



St. John The Evangelist,
Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG
<http://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>

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:
Fr Shaun Church
shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest:
Fr Mark Walker
markwalker@rcdow.org.uk

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

Parish Youth Worker:
Anke Vos
ankevos@rcdow.org.uk

Address for all correspondence:
5 Park Road
Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU

Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) 27TH NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Advent is a brief period of time which prepares Christians for the celebration of Christmas. Let us listen to Paul's warning, 'It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is far spent, the day draws near.' Indeed, since the resurrection of Jesus, the life of people and society has made an irresistible change of course which rushes them toward their final end and judgment. We must decide for humanity and use all our energy to discover our future with God. The gospel of this Sunday puts us on the watch. It insists that we not be in a state of unreadiness and carelessness, that we not have a false sense of security in regard to the unforeseeable coming of the Son of Man. In the days of Noah, the people were overconfident in themselves and continued with the business at hand. Then, suddenly, came the disaster: they were taken by surprise in their sleep, unconcerned with what was essential. The image of the Lord coming as a thief in the night expresses the necessity of constant vigilance. 'Here I stand, knocking at the door' (Rv 3:20). In every age of history, the Church is in danger of failing to hear him who knocks at the door. He is there to awaken Christians to the call of the Spirit. Today, more than ever, the Church and all Christians must play the prophetic role of confronting a sleeping world which risks losing its soul. We should live so as not to be surprised by the judgment at the end of our lives and at the end of the world.

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Response to Psalm: I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £570.00; Loose Plate: £414.98; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1494.98**

Mill End: Envelopes: £279.50; Loose Plate: £201.71; Standing Orders: £99.00 **Total: £580.21**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of October - **£2321.93**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

TEXT GIVING THROUGH YOUR MOBILE PHONE

Special Gift? Top-Up Offering? For Rickmansworth text: **Parish RICKM** to 70800; For Chorleywood text **Parish CHORL** to 70800; for Mill End text **Parish MILLE** to 70800. It's easy! To make a £5 Donation. It's Easy! Thank You!

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| SUN 27TH NOVEMBER | 8.45am 9.00am - 1.00pm 9.15am 11.30am | First Communion Class - Hall Advent Fair First Communion Class - Hall Sunday Brunch - hall | St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist |
| MON 28TH NOVEMBER | 10am - 12pm 1.30pm 5.30pm 7.00pm 8.00pm | Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Catholicism : The Pivotal Players (St Francis of Assisi) First Communion Class - Hall Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's Choir Practice | Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist |
| TUE 29TH NOVEMBER | 7.30pm - 9.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm | 1 st Communion Parents Meeting - Hall Catholicism : The Pivotal Players (St Francis of Assisi) RCIA - Upper Room | Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians |
| WED 30TH NOVEMBER | 7.30pm 7.30pm | Choir Practice Thought Provoking Films For Advent - Hall | St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians |
| THU 1ST DECEMBER | 8.00pm - 9.30pm | Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall | Our Lady Help of Christians |
| FRI 2ND DECEMBER | 10.00am | Coffee after Mass for all - Hall | Our Lady Help of Christians |
| SAT 3RD DECEMBER | 11.00am 5.30pm 5.30pm | NO Holy Hour and Benediction this week First Reconciliation Service Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John Fisher |

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

| | Our Lady Help of Christians | St John the Evangelist | St John Fisher |
|--|--|--|---|
| SATURDAY 26 TH NOVEMBER | 10.00am Holy Souls | 6pm (Vigil) Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.) | 6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish |
| SUNDAY 27 TH NOVEMBER <i>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i> | 8.30am Powell Family (Ints.) 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm Ellie Enright RIP (Anniv.) | 10.30am Seamus Fagan RIP | 9am Gregory McEwen RIP |
| MONDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER | 9.30am Holy Souls | 9.30am Charles Borthwick RIP (Anniv.) | |
| TUESDAY 29 TH NOVEMBER | 9.30am Holy Souls | | 9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish |
| WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER <i>St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland</i> | | 9.30am Holy Souls | |
| THURSDAY 1 ST DECEMBER | 9.30am Maureen Koller RIP | | |
| FRIDAY 2 ND DECEMBER | 9.30am Eric & Beryl Selley (Ints.) | | 9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish |
| SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER <i>St Francis Xavier, Priest</i> | 10.00am Sr Anna O'Driscoll, dJ RIP | 6pm (Vigil) Rosemarie Carter RIP | 6pm (Vigil) Gregory McEwen RIP |
| SUNDAY 4 TH DECEMBER <i>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i> | 8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Pol Gaite RIP 6pm Ann Murphy RIP (Anniv.) | 10.30am Seamus Fagan RIP | 9am For the People of the Parish |

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Elsie Alexander, Ruary Chisholm, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, Jeannine Simonds, John Caneparo, Josie Westhrop, Eric Selley and Oliver Watson.

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Joyce Baldwin, Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Joe Donnelly, John Connor and Mary Hornsby

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Rita Garrett, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Fr Peter Stevens, Angela Hoy, Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Margaret Lamb, Thomas Gillies, Kitty Finucane, Susan Maynard, Don Williamson and Aidan Mahony.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE AND WELCOME

We are blessed this year to have twelve adults in the RCIA process in our parishes (six from Rickmansworth and six from Mill End) journeying towards full communion with the Catholic Church. During Advent we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance with them. At the 10.30am Mass at St John's, Mill End this weekend Ryan Allen, Stacie Allen and Anne Marie Sugrue will be accepted as catechumens in preparation for their baptism at the Easter Vigil and Charlene White, Christie Stott and Jodie Vincent will be welcomed as candidates in preparation for the completion of their initiation into the Catholic Church with the sacrament of Confirmation at Easter. At the 11.00am Mass at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth this weekend Tony Lloyd, Rowan Mangion and Samantha Davies will be accepted as catechumens in preparation for their baptism at the Easter Vigil and Colin Grant, Richard Booth and Clementina Nita will be welcomed as candidates in preparation for the completion of their initiation into the Catholic Church with the sacrament of Confirmation at Easter. We congratulate them all, and assure them of our prayers, as they make this important step on their journey towards full communion with the Catholic Church.

VINNY SPITERI RIP

The funeral of **Vinny Spiteri** will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Tuesday 6th December** followed by cremation at West Herts Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

TONY FINUCANE RIP

It is with sadness that we share the death of Tony Finucane who died on Thursday. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time. Details of his funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

CONFIRMATION

All candidates who wrote to Fr Shaun asking to be confirmed next year should have received a letter providing details of the course. One candidate included no contact details with their letter. If that candidate is you, please email Fr. Mark providing an address so he can send you the course details!

RECOMMISSIONING OF READERS

At all Sunday Masses next weekend (2nd Sunday of Advent) all of our Readers will be re-commissioned.

WELCOME TO ANKE VOS, OUR PARISH YOUTH WORKER

Anke has now taken up her appointment as Parish Youth Worker and will be introducing herself at the 10.30am Mass at St John's, Mill End this weekend. I know that you will all give Anke a warm welcome and every encouragement as she begins her ministry with the young people of our parishes. *Fr Shaun*

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S DVD SERIES

In Advent we will begin following Bishop Robert Barron's new DVD Series Catholicism : The Pivotal Players - a journey to unlock the truth about the Catholic Church's most influential people. The course can be followed *either* on a Monday afternoon or on Tuesday evening. This week the course will focus on St Francis of Assisi.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE.

This Christmas, why not give the gift of helping someone to work their way out of poverty with a CAFOD World Gift. These alternative Christmas gifts make unique presents for family or friends while making a real difference for many in the developing world. CAFOD World Gift Catalogues are available for you to take home after Mass, and the full selection is also available online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET 2016

The leaflet giving the times and locations of the Advent Programme, Advent Reconciliation Services and Christmas Masses across the three parishes is now available. Please take a copy home with you this weekend.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

A copy of the Annual Review and the Annual Report and Accounts for the Diocese are available at the back of the church for parishioners to review. We would ask that these please be not removed from the church, so that all those who wish to review them may do so with ease. Both the Annual Report and the Accounts and the shorter Annual Report are available on the Diocesan website at www.rcdow.org.uk/publications.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2017 - now available priced £4.50 each.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE- NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2017

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice for Nursery/Reception 2017 as follows:

Monday 5th December 4.30-5.30pm; Tuesday 13th December 4.30-5.30pm and Friday 16th December 5pm to 6pm.

All three sessions will be held in Our Lady's Hall, Rickmansworth. There is no need to make an individual appointment or to bring with you the child for whom you are applying for a place; please just turn up for the date and time that best suits you.

Please be sure to bring your Mass attendance card. If you have been regularly attending Sunday Mass elsewhere please remember to bring the documentation outlined in the letter which accompanied your Mass attendance card.

CATHOLIC WORKER FARM

This Christmas we would like once again to make up gift bags for the ladies currently living at the Catholic Worker Farm and Mary House. It was a great success last year and much appreciated. There are twelve ladies and we are asking for: jewellery, scarves, gloves (in good condition) shower gel, body butter and lotion. These items can be left in the collection boxes in the three church porches. Thank you, SVP

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – Nursery/Reception 2017/18 & Secondary Transfer 2018

Parents with a child who will be applying for a Nursery / Reception transfer place in a Catholic School for **September 2018** are asked to collect a letter and Mass attendance card from Fr Shaun or Fr Mark after Mass this weekend. Please read the letter carefully, as it contains **very important** information regarding what is required of you in order for us to be able to provide a Certificate of Catholic Practice for your family.

If you are new to the parish, and have not been issued with a Mass Attendance Card, and will be seeking a Certificate of Catholic Practice for a **September 2017** reception or nursery place in a Catholic primary school or a **September 2018** place in a Catholic Secondary school, please speak to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark as soon as possible.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

ADVENT FAIR - THIS SUNDAY 9AM - 1PM.

Please don't hurry straight home. Come and support this great cause - the children's charity HCPT. Bacon and sausage sandwiches are being served while you browse boutique stalls selling festive cards, gifts and local produce. Entrance fee includes a glass of mulled wine (children free). Try your luck on the tombola and raffle. Some fantastic prizes are available. We need you to make the event a success!

HELP NEEDED

At the 6.00pm Christmas Eve Family Mass some of the children will be presenting the Christmas story to us in the form of a tableau drama. We would be grateful for any adults (we need 5 or 6) who would be willing to help prepare and coordinate the children on the evening of this Mass. If you are able to help please give your name to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark.

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS (4TH DECEMBER)

Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends at our coffee morning after Mass next Sunday.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On **Friday 23rd December** at **6.00pm** we will be cleaning and decorating the church in preparation for Christmas. We would like to invite parents to bring their children to help us decorate the tree and also to help with the preparation and decoration of the Christmas crib. We would also appreciate the help of any adults who might be able to help us clean the church so that it is looking its best for our Christmas celebration.

CHRISTMAS FAIR DONATIONS

We are asking for donations of Bottles, Sweets, Chocolates, Homemade cakes and any unwanted gifts to support the fair. Please bring in Bottles, Sweets and Chocolates and unwanted gifts for the Tombola's, all donations can be left at the back of the porch between now and the 10th December. Please bring Homemade cakes on the morning of the Fair (11th December).

CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets will be on sale in the porch after Saturday evening Mass and both before and after Sunday Morning Mass this weekend. First Prize will be £100, 2nd Prize £50 and other exciting prizes. Don't forget to get your tickets!

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon and sausage rolls) will take place on **Sunday 27th November** after 10.30am Mass. All proceeds raised will go to Aid to the Church in Need. We hope that you will come and join us!

STAINED GLASS WINDOW – THANKSGIVING BOOK

We are now ready to proceed to the next stage of preparation of the Thanksgiving Book for the new stained glass window. Would donors check the wording of their thanksgivings for accuracy before we produce the final versions for the Thanksgiving Book. There is a folder in the porch containing the remaining pages that still need to be collected. Please **print clearly** onto your sheet any changes or corrections that you wish to be made and then tick the appropriate box at the bottom of your thanksgiving page to show that either a.) the text is correct as it stands, or b.) that it should be amended as per the changes you have provided. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS are now on sale in the repository.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place on **Saturday 3rd December** at 5.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are now available for sale in the lounge.

CHOIR

There is a rehearsal on **30th November**. We are inviting people to 'join for Christmas' and come along to the rehearsals. We're particularly in need of men to join us. It doesn't matter if you don't read music, or don't read it well - willingness to sing is what we want more than anything else.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Huge thanks to all of our parishioners who once again have responded so brilliantly to our appeals in your work and gifts in aid of our fair. We hope to have an interim result for you for this weekend and a final figure by next weekend. Thank you for your great kindness.

APF/RED MISSIO BOXES

Please would you be so good as to bring all your boxes for the year end count on the next two weekends, 3/4 and 10/11 December. Thank you.

| ROTAS | Saturday 6.00pm Mass | | | Sunday 9.00am Mass | | | Sunday Counters | Laundry |
|------------|----------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Welcomer | Reader | MoC | Welcomer | Reader | Communion | | |
| 26/27 Nov. | E O'Sullivan | R Ellis | P Goble | J Hale | T D'Urso | E Price | Peter & Una | V Terrill |
| 3/4 Dec. | GF | M Foggo | E O'Sullivan | D Treanor | M Williamson | F Holly | Carolyn & Patsy | C Steet |

GENERAL NOTICES

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Rickmansworth Masonic School Community Choir and the school choirs will be presenting a Christmas concert in the Great Hall of the school, on **Friday December 9th** at **7.00pm**. Four of Our Lady's parishioners will be taking part. Please come and support us for an evening of festive music and carols.