

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

Safeguarding Reps.

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Mill End Parish
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Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator 0207 798 9356

Youth Ministry

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry Leadership Team:
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Roseanna Dunn - Youth Choir Director:
rickyyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

In 2022 we introduced GIFT Family catechesis to our parishes. GIFT stands for 'Growing in Faith Together', and aims to transform the way we support our families in their faith from being a journey over just a few months towards the Sacraments, to being a continuous support through their children's childhood.

The Church teaches that parents are their children's first catechist. In the Rite of Baptism, the celebrant says to the parents: *"You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"* Parents always answer this question confidently: "We do." But we all know that this is not easy. It is a big responsibility and we understand the challenges in fulfilling this promise. GIFT Family assists parents in their role by seeking to help them form their children in their faith, making it normal to have conversations about faith, to have the confidence to answer their children's questions and to pray together in everyday life. Pope Francis encouraged this method saying: *"Family catechesis is of great assistance as an effective method in training young parents to be aware of their mission as evangelisers of their own family."* (AL 287)

For the last four years, GIFT in our parishes has been for families with children aged between 5 -11, both for those already engaged with their faith and those seeking the sacraments for their children and returning to the Church. The results of this approach in our parishes, and others that have adopted this method of family catechesis, have been very evident. For us, of the 60+ families who have journeyed through GIFT and the Sacraments, over 80% are still regularly attending Mass, and many children and adults have taken on ministries and roles within our parish community. This is a sharp contrast to the 10% of children and their families who were returning a few months after receiving the Sacraments when we were following the traditional catechesis. We are continuously reviewing our approach and learning from other parishes across the UK who are also using GIFT – and we are seeing real fruit being borne from this new approach towards forming our families, which is something we as a parish should give thanks to God for.

This now leads us to the next step. After 4 years, many of our children are now moving into secondary school, and we want to continue to support them in their faith and accompany them on their journey. For many years, we have been very blessed to have a Youth Group supporting those who wish to be a part of the parish community. We are now relaunching this group as **GIFT Youth**. Over the next few years, we hope this will provide a seamless pathway from GIFT Family, a way for us to continue providing a community for our young people to grow in their faith together, over a time of fun, food and faith, led by a team of dedicated Helpers and Catechists. In time, this will also become the way our young people enter the process for Confirmation, as those who attend regularly build on their understanding and love for their Catholic faith, and seek Confirmation not as a rite of passage, but rather from a real desire to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and be a disciple of Christ.

GIFT Youth will meet once a month on **Sundays from 4pm-5.45pm** for all those in Year 7 and above. The first session will be on the 4th October at Our Lady's Parish Hall. You can register your child for this via the QR Code. Please do encourage your children to come to **GIFT Youth** so they can be part of a community which will support them over the coming years in discovering God's plan for them.

As a whole parish let us pray for all our families, both those we see regularly at Mass, and those who are yet to discover the joy of the Gospel, that this process will help them to grow in faith together, and will help us to live out our calling to share the good news of God's saving love to all we encounter.

From the Parish Diaries

Sun 27th September	9.30am 11.30am	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
Mon 28th September	7.15pm	Christian Meditation	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tue 29th September	3.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
Thu 1st October	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Fri 2nd October	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Sat 3rd October	11.15am	Baptisms: Chloe O'Byrne & Stevie Todesco	Our Lady Help of Christians
Sun 4th October	9.30am 11.30am 12 noon	Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall Fairtrade Tea & Coffee Morning	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
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
Monday 28th September	**9.30am** For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes		
Tue 29th September ***SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels***	**No Mass Today**		**9.30am** For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes
Wed 30th September ***St Jerome, Priest***	**9.30am** Holy Souls (B.B.)	**No Mass Today**	
Thursday 1st October ***St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin***	**9.30am** Patrick & Martin Conway (Ints.)		
Friday 2nd October ***Holy Guardian Angels***	**9.30am** For Vocations to the Priesthood		
Saturday 3rd October	**9.30am** For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes	**6pm** Stuart Taperell RIP (3rd Anniv.)	
Sunday 4th October ***27th 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 (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Stuart Taperell RIP (3rd 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, 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

ONE OF OUR OWN!

Congratulations to Fr Nicholas Schofield, Parish Priest at Uxbridge, who grew up in Mill End who has been appointed a Canon to join the Chapter of Westminster Cathedral Chapter. His installation will be at Westminster Cathedral at 5pm on Tuesday 6th October 2026. Please keep him and the other 3 Canons-elect in your prayers as they take on this new role.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Amelia Hanckocks-Ward who was baptised at Our Lady's on Saturday 19th September. Please keep Amelia and her family in your prayers.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL THIS HARVEST - FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.

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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

On behalf of the CWL and the Prisoners Advice and Care Trust we would like to thank parishioners for their generous donations for the prisoners packs. Why not come and join us at the CWL on Tuesday 29th September at 7.30pm in Our Lady's hall to meet Sandra who works with Aylesbury prison and find out more about her work and the work of PACT.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Fairtrade Fortnight raises awareness about fair trade practices and encourage consumers to choose Fairtrade-certified products which help producers get better prices, access services, secure rights and protect the planet. To mark the end of Fairtrade Fortnight, there will be tea, coffee and cake in the hall after 11am Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 4th October. Do come and join us and find out more about how buying Fairtrade products enables farmers in the poorest regions to build resilience, adapt to climate change and secure sustainable livelihoods. For more information about Fairtrade locally, please contact Helen Nolan on helenvnolan@ntlworld.com or 01923 499523.

NEW PARISHIONERS EVENT

We are aware that there are many new people moving into the area and joining us at Mass and you are most welcome. Please do pick up one of our leaflets in the Church porch and fill in the form or register on-line under 'About - Register with the parish' so we know who you are. We will be having a New Parishioners Welcoming Event on Sunday 11th October from 11.30am in St John's Church Hall in Mill End where you can come and meet members of our parish leadership team and find out more about how our three parishes operate together and what opportunities we offer to help you grow in your faith and be involved in our community. It would be wonderful to see many people come and join us for this – there will be cake!

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.*

MASS FOR DECEASED PARISHIONERS

On Saturday 7th November we will have a Mass for all deceased members of our parishes at 11am in Our Lady Help of Christians Church. At this Mass we will particularly remember all those who have died over the past year so please do encourage those recently bereaved to attend. This Mass will be immediately followed by the blessing of graves at Our Lady's Garden of Rest and refreshments in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

During November Fr Andrew and Fr Dom will be blessing graves in the local cemeteries: Saturday 14th November 2.00pm at Woodcock Hill Cemetery; Sunday 15th November 2.00pm Chorleywood Road Cemetery and Saturday 21st November at 2.00pm at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

COME & SEE VOCATIONS MORNING

Saturday 17th October, 10.30-1.30 at Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove W52 DY. Could God be calling you? If you have ever wondered whether God might be calling you to serve the Church as a Priest or Permanent Deacon, come and learn more. Hear from those already serving and meet others thinking about these vocations. To register contact Canon Roger Taylor, Vocations Promoter for Priests vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Ian Edwards for Permanent Diaconate ianedwards@rcdow.org.uk

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
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

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!

FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 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.

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

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.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS
Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions. £25.00 has been raised from the recent collection which will be donated to The White Fathers who are Missionaries to Africa. Please keep them coming! Sheila H.

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

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

Monday 28th September – Saturday 3rd October Parish Pilgrimage to Poland
Sunday 11th October 11.30am – 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
Saturday 14th November 2.00pm – Blessing of Graves at Woodcock Hill Cemetery
Sunday 15th November 2.00pm – Blessing of Graves at Chorleywood Road Cemetery
Saturday 21st November 2.00pm – Blessing of Graves at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery.
Sunday 6th December 11.30am to 1pm - Christmas Fair, St John the Evangelist, Mill End
Sunday 13th December 3pm Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service