

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

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ChessValleyParishes

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

Safeguarding Reps.

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Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator 0207 798 9356

Youth Ministry

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Roseanna Dunn - Youth Choir Director:
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28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 11TH OCTOBER 2026

Mary, our Morning Star

Jesus is direct in calling us to repentance but he also extends our horizon beyond this earthly life to the horizon of eternal life. For while happiness in this world is fleeting and relative, true happiness is promised to everyone in hope, and this is what we should seek above all else, in all our efforts and choices. Did not the Virgin Mary say to Saint Bernadette, "I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the next"?

This promise challenges the way we think today. In an age and society that seek progress and material wellbeing, but can sometimes forget the horizon of eternity, Mary comes to remind us of the greatness and richness of our calling to life, to eternal life. In the face of current trends that seek to redefine the value of human life in illness, suffering and old age, the grotto of Massabielle stands as a place of Christian hope. Here, no one is turned away due to their frailty. Your crutches, your wheelchairs and your hidden tears are not obstacles; they are the very place where you are fully respected and welcomed, and where you can experience a transforming encounter with the infinite love of God.

Eternal life is a firm and certain promise that the Lord makes to us. He has already won it for us by his death on the cross and his resurrection, and through the grace of baptism he is bringing it to fulfilment in us each day. It is within our reach, but we must freely welcome it, take hold of it and not stand in its way. For the obstacle to grace and eternal life is sin, whereby we turn in upon ourselves, refusing God and shutting ourselves up in our own darkness. Our personal responsibility therefore comes into play, and a great responsibility it is. God has made us free, since freedom is necessary for love; no one can be forced to love. We must therefore use our freedom to say yes to Christ, relying on his grace, like Mary. This is a yes that we renew until our final breath - "now and at the hour of our death" — as we say in the Hail Mary.

We hear the same urgent call to conversion in the words Mary spoke right here, "Penance! Penance! Penance!" She repeats the word three times. Why? Are we slow to understand? Do we too easily think of ourselves without sin? The Virgin asks us to do penance not only for ourselves, but also "for sinners," for a world that is going astray. How can our hearts not be moved by the conflicts that are spreading and destroying so many innocent lives? Yet the evil of our time comes from the human heart. God is not responsible for it. As he says to the Israelites, "Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?". It is therefore human hearts that must change, beginning with our own. As Saint Augustine wrote, "Do not be content with what you are, if you want to become what you are not yet".

Our Mother's reminder of our duty to pray and repent fills us with great hope, because she shows us that the way to change the course of things is by uniting ourselves to the passion of Christ. Dear friends who are sick, so many of you are familiar with suffering. You can live your trials and pains in this spirit of offering and so take part in the redemptive work that the world so greatly needs. In this way, you are truly at the heart of the Church, and your role is irreplaceable.

Pilgrims, brothers and sisters, you will not leave Lourdes as you arrived. You will leave as missionaries of hope. Indeed, the miracle of Lourdes is that it can awaken the joy of hope in the very midst of suffering and hardship. The Virgin Mary heals our outlook and changes our hearts, giving them peace. In your homes become living witnesses to this divine strength and tenderness, which help us to persevere towards our goal. Sustained by the prayers of the sick and the love of our Mother, walk with confidence into the future. Do not be afraid of the storms of the world, for the holy Mother of God watches over your journey, she shelters the Church beneath her mantle of tenderness and, as the radiant Morning Star, guides your steps, so that with joy she may bring you to new birth in the very life of her Son Jesus.

Extract of the homily given by Pope Leo XIV on his visit to Lourdes, Sunday 27th September 2026

From the Parish Diaries

Sun 11th October	11.30am	New Parishioners Welcoming Event - Hall	St John the Evangelist
Mon 12th October	7.15pm	Christian Meditation	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tue 13th October	3.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
Wed 14th October	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Thu 15th October	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Fri 16th October	1.00pm 7.00pm	Wedding - Victoria McMillan & Matthew Sperling The Chosen - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
Sat 17th October	1.00pm	Wedding - Alisha Fernandes & Dawid Gorski	Our Lady Help of Christian
Sun 18th October	11.30am 12.30pm	Tea & Coffee after Mass - Hall SVP Community Lunch - Hall	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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
Monday 12th October	**9.30am** For the Volunteers of the Parishes		
Tues 13th October ***St Edward The Confessor***	**9.30am** Mary Conway (Ints.)		**9.30am** For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes
Wednesday 14th October	**9.30am** For Vocations to the Priesthood	**9.30am** Paddy McKenna RIP	
Thu 15th October ***St Teresa of Jesus***	**9.30am** Nora Fahy (Ints.)		
Friday 16th October	**9.30am** Grace Haddad RIP		
Sat 17th October ***St Ignatius of Antioch***	**9.30am** Mary & Evandro Girolami RIP	**6pm** Caroline & Robert Mathie (40th Wedding Anniv.)	
Sunday 18th October ***29th Sunday in Ordinary Time***	**8.30am** W H (Bill) Osgood RIP (Anniv.) **11am** Cecilia Netto RIP **6pm** Glynn Johnson RIP	**10.30am** Seamus Gallagher RIP (Anniv.)	**9am** For the People of the Parishes
Sanctuary Lamps	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns In Thanksgiving		
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

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.

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!

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!

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - 18th October

Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

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.***

GIFT YOUTH

GIFT Youth will meet once a month on Sundays from 4pm-5.45pm for all those in Year 7 and above. The next session will be on 1st November 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.

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.

HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are housebound and living locally to the parish and would like a visit or for someone to bring you Holy Communion, please do contact the parish office and let us know on: 01923 773387 or rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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

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
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: 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.

200 CLUB (September)
Congratulations to Mary Thomson (£38.75); Theresa Jubber (£23.25) and Helen Nolan(£15.50).

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. **The work is due to be completed by 19th October.**

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

CARDINAL HUME CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS
Our Autumn Raffle, Silent Auction and Coffee and Cake morning will be on Sunday 22nd November. Please search out your spare bottles, toiletries, unloved gifts, items for the Silent Auction, broken (and whole) Jewellery, gold and silver items, old coins! Also, of course, your very generous donations are so much appreciated. The raffle table has started. Love Mary 07795 276728 xx

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