



St John The Evangelist
Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG



Our Lady Help of Christians
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HU



St John Fisher
Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, WD3 5NH

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

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
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Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
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Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
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Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

Geraldine Page
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Address for all correspondence:

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WD3 1HU

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@ChessValleyRC

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie
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Carol Bartlett
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Mill End Parish

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Chorleywood Parish

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899
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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
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Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) - 6TH DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Our word prophet comes from the Greek word meaning ‘one who proclaims’. Not all prophets wear camel skin and eat locusts – there are prophets among us right now who proclaim in their ministries, in their compassion and their kindness, in their courageous commitment to what is right that Jesus the Messiah has come. In the baptismal call to become prophets of the God who comes, we are to do the work of transforming the wastelands around us into harvests of justice and forgiveness, to create highways for our God to enter and recreate our world in charity and peace. To be a prophet of God’s justice begins with embracing God’s vision of what the world can and should become and then giving one’s self totally to the work of realising that vision.

These days of Advent are a microcosm of our lives: we work to become, we struggle to change, we adjust to the new – this year perhaps more than ever. The completion of a ‘straightened path’ leads to new directions to travel; the discovery of God reveals new possibilities for our lives; the waters of baptism recreate us in the Spirit of God’s compassion and grace. Our own baptisms call us to take up the Advent work of John the Baptist: to straighten the crooked roads of our lives, to transform ‘deserts’ barren of love into places of welcome and reconciliation, to gather up the lost and forgotten, to proclaim the coming of God’s Christ in our midst. ‘Make a straight highway for our God across the desert’.



FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

MON 7TH DECEMBER	7.30pm	Online Bible Study - The Bible Course	
WED 9TH DECEMBER	10.00am	Burial of Ashes - Joan Harbird RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
THUR 10RD DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Online Prayer Group	

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 5 TH DECEMBER	Special Intention		
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10am Peter & Evelyn Scally & Family RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Jonas Jahir (Ints.)	10.30am Robert Gibson RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER St AMBROSE, BISHOP	Eddie & Violet Johnston RIP		
TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Hernando Ariza RIP (Anniv.)		
WEDNESDAY 9 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Joan Harbird RIP		
THURSDAY 10 TH DECEMBER	Bedelia & Peter Knight (Ints.)		
FRIDAY 11 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Ina Murphy RIP (Anniv.)		
SATURDAY 12 TH DECEMBER	Verna Kendrick RIP		
SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10am Roy Langdale RIP 6pm Eric Walsh RIP	10.30am Hernando Ariza RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish

Entrance Antiphon:	O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
Response to Psalm:	Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
2nd Reading:	2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel:	Mark 1:1-8
Communion Antiphon:	Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.
Next Sunday's Readings:	Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8. 19-28 (Gospel)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townend, Maureen Douglas, Josie Westhrop, Gillian Loose and Peter Knight.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock, Joan Hart and James Clark.

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Angela Hoy, Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, Paddy Goble and Pam Fitzpatrick.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Please check the *Advent & Christmas* tab on the three parish websites for the times of our Christmas Masses. If you wish to attend any Mass across our parishes on Christmas Eve or Christmas (as well as any Sunday) it is necessary to book places online via the *Events* tab on our websites. Places are limited and our Christmas Masses are quickly filling up, so you are advised to book your place(s) soon to avoid disappointment. If you are unsuccessful in booking a place, please remember that you can join us for the Christmas Masses at Our Lady's via livestream at <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmanworth>.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The offerings at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses is your personal gift to your priests. The Christmas and Easter offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Shaun and Fr Damian. These monies are paid into the respective three parishes' accounts and are then paid to the priests as a monthly salary or stipend. If you wish to make a Christmas offering, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details. Please mark your gift as CHRISTMAS OFFERING. You can also now make a Christmas Offering via Virgin Money Giving, please leave a message to show this donation is for your Christmas Offering. You will find the parish bank details and a link to the Virgin Money Giving site on the *Donate to your Parish* tab of your respective parish website. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Christmas Offering. Thank you

VERNA KENDRICK RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death this past week of Verna Kendrick. Verna was a long-time parishioner at Our Lady's. We extend our deepest condolences to Verna's husband, David, at this sad and very difficult time. The arrangements for Verna's funeral have not yet been finalized.

JOAN HARBIRD RIP

The ashes of Joan Harbird will be interred in our Garden of Rest at 10.00am on Wednesday 9th December, immediately after the 9.30am Mass, during which Joan's ashes will rest in front of the altar.

UPDATED - IMPORTANT INFORMATION - MASS ATTENDANCE STICKERS AND CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE (CCP) OF 2022 SECONDARY TRANSFER AND NURSERY / RECEPTION 2022

With the Sunday Mass Obligation currently suspended and the ability of families to attend Mass in the parish each Sunday being very restricted due to social distancing measures, it is currently not possible to provide Mass attendance cards and stickers to families with a child making secondary transfer in 2022 or seeking a nursery or reception place in a catholic primary school in 2022. There currently seems to be a level of uncertainty about if, and on what criteria, priests are going to be asked to complete CCPs for 2022 admissions. For the time being, all parents with a child who will be seeking a place in a Catholic Secondary school in 2022 or a nursery or reception place in a Catholic primary school (other than St John's, Mill End or St Anthony's, Watford which do not require a CCP) should email me at shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk, providing the following information:

- Name of the child (first name and surname)
- Parents/Guardians names (first name and surname)
- Address at which you reside
- Telephone contact details

I will retain this information and keep a careful eye on Diocesan guidance with regard to the issuing of CCPs for 2022 admissions in the light of the prevailing restrictions caused by the pandemic. *Fr Shaun*

ZOOM PARISH CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Ho, Ho, Ho! It's the most wonderful time of the year. Yes, we will soon be celebrating the birth of Christ, but also, we will be holding a Zoom Parish Christmas Quiz! Come along and join us for an evening of festive fun (and friendly competition 😊)! Similarly to the Zoom pub quiz we held earlier this year, we will be putting everyone into teams based on the church/Mass you usually attend to allow you to have a chat and catch up with those friendly faces you may not have seen for a while! The purpose of the evening is simply to have some fun and socialise with each other during this festive season, so we would love to see as many of you there as possible! As with last time, feel free to invite any family and friends - the more the merrier! 😊

There's also a rumour going around that there may be a competition for the most festive dressed....

Full details: Date: **Saturday 19th December**; Time: 7:30pm; Location: Zoom

We will be emailing the Zoom link to all those who confirm they will be attending, so please can you email Yasmin (yasmin_lakin@hotmail.co.uk) and Jess (jesskenny716@gmail.com) by Thursday 17th December.

To help the quizmasters and their elves plan teams, please can you include the following information in your email:

- Name(s) [including any family/friends if they are not emailing us separately]:
- Church:
- Usual Mass Time:

We will then email you all the Zoom link and your teams the night before the quiz. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas quiz!

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Although it isn't currently possible for the priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the confessional, both Fr Shaun and Fr Damian are available for the celebration of the sacrament by individual appointment. The celebration would take place, outside of Mass time, either in the garden (weather permitting) or in an empty church. Any parishioners wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation should contact Fr Shaun or Fr Damian to arrange a mutually convenient time.

INVITATION TO PRAY

You are warmly invited to join us every Thursday evening to pray together and have a time of fellowship. Whether you are part of the Parish Community or not we would love you to come along to our online prayer group. The evening will consist of a time for singing, reading and quiet reflection, sharing and intercessory prayer. You are welcome to join in as you feel you would like. Prayer meetings will start at 8.00pm every Thursday and finish at 9.30pm. If you would like to join us simply email the following address and we will add you to the invitation - barbarajohnson48@gmail.com

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

SEA SUNDAY

Next week is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Sea Sunday has been moved from July because of the pandemic and Stella Maris is particularly asking for donations by text or online. To donate and for more information, please visit: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

CAFOD COLLECTION FOR HARVEST 2020

CAFOD is very appreciative of the Harvest donations made by Catholics all across the country. Although, for reasons we all recognise, a Harvest like no Other and very much reduced from previous years, a huge effort has been made to raise much-needed funds for CAFOD's work. It won't be possible to attribute amounts to individual parishes this year because of the diverse ways in which donations were made, but for all the donations which were made CAFOD is very grateful. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

For Christmas gifts for family, friends, and those who may go without, CAFOD World Gifts offer a set of 40 charitable gifts ranging in value from £4 for a bee to £4,000 for an entire Health Centre. You can select them to contribute to any of five 'funds' covering education, animals and farming, healthcare, emergency support and water supply. Please, go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/World-Gifts>

CAFOD ADVENT PRAYER - A JOURNEY TO THE MANGER (Sunday 6th December, 6.00pm - 6.30pm)

Join us for some simple and peaceful prayer and reflection as we share our journey of Advent together. We'll gather around a candle and be gently led in a time of prayer.

Register for the series: https://www.bigmarker.com/series/advent/series_summit

CAFOD ADVENT MASS - Wednesday 16th December, 6.00pm

Invite your family and friends for our special Advent Mass.

Register to join us: <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Eucharist>

THE PASSAGE

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon **Tuesday 1st December** – 12 noon **Tuesday 8th December** to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk

Please generously give online at <https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

APPEAL FOR HELP FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES – STEWARDING AND CLEANING

Due to the coronavirus restrictions in place for celebrating Mass, our Christmas celebrations will need to be a little different this year. Fr Shaun and Fr Damian would like to give us the opportunity to celebrate Christmas at one of four Masses but in order to do this we need more help to steward and clean the church. Christmas is a time for giving and this is a perfect way to give not just to your family but to the whole parish. If you are not away this Christmas and would be willing to give a little time to help make this happen, please could you contact me as soon as possible at sharon.blayne@btinternet.com. Many thanks, Sharon.

FOR THE MISSIONS

Please keep saving your stamps for the Missions. For the time being, please keep them at home, do not bring them to the church porch. Thank you, *Sheila Harrington*.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

NOT THE SJF CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR - in aid of the Cardinal Hume Centre for the Homeless is NO MORE

I hope you will all be pleased with the result which I hope will be available for you to be told at the end of Mass today. HUGE THANKS for all your wonderful support and especially to MARGUERITE for her brilliant cake sale and to EDDIE, MARION AND ROSEMARY for their hands on care for our Not The SJF Charity Christmas Fair. The Bring and Buy element continues!!! Please ring for an appointment to view the goods!!! More thanks and love to all, Mary 284975.

MISSIO/RED BOX HOLDERS

Please may I have your donations for our Missionary Priests and Nuns within the next week for this end of the year quarter. Their need must be so great. Please put in my letter box or phone me. Thank you very much, Mary 284975.