Prayer Service at St John the Evangelist.
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