

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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ChessValleyParishes

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Livestreaming:
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Safeguarding Reps.

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Youth Ministry

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Roseanna Dunn - Youth Choir Director:
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25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

The Joy and Beauty of knowing Jesus Christ

This year, Pope Leo has given the Church the beautiful gift of an encyclical entitled *Magnifica humanitas*. It has been called Pope Leo's manifesto for the defence of human dignity in the AI age, but it so much more than that. It is fundamentally about the reality of the deep yearning all humanity has to see the face of God, whether we realise this or not. It is "hardwired" within us. It is an essential part of our humanity. The encyclical paints a picture of the grandeur of God writ large in the world, seen and experienced fully within His creation (namely us humans) and above all when we encounter the face of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Pope Leo makes clear that we face a pivotal choice: Will we build Babel or will we construct a city of God?

The world in which we live is rapidly changing, and Pope Leo is calling us to ask one key question about what is unfolding: What are we building? Leo poses a few key questions worth considering:

"Where are we going? Toward what goal do we wish to orient ourselves? What direction should we choose as people and as a human community?" (MH, 6).

And to guide us through these questions, he offers two scenarios/characters: the building of the Tower of Babel and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

"With the heart of a shepherd and a father, I ask everyone to abandon the construction of yet another Tower of Babel and to join forces in building up the common good, so that humanity will never lose its beauty, and the world once again will come to recognize the human heart as the place where God desires to dwell." (MH, 16).

The Holy Father quotes St. Augustine's famous line from The Confessions of St. Augustine: *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."* Pope Leo is reminding us that human flourishing cannot be reduced to technological fulfilment; the human heart is ordered toward God (MH 11). As the shepherd and Father we need, Pope Leo is constantly pointing us back to Jesus.

This beautiful encyclical, then, is reminding us of what the task and purpose of Home Mission Sunday is about – pointing us always to the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. This is the work, the mission, of the whole Church, it is the Great Commission, and comes into every area of life within the Church.

To help in this great commission, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has a mission team which supports the bishops in their work to promote the proclamation of the gospel across England and Wales. The Mission team does this in several diverse areas, but all of which help to serve the kingdom of God. Catechesis and evangelisation; helping to deepen knowledge of the beauty of Holy Scripture; marriage and family life; the National Office of Vocations; loving and protecting the great patrimony of our historic churches and cathedrals; serving the liturgy of the Church; promoting Christian Unity and Interreligious dialogue; supporting the work of chaplaincy in Higher Education and in Prisons; and in supporting the work of those who do much to share the gospel with young people today.

To aid the work of the directorate, there is an annual collection in every parish to help us in helping you. If you can, please be generous in supporting the work of the Mission team. We know there are many demands on your time and on your purse, but we remain truly grateful to you for any support you can give. The greatest support remains your prayers and your own dedication to sharing the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

St. Augustine tells us that God made us to make the times, not the times to make us, and unless we make the times better with the light of Jesus Christ, then the times will make us worse with the darkness of despair. Hope is despair overcome and the way we enkindle hope in the hearts of all is to believe.

Pope Leo is seeking to remind us in his first encyclical, our hope is not in something, but in someone, Jesus Christ, our saviour and our friend.

Abbot Hugh Allan O.Praem
Director of Mission for the Bishops Conference of England and Wales

From the Parish Diaries

Sun 20th September	10.00am 12.30pm	Tea & Coffee SVP Community Lunch - Hall	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
Mon 21st September	7.15pm	Christian Meditation	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tue 22nd September	3.30pm 5.00pm	Youth Choir New Altar Server Training	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
Wed 23rd September	2.15pm 8.00pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall GIFT Parents Social - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
Thu 24th September	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Fri 25th September	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Sat 26th September	10.00am	Walking Pilgrimage led by Fr Andrew	Rickmansworth Station
Sun 27th September	9.30am 11.30am	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
Saturday 19th September	**9.30am** For our Volunteers	**6pm** John Rogers RIP & Pauline Angold RIP	
Sunday 20th September ***25th Sunday in Ordinary Time***	**8.30am** Special Intention **11am** Kate Corey RIP **6pm** David Cook RIP (Anniv.)	**10.30am** For the People of the Parishes	**9am** For the People of the Parishes
Monday 21st September ***St Matthew, Apostle***	**9.30am** Eryk Paul (Ints.) (16th Birthday)		
Tuesday 22nd September	**9.30am** For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes		**9.30am** For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes
Wed 23rd September ***St Pius of Pietrelcina***	**No Mass Today**	**11am** Funeral - Tom Clark RIP	
Thu 24th September ***Our Lady of Walsingham***	**9.30am** For Vocations to the Priesthood		
Friday 25th September	**9.30am** Oisín Johnston RIP (1st Anniv.)		
Saturday 26th September	**9.30am** For our Volunteers	**6pm** Seamus Fagan RIP (Anniv.)	
Sunday 27th September ***26th Sunday in Ordinary Time***	**8.30am** Patrick Conway (Ints.) **11am** Ben Hunter RIP and Walshe Family (Ints.) **6pm** For the People of the Parishes	**10.30am** For the People of the Parishes	**9am** For the People of the Parishes
Sanctuary Lamps	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns In Thanksgiving (B.B.)		
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, Pauline Williams, Gloria Warmington, Veronica Finnegan, Mark & Janet Kirwan, Ann Aldridge and Sean.

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

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 and Edith Moid.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

TOM CLARK RIP

The funeral of Tom Clark will take place at St John the Evangelist on 23rd September at 11am followed by committal at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

YOUTH CHOIR - WELCOMING NEW SINGERS

As we enter into a new academic year, the Youth Choir is welcoming new members aged 7+. The choir rehearses from 3.30 -4.45pm on a Tuesday afternoon at St John the Evangelist, Mill End and sings one Mass a month at either St John's Parish or Our Lady's Parish. The choir provides an excellent opportunity for young singers to develop their voice and faith in tandem. If your child is interested in joining the choir, please email Roseanna (rickyyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk) for further details. We would be delighted to see many new singers this term!

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Have you, or someone you know, been thinking about becoming a catholic? Are you a baptised catholic but have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would now like to complete your initiation? If the answer to either of these questions is 'yes', please drop an email to Fr Andrew to have a chat about what is involved and how our parishes can help you to take the next step.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

This year the Mass count will take place on the last two weekends in September and the first two weekends in October (each parish is required by the Diocese to count the number of people attending Mass). The details are forwarded to the Diocese along with other parish statistics at the end of the year. So, if you see someone "clicking you in" at Mass you will know why!

REGISTRATION

We encourage all parishioners to register for the parish using the Churchsuite system, available via the website under 'About - Register with the parish'. 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.

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.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY - 20TH SEPTEMBER

The third Sunday in September, formerly called Evangelii Gaudium Sunday, is now Home Mission Sunday. The day offers the Catholic community in England and Wales the opportunity to celebrate the beauty of our faith and our commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ. Please support the second collection this weekend which provides funding for the Bishops' national work of evangelisation.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

In September, we will have sessions of training for new altar servers. Any children who have received First Holy Communion may come and join us. The final session will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd, in Rickmansworth, 5-6pm. Children just need to attend one of these sessions. If you are interested, please contact Fr Dom or the Parish Office.

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 23rd September, 14th & 28th October, 11th & 25th November and 9th December. All welcome to join us and share thoughts with other parishioners over a cup of tea.

WALKING PILGRIMAGE

On Saturday 26th September we will once again have a walking pilgrimage in London, visiting some of the historic churches and sites of London led by Fr Andrew. We will meet at 10am at Rickmansworth Station. Please bring a packed lunch and good walking shoes. We will be walking approximately 5-6 miles and hope to be finishing at Westminster Cathedral by 3pm.

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**. 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

PRAYING WITH THE SCRIPTURES LED BY ARCHBISHOP RICHARD MOTH

2 - 5pm Saturday 24th October - Westminster Cathedral Hall. Join a workshop on the holy reading of Scripture, as Archbishop Richard leads us deeper into the practice of *Lectio Divina*. Together, we will listen to God's Word, reflect, pray, and learn how to carry this prayer into daily life. All are welcome. Please book in advance to secure your place. https://rcdow.org.uk/event/praying-with-the-scriptures/

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

SAFEGUARDING
Being alert to matters of Safeguarding (ensuring the care and welfare of children and vulnerable adults) is something to which are all invited to attend. There are information posters at the back of church - including warning signs to look out for, contact numbers and websites for information and support.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP
Our ***Book Sale*** will be held on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd September from 7 to 9pm. Any donations of items can be brought to the Scout HQ behind Our Lady's Church on Thursday/Friday Evenings or collection can be arranged by telephoning – 246169 / 776035. Current and Past Supporters are reminded that help is needed to run these events.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP
Meets every Monday evening from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start in the small hall for about about an hour. We meditate together for 20 minutes and then reflect on a reading about Christian meditation. Please join us - you would be most welcome. For further information please contact Anne Jaxa-Chamiec annej_c@icloud.com or on 07810805900.

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.

MILL END FOOD BANK
There is a current shortage of the following items: Jam, Pasta Sauce, Long life milk/squash, tinned fruit, biscuits and cereal. **Please ensure that food items donated are not out of date.** Non food items: shampoo, shower gel, washing up liquid, hand soap, toothpaste. **We have lots of pasta & baked beans so not these items please**. Items can be placed in the boxes provided at the back of each church.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

QUIZ NIGHT
Join us for an evening of quizzing and dinner in Our Lady's Church Hall on Saturday 24th October. Doors open at 6.45pm for food, before the quiz starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15 and include a Fish and Chip supper and quiz entry. They're available on the church website https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/event/quiz-night/. **You can book as an individual or as a team**. Please ensure bookings are made as a group to stay together (groups are limited to a maximum of 8 people). There is a limit on numbers so please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment. *Ticket sales will close on the 14th of October to confirm numbers for food.*

COFFEE MORNINGS
Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 27th September for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will be a Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday 4th October. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

RED BOX MISSION PROMOTERS
Red Box Missio Promoters please find envelopes in the Sacristy.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

ROOF WORKS
Work continues and is going well in replacing the roofing on both the Church and the Hall of St John's. The expected costs of the work will be around £200,000. We are grateful for a £20,000 National Lottery Awards for All grant that has been given to the parish for this work, and to all parishioners who have so far donated what they can to assist the parish. If anyone else is able to make a donation to assist us we would be very grateful, and this can be done via the parish website donation page, or through the parish office.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

TEA & COFFEE
Tea and coffee will be served this Sunday. All welcome to stay for a cuppa and chat.

MISSIO/APF/REDBOX HOLDERS
It is now time, once again, for our September collection for our Missionaries, Priests, Nuns and lay people, all around the world. Could you please give me your donations in the next couple of weeks. New donors welcome. Mary 07795 276728

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 26th September – Parish Pilgrimage Walk in London
Monday 28th September – Saturday 3rd October Parish Pilgrimage to Poland
Sunday 11th October 11.30am – Parish New Parishioners Welcome Event, St John the Evangelist, Mill End
Saturday 24th October 7.30pm - Quiz Night, Our Lady's Parish Hall (doors open at 6.45pm)
Saturday 7th November 11am Mass for Deceased Parishioners
Sunday 6th December 11.30am to 1pm - Christmas Fair, St John the Evangelist, Mill End
Sunday 13th December 3pm Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service