

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.

Rickmansworth Parish
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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:
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Roseanna Dunn - Youth Choir Director:
rickyyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 4TH OCTOBER 2026

An invitation

"My heart is restless O Lord until it rests in you" (St Augustine)

Have you ever felt a quiet tug in your heart, a gentle prompting to deepen your relationship with God? Perhaps you have been attending Mass with a loved one and want to understand the beauty of the liturgy. Maybe you were baptised in another Christian tradition and feel called to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Or perhaps you were baptised Catholic as an infant but never received the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion.

No matter where you are on your spiritual path, we warmly invite you to come and see what the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) has to offer.

RCIA is the official process through which adults explore the Catholic faith, discern God's call in their lives, and prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. It is far more than a class or a series of lectures. Instead, RCIA is a communal journey of conversion, discovery, and prayer designed to help you encounter the living person of Jesus Christ.

Through regular, informal sessions, we explore the core pillars of Catholic life:

- **The Creed:** What Catholics believe and why.
- **The Sacraments:** The ways Christ shares His divine life, grace, and healing with us.
- **Christian Morality:** How to navigate modern life through the lens of Christ's teachings and values.
- **Prayer and Spirituality:** Discovering different ways to communicate with God and cultivate a rich interior life.

Our doors are open to anyone seeking truth and the treasure of the Catholic faith. The RCIA process is structured to meet you exactly where you are:

1. **The Unbaptised:** Those who have never been part of a faith community but are seeking God and desire Christian baptism.
2. **Baptised Christians:** Individuals baptised in another Christian denomination who wish to learn about Catholic traditions and enter into full communion.
3. **Unconfirmed Catholics:** Adults who were baptised Catholic but have not yet received the other foundational sacraments to fully complete their initiation.

Taking the first step can feel daunting, but please know that attending RCIA does not commit you to becoming Catholic. The initial phase is called the *Period of Enquiry*—a time dedicated entirely to asking questions, addressing doubts, and searching for truth in an atmosphere of respect and hospitality. There is no cost, no test, and no pressure. You are accompanied by a dedicated team of catechists from the parish who will walk beside you every step of the way.

If you feel even a flicker of curiosity, or if you want to complete your sacramental journey so you can confidently participate in the full life of the Church—such as serving as a godparent or sponsor—this invitation is for you.

Our RCIA sessions will begin in November. We would love to welcome you. If you are interested in this journey, please contact Fr Andrew for an initial conversation on andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk.

Come with your questions, your hopes, and your doubts. Christ is ready to meet you here.

From the Parish Diaries

Sun 4th October	9.30am 11.30am 12 noon 4pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall Fairtrade Tea & Coffee Morning GIFT Youth - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
Mon 5th October	7.15pm	Christian Meditation	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tue 6th October	3.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
Thu 8th October	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Fri 9th October	7.00pm	The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Sat 10th October	9.30am	GIFT Family Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christian
Sun 11th October	11.30am	New Parishioners Welcoming Event - Hall	St John the Evangelist

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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** Special Intention **11am** Catherine Harrison RIP **6pm** Robin & Leona Skidmore *(In Thanksgiving for 60 years of Marriage)*	**10.30am** For the People of the Parishes	**9am** Teresa O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv.)
Monday 5th October	**9.30am** Dermot Judge RIP		
Tuesday 6th October	**9.30am** Joan Harbird RIP (6th Anniv.)		**9.30am** For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes
Wednesday 7th October ***Our Lady of the Rosary***	**9.30am** Holy Souls (B.B.)	**9.30am** Kelsey Smith RIP	
Thursday 8th October	**9.30am** Verna Kendrick RIP		
Friday 9th October ***St John Henry Newman, Priest***	**9.30am** Patrick & Jessica (Ints.)		
Saturday 10th October	**9.30am** For our GIFT Families	**6pm** Dan & Ann O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv.)	
Sunday 11th October ***28th Sunday in Ordinary Time***	**8.30am** Martin Conway (Ints.) **11am** Teresa Hukowski RIP **6pm** Glynn Johnson RIP	**10.30am** Grace Haddad 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, 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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Chloe O'Byrne and Stevie Todesco who were baptised at Our Lady's on Saturday 3rd October. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

GRACE HADDAD RIP

The funeral of Grace Haddad will take place at St Anthony's in Edgware at 12.30pm on Wednesday 21st October. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

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!

FAIRTRADE TEA AND COFFEE AFTER 11AM MASS

Fairtrade Fortnight is a campaign to raise 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. 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 Fairtrade products. For more information 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!

YOUNG ADULTS SOCIAL

The next meeting of the Young Adults Group, for anyone aged 18 to roughly 35 in our parishes, will be on Tuesday 20th October at 7pm in the parish hall at Our Lady's. For further details contact Ben at +44 7704 049263.

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

ADOREMUS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

This will take place in London this year on Saturday 10th October. All are welcome to join a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament from Southwark Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral. The procession will begin at 3pm and it would be wonderful for as many as possible to join us for this public witness to our faith. The Procession will finish at 5pm with Solemn Benediction and this will be followed by Mass at 6pm.

CARDINAL HUME CENTRE ANNIVERSARY

2026 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Cardinal Hume Centre, which has provided support, hope and opportunity to thousands of people facing homelessness and hardship. To celebrate this milestone, a special Mass will be held at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 13th October at 5.30pm. All are welcome.

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

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.

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, beginning on Thursday 15th October. 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

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

200 CLUB

The 200 Club begins again in October, with the first draw taking place beginning of November. 50% of the monthly draw income will be given out in three prizes, split 1st prize 50%, 2nd prize 30% and 3rd 20%. If anyone is interested in joining (or cancelling) please contact the parish office for further details. The membership fee is due by 26th October.

COFFEE MORNINGS

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.

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/RED BOX DONORS

Very many thanks to our small but generous group who give so kindly each quarter to our Missionaries across the world. This September we have raised £150.52. New donors very welcome. Love from Mary 07795 276728

UPCOMING EVENTS

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