

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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ChessValleyParishes

ChessValleyParishes

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

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish
Carol Bartlett +

Mill End Parish
Anjali Kemwal-Button
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Chorleywood 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:
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THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 15TH NOVEMBER 2026

Hope for the future

We have gathered here to celebrate the Commemoration of all the faithful departed. We do so especially for those buried in this place, and with particular affection for our own loved ones. Although they left us on the day when they died, we continue to carry them with us in our hearts, and their memory remains always alive within us amid our daily lives. Often, something brings them to mind, and we recall experiences we once shared with them. Many places, even the fragrance of our homes, speak to us of those we have loved and who have gone before us, vividly maintaining their memory for us.

Today, however, we are not gathered merely to commemorate those who have departed from this world. Our Christian faith, founded upon Christ's Paschal mystery, helps us to experience our memories as more than just a recollection of the past but also, and above all, as hope for the future. It is not so much about looking back, but instead looking forward towards the goal of our journey, towards the safe harbour that God has promised us, towards the unending feast that awaits us. There, around the Risen Lord and our loved ones, we hope to savour the joy of the eternal banquet. As we just heard from the prophet Isaiah: *"On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food… He will swallow up death forever" (25: 6,8).*

This hope for the future brings to life our remembrance and prayer today. This is not an illusion for soothing the pain of our separation from loved ones, nor is it mere human optimism. Instead, it is the hope founded on the Resurrection of Jesus who has conquered death and opened for us the path to the fullness of life. As I said in a recent catechesis, the Lord is *"the destination of our journey. Without his love, the voyage of life would become a wandering without a goal, a tragic mistake with a missed destination… The Risen One guarantees our arrival, leading us home, where we are awaited, loved and saved".*

This final destination, this banquet around which the Lord will gather us, will be an encounter of love. For it was out of love that God created us, through the love of his Son that he saves us from death, and in the joy of that same love, he desires that we live forever with him and with our loved ones. For this reason, whenever we dwell in love and show charity to others, especially the weakest and most needy, then we can journey towards our goal, and even now anticipate it through an unbreakable bond with those who have gone before us. Moroever, Jesus encourages us in these words: *"… for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me"* (*Mt* 25:35-36).

Love conquers death. In love, God will gather us together with our loved ones. And, if we journey together in charity, our very lives become a prayer rising up to God, uniting us with the departed, drawing us closer to them as we await to meet them again in the joy of eternal life.

Dear brothers and sisters, even as our sorrow for those no longer among us remains etched in our hearts, let us entrust ourselves to the hope that does not disappoint. Let us fix our gaze upon the Risen Christ and think of our departed loved ones as enfolded in his light. Let us allow the Lord's promise of eternal life to resound in our hearts. He will destroy death forever. Indeed, he has already conquered it, opening for us the way to eternal life by passing through the valley of death during his Paschal mystery. Thus, united to him, we too may enter and pass through the valley of death.

The Lord awaits us, and when we finally meet him at the end of our earthly journey, we shall rejoice with him and with our loved ones who have gone before us. May this promise sustain us, dry our tears, and raise our gaze upwards toward the hope for the future that never fades.

Homily of Pope Leo XIV, Verano Cemetery, Rome, 2nd November 2025

From the Parish Diaries

Sun 15th November	11.00am 12.30pm 2.00pm	First Holy Communions - Marinella Del Percio & Sophia Gomes SVP Community Lunch Blessing of Graves	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Chorleywood Road Cemetery
Tues 17th November	3.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
Wed 18th November	7.00pm	RCIA	Our Lady Help of Christians
Thu 19th November	2.00pm 6.30pm 8.00pm	Warm Spaces - Hall Love in Action - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
Fri 20th November	12 noon	Wedding - Nikhail Desai & Theresa O'Connor	Our Lady Help of Christians
Sat 21st November	2.00pm	Blessing of Graves	Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery
Sun 22nd November	9.30am 10.00am 11.30am	SVP Coffee Morning - Hall Autumn Fair in aid of the Cardinal Hume Centre Tea & Coffee - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher St John the Evangelist

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
Saturday 14th November	**9.30am** Holy Souls	**6pm** Carlos Charles Borg RIP	
Sunday 15th November ***33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time***	**8.30am** Christopher, Margaret, Dora & Michael Conway RIP **11am** Josie (Ints.) **6pm** Special Intention (L.G.)	**10.30am** Patrick Vaughan RIP (25th Anniv.) & Dolie Vaughan RIP (6th Anniv.)	**9am** For the People of the Parishes
Mon 16th November ***St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop***	**9.30am** Joe Curran RIP		
Tuesday 17th November	**9.30am** Dennis Murphy RIP		**9.30am** Holy Souls
Wednesday 18th November	**9.30am** Dorothy Upton RIP	**9.30am** Bill O'Shea RIP	
Thursday 19th November	**9.30am** Ester Canda RIP (2nd Anniv.)		
Friday 20th November	**9.30am** James Harbird RIP (Anniv.)		
Sat 21st November ***The Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary***	**9.30am** Margaret Jones RIP	**6pm** Rosemarie Carter RIP (10th Anniv.)	
Sunday 22nd November ***Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe***	**8.30am** Christopher, Margaret, Dora & Michael Conway RIP **11am** For the People of the Parishes **6pm** Jessie Pione RIP	**10.30am** Jean Hows RIP	**9am** John & Mary Harris RIP (Anniv.)
Sanctuary Lamp	This week both our Sanctuary Lamps (Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's) burn for the Casellas Brothers RIP	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for Bob Livingston RIP	
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession	**Sundays 5pm - 5.40pm**	**Saturdays 5pm - 5.40pm**	**Confessions on request and by appointment**

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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Orla Brennan who was baptised at Our Lady's on Saturday 14th November.

Congratulations to Marinella Del Percio and Sophia Gomes who made their First Holy Communion this Sunday at the 11.00am Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS

Today's second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility. Please give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular gift and become a Patron by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at rcdow.org.uk/SRP – the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN NOVEMBER

November is a month when we traditionally pray for the repose of the faithful departed, remembering in a special way our departed family members and friends. Holy Souls sheets on which you can write the names of your departed loved ones and friends are available this weekend. These can then be placed inside one of the brown "November Dead" envelopes, with any offering you wish to make, and then be placed in the "Holy Souls" box provided. During the month of November weekday Masses across the three parishes will be offered for the Holy Souls and your intentions will be placed in a special box in front of the altar as a focus for our prayer for the faithful departed.

FUNERAL PLAN

November is a month where we should think about our own death and be helping the community to pray for us when that time comes. The Church encourages us to be prepared for the day when our lives are ended, and to support our family and friends by having a plan for our funeral written down. Sheets to help us with this will be available to take away throughout November. Full information on how to prepare our funerals can be found at the diocesan website: https://rcdow.org.uk/liturgy/preparing-for-a-funeral/

BLESSING OF GRAVES

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

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Our annual competition to provide the picture for our Christmas Information Card is now open. We invite our young people to draw/paint/design an image to go on the front cover of this card. It must be linked to the Christmas Nativity Story and be in portrait layout. Please submit entries to the parish office by Sunday 15th November with your child's name and age.

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Wednesday 18th November 1.30pm - 2.30pm; Thursday 10th December 9.30am - 10.30am, Tuesday 12th January 9.30am - 10.30am. Book your place by visiting stjohns705.eventbrite.co.uk

YOUTH MASS

All are welcome to join our Youth Mass on Sunday 29th November at 6.00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth. Please join us afterwards in the hall for food and fun.

MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the Parish Men's Group will be on Tuesday 1st December at Our Lady's Parish Hall at 8pm with a talk on 'St Edmund Campion' by Malcolm Golin. This will lead into going to a local pub for some social time.

GIFT YOUTH

GIFT Youth meet once a month on Sundays from 4pm - 5.45pm for all those in Year 7 and above. The next session will be on 6th December 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.

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.

YOUTH CHOIR - WELCOMING NEW SINGERS

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!

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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

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.

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: 25th November and 9th December where we are currently watching Bishop Robert Barron's Catholicism Series. 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 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 provide 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

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 (OCTOBER)
Congratulations to Angela Steele (£35); Colette Williamson (£21) and Clare Loose (£14).

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS
Many thanks to all who have saved their used stamps for the Missions. Everyone's small contributions can make a difference. The box is in the church porch. Please keep them coming! *Sheila H.*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS FAIR
St John's Christmas Fair, Mill End will take place on 6th December after the 10.30am Mass. Please make a note in your diaries and come and support the fair. Donations of bottles and sweets for the tombolas are needed, if you have any to spare. Please make sure they are unopened and in date! These can be brought in from now and left in the box at the back of the church. Raffle tickets will go on sale from the middle of November after all weekend Masses - please bring cash! Thank you for your support.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

CARDINAL HUME CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS
Our Autumn Fair in aid of the Cardinal Hume Centre is on next Sunday, 22nd November after Mass approximately 10-11.15am. Coffee & Cakes, 24 prize raffle, Silent Auction and a sale of smaller goods on the mantlepiece. Please buy raffle tickets and sale items and place some bids today to give us time next week. Donations etc still much needed. Many thanks for your great generosity for this excellent charity. Last minute queries to Mary Latimer 07795 276728 x

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX DONORS
Now is the time for December quarter's payments for our Missionaries serving across the world. To our small but generous group, please pay by first week in December, very many thanks, as always. New donors very welcome. Mary x

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 29th November 6.00pm - Youth Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth
Sunday 6th December 11.30am to 1pm - Christmas Fair, St John the Evangelist, Mill End
Sunday 13th December 3pm Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service