

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:
Fr Andrew Gallagher
andrewgallagher@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest:
Fr Dom Matokovic
domagojmatokovic@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:
Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Francis Holly (Discipleship)
fgholly@hotmail.com

Jo Rodrigues (Faith in Action)
jorodrigues425@gmail.com

Lizzie Quinn (Families & Youth)
elizabeth_quinn@icloud.com

Richard Booth (Evangelisation)
boothrm1925@gmail.com

Address for all correspondence:
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU
Telephone: 01923 773387

@ChessValleyRC

ChessValleyParishes

ChessValleyParishes

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

Safeguarding Reps.

Rickmansworth Parish
Carol Bartlett +

Mill End Parish
Anjali Kemwal-Button
millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Chorleywood Parish
Peter Mackie 07802 229337
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (YEAR A) 22ND NOVEMBER 2026

Songs of Praise

Dear choristers and musicians today you show thanks to the Lord for granting you the gift and grace to serve him by offering your voices and talents for his glory and for the spiritual edification of your brothers and sisters. Your task is to draw others into the praise of God and to help them to participate more fully in the liturgy through song.

Great civilizations have given us the gift of music in order to express what we carry deep in our hearts and what words cannot always convey. Music can give expression to the whole range of feelings and emotions that arise within us from a living relationship with reality. Singing, in particular, constitutes a natural and refined expression of the human being: mind, feelings, body and soul come together to communicate the great events of life. As St Augustine reminded us: "singing belongs to those who love." Those who sing give expression to love, but also to the pain, tenderness and desire that dwell in their hearts, while at the same time, loving those to whom they address their song.

For the people of God, song expresses invocation and praise. In Christ, we become singers of grace, children of the Church who discover in the Risen One the cause of our praise. Liturgical music thus becomes a precious instrument through which we carry out our service of praise to God and express the joy of new life in Christ.

St Augustine exhorts us to sing while we walk, like weary travellers who find in song a foretaste of the joy they will experience when they reach their destination. Being part of a choir means advancing together… singing the praises of God, consoling our brothers and sisters in their suffering, exhorting them when they seem to give in to fatigue and encouraging them when difficulties seem to prevail. Singing reminds us that we are a Church on a journey, an authentic synodal reality capable of sharing with everyone the vocation to praise and joy on this pilgrimage of love and hope.

St Ignatius of Antioch also employs moving words to express the relationship between the song of the choir and the unity of the Church: "From your unity and harmonious love, sing to Jesus Christ. And let each one become a choir, so that being harmonious of your arrangement and taking up the song of God in unison, you may with one voice sing to the Father through Jesus Christ, that he may both hear you and recognize you for your good works" (*Ad Ephesios*, IV).

Yours is a true ministry that requires preparation, commitment, mutual understanding and, above all, a deep spiritual life, so that when you sing, you both pray and help everyone else to pray. This ministry requires discipline and a spirit of service, especially when preparing for a solemn liturgy or an important event in your communities. The choir is a small family of individuals united by their love of music and the service they offer. However, remember that the community is your larger family. You are not on stage, but rather a part of that community, endeavouring to help it grow in unity by inspiring and engaging its members. We can say to some extent that the choir symbolizes of the Church, which, striving toward its goal, walks through history praising God. Even when this journey is beset by difficulties and trials and joyful moments give way to more challenging ones, singing makes the journey lighter, providing relief and consolation.

Strive, therefore, to make your choirs ever harmonious and beautiful, and a brighter image of the Church praising her Lord. Be an eloquent sign of the Church's prayer, expressing its love for God through the beauty of music. Take care that your spiritual life is always worthy of the service you perform, so that your ministry may authentically express the grace of the liturgy.

I place all of you under the protection of Saint Cecilia, the virgin and martyr who raised the most beautiful song of love through her life, giving herself entirely to Christ and offering the Church a shining example of faith and love. Let us continue singing and make our own the invitation of the psalms: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Extract from Homily of Pope Leo XIV for Jubilee of Choirs, Solemnity of Christ the King 2025

From the Parish Diaries

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
Mon 23rd November	7.15pm	Christian Meditation - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
Tues 24th November	3.30pm	Youth Choir	St John the Evangelist
Wed 25th November	2.15pm 7.15pm	Faith & Friendship Group - Hall RCIA	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
Thu 26th November	2.00pm 8.00pm	Warm Spaces - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
Sat 28th November	11.15am	Baptism - Bobby Dickinson	Our Lady Help of Christians
Sun 29th November	11.30am 4.00pm 6.00pm	Tea & Coffee - Hall Altar Servers Rehearsal Youth Mass. Youth Choir sing at Mass.	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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.)
Monday 23rd November	**9.30am** Julia Rice RIP	**11am** Funeral - Bob Livingston RIP	
Tue 24th November ***St Andrew Dũng-Lạc & Companions, Martyrs***	**9.30am** Mark Anthony Xavier RIP (15th Anniv.)		**9.30am** Pat & Tony Finucane RIP (Anniv.)
Wednesday 25th November	**No Mass Today**	**9.30am** Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.)	
Thursday 26th November	**9.30am** Holy Souls		
Friday 27th November	**9.30am** Holy Souls		
Saturday 28th November	**9.30am** Holy Souls	**6pm** For the People of the Parishes	
Sunday 29th November ***First Sunday of Advent***	**8.30am** Christopher, Margaret, Dora & Michael Conway RIP **11am** Elliot Breach RIP **6pm** Rosie Duffy RIP (2nd Anniv.)	**10.30am** Catherine Philomena Ryan RIP (25th Anniv.)	**9am** Malcolm Stacey RIP
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & 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 Nik and Tess Desai who were married in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 21st November. May they be blessed with many years of happiness and be a witness and reminder to us of God's faithful love, made present in the sacrament of their marriage.

BOB LIVINGSTON RIP

The funeral of Bob Livingston will take place at St John the Evangelist on Monday 23rd November at 11.00am followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday 22nd November marks the 41st World Youth Sunday, celebrating young people in the Church. This year's theme is "*Take courage! I have overcome the world*". Please visit https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/outreach/world-youth-sunday-2026/ for a video message from Archbishop Richard Moth. As a Catholic Community we have responsibility to accompany young people on their journey of faith and Westminster Youth Ministry has a vital role in accompanying them in our diocese.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

We are blessed in our parishes to have a Bereavement Group who have been trained to support and pray for those who are struggling with the loss of a loved one. If you would like some extra support then please do get in touch with the Bereavement Group Co-ordinator Anne via the parish office (rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) and she will be in touch with you.

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/

ALTAR SERVERS REHEARSAL

There will be a rehearsal for Altar Servers on Sunday 29th November at 4.00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians.

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.

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Thursday 10th December 9.30am - 10.30am, Tuesday 12th January 9.30am - 10.30am. Book your place by visiting stjohns705.eventbrite.co.uk

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.

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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ANNUAL ST LUKE'S ADVENT MORNING OF RECOLLECTION ON SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER

This year we welcome Mgr Paul McPartlan, Rector of Mater Ecclesiae College and Professor of Theology at St Mary's University, Twickenham, who will help us reflect on what Christ's coming means for us today: "The Eucharist and the Priestly People of God". Talks begin at 10.30 am in St Luke's Church, Pinner to conclude at 12.30pm. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre at the break.

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
Members of our Parish Cubs and Scouts were very pleased to once again support the work of the SVP by making up 200 Vinnie Packs ready for distribution to homeless people. We were pleased to hear that these are headed for use in the London Area. An excellent opportunity for our young people to put their Scout Promise 'to help others' into action.

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

GARDEN OF REST
Our headstone is updated annually with the names of those who have been buried in our Garden of Rest the year before. The cost of this engraving is around £500 each year. Until now this has been paid through generous benefactors, but this fund is now in need of new donations. If you would like to make a donation towards this important memorial of our past parishioners, please do so via https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/donate/ with the reference 'Headstone'.

COFFEE MORNINGS
Please join us in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 22nd November for our SVP Coffee Morning. There will be a Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday 6th December. 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

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 are on sale after all weekend Masses - please bring cash! Thank you for your support.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

CARDINAL HUME CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS
Today's the day for coffee and cakes, 24 item raffle, silent auction, mantlepiece sale and donation baskets all in aid of the Cardinal Hume Centre. Please come along after Mass and share in our joy in joining together to support this most worthwhile charity. Please phone Mary with any queries 07795 276728 xx

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 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