



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

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FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT (YEAR B) - 3RD DECEMBER 2017

MAKING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Last weekend I wrote a letter to all parishioners. The letter was entitled ‘Go, therefore, make disciples...’ If you were away or you didn’t pick up a copy, you will find copies available in each parish this weekend. The letter can also be downloaded from the parish websites on the *Making Missionary Disciples* page.

In the letter, I set out a vision for our parishes based on the command of Jesus himself and the dream of Pope Francis that the making of missionary disciples be at the heart of everything we do; that all of our efforts, energy and resources within our parishes are put at the service of helping people to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In our homilies last weekend, Fr Damian and I began to share with you something of this vision. The homily that I preached last weekend can also be downloaded from the *Making Missionary Disciples* page of the website. This Sunday Fr Damian and I will share in our homilies more of our dream of what our parishes might become as we place the making of missionary disciples at the heart of all that we do.

Today is Advent Sunday, the beginning of the Church’s Liturgical Year. The key message of the gospel today is in the words of Jesus himself, “*Stay awake*”. We need to be awake in our faith, awake to our baptismal calling to be playing our part in bringing others to Jesus, so that Emmanuel – God with Us – whom we prepare to welcome at Christmas, might be joyfully received by those who do not yet know him.

Fr Shaun

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 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

Response to Psalm: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

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

Next Sunday’s Readings

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £728.42; Loose Plate: £287.42; Standing Orders: £722.62 **Total: £1738.46**

Mill End: Envelopes: £260.00; Loose Plate: £181.23; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £638.23**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of October - **£2623.31**

Sick & Retired Priests Fund: Rickmansworth £813.01; Mill End £334.97; Chorleywood £354.00

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. Thank You!

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 3RD DECEMBER	9.00am - 1.00pm 7.00pm	Advent Fair - Hall The Afterparty - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 4TH DECEMBER	10.00am - 12 noon 5.00pm - 6.00pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall B'Attitude (school year 9-13) - Upper Room Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 5TH DECEMBER	1.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Funeral Mass - John Overend RIP Lectio Divina RCIA - Upper Room	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 6TH DECEMBER	7.30pm	Choir Practice	St John Fisher
THU 7TH DECEMBER	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 8TH DECEMBER			
SAT 9TH DECEMBER	11.00am 5.30pm	NO HOLY HOUR OR CONFESSIONS First Reconciliation Service Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady Help of Christians 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 2 ND DECEMBER	10.00am Canon Louis Thomas RIP	6pm (Vigil) Margaret De Menezes RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 3 RD DECEMBER <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Mary Higgins RIP 6pm Denzil D'Cruze RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Pete Corrigan RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 4 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Patsy Fagan RIP	
TUESDAY 5 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Martha Shea RIP	9.30am Candalaria Cooper RIP
WEDNESDAY 6 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Nora O'Driscoll RIP	
THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER <i>ST AMBROSE, BISHOP & DOCTOR</i>		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	
FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>		9.30am Mary Robinson RIP	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 9 TH DECEMBER	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Patsy Fagan RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 10 TH DECEMBER <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Madeline & Patrick Doyle RIP (Anniv.) 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm Jonathan Pione RIP	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am Desmond Jenkins RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Ruary Chisholm, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Christina Thomas, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townend and Mike Townend.

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Joe Donnelly, John Connor, Michael Dixon, Audrey and Paddy Lewin

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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

LECTIO DIVINA

The first evening of Advent Lectio Divina on **Tuesday 5th December** will take place at St John's, Mill End at 7.30pm, **NOT** at Our Lady's as advertised in the Advent & Christmas leaflet. Please do come along to this evening of pondering and meditation on God's Advent word to us.

RECOMMISSIONING OF READERS

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

JOHN OVEREND RIP

The funeral of John Overend will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Tuesday 5th December** at **1.00pm** followed by burial at Chorleywood Road Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

CATHERINE PURTILL RIP

The ashes of Catherine Purtill RIP will be interred in the Garden of Rest at 10.30am on **Friday 15th December**.

SYLVIA ATHILL RIP

The funeral service of Sylvia Athill will take place at St Swithuns Church, Yateley at 2.30pm on **Thursday 14th December**. Flowers can be delivered to George Parker and Son's, White Lodge Court, Reading Road, Yateley, GU46 7RX, brought with you or there will be a collection box for the Alzheimer's Society at the Church. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

STUDENT CROSS PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM IN HOLY WEEK

Annual cross-carrying pilgrimage for students and non-students alike. The group walking from London (18+) meet in Epping Friday evening 23rd March. Finish Sunday 1st April after lunch. More info on studentcross.org.uk. We're specifically looking to recruit some walkers who are good at eating lots of cake. For more details please contact Anke.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET 2017

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

CONFIRMATION LETTER

If you wrote to Fr Shaun last month about confirmation but have not received a letter from us, please contact the parish office.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2018 - now available priced £4.50 each

ADVENT WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS are now available (£1 per booklet).

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2018

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice for Nursery and Reception 2018 on **Monday 11th December – 5.30pm to 6.30pm** and **Tuesday 19th December – 5.00pm to 6.00pm**. These 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 - CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Thank you very much for all the donations of jewellery, scarves and toiletries. We now have enough to make up gifts for the refugee ladies at the CWF and the collection boxes have been removed from the church porches. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. **SVP.**

SVP CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Do you know anyone who is on their own this Christmas? The SVP are hosting a Christmas Day Lunch at St John's RC Primary School. Doors open at 11.30am and a traditional Christmas dinner will be served at 1pm. The suggested donation is £5 and it will be a day of festive fun and laughter. To find out more information, or to book your place, please ring Geraldine or Emily Page on 01923 776100. We can offer lifts within Rickmansworth and the surrounding areas.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - Sunday 17th December

The party will be after the 10.30am Mass at St John the Evangelist. Children from all Parishes are welcome to attend but we do ask that parents stay with their child(ren) at the party or nominate another adult to keep an eye on them and that your child knows who that adult is. The only donation requested is a plate of food. If you would like to come please email your interest to: liztownsend_uk@yahoo.co.uk. Liz will email you back the plate of food we want you to bring. If you attend Mass at St John the Evangelist please sign up on the list in the porch as usual.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

GENERAL NOTICES

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTH OXHEY

Recently rated as Outstanding by Ofsted. The school is looking for two new Catholic Foundation Governors to join the Board in the New Year. If you are able to offer your services or would like some further information please call Adrian Ramsden tel 01923 775055.

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL (BERRY LANE, RICKMANSWORTH)

Our Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 9th December** from 1pm - 4pm. All most welcome. Please come along and support our school.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

REDECORATION OF THE CHURCH

We have now received permission from the Diocese to spend parish funds on the redecoration of the church. The first phase of the work will commence on Monday 4th December and continue until 21st December. During this phase work will begin on the installation of the upgraded lighting. The new lighting system will not have been fully completed before Christmas, but we will see a significant improvement. Also during this time the stonework around the Tabernacle, the Tabernacle plinth, the Holy Oils niche and the Memorial to Fr Chedal will all be cleaned. During this period there will be no weekday Masses at Our Lady's, but there will be a 9.30am Mass each morning at St John's, Mill End. Saturday and Sunday Masses will continue at Our Lady's as normal. There will be further periods in the early part of next year when we will have to cancel weekday Masses as the work of redecoration of the church continues.

ADVENT FAIR - this Sunday 9.00am - 1.00pm.

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!

THE AFTERPARTY

Hot chocolate in the hall after 6.00pm Mass on Sunday 3rd December. And a ping pong table. Everyone is welcome, especially families.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now on sale in the repository.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair will take place after the 10.30am Mass on **Sunday 10th December**. If you are interested in helping with the fair, setting up, running a stall, clearing away or simply have something to donate please email Liz Townsend liztownsend_uk@yahoo.co.uk

CHRISTMAS FAIR DONATIONS

We are asking for Donations of Bottles, Sweets, Chocolates and Homemade cakes to support the fair. Please bring in Bottles, Sweets and Chocolates for the Tombola's; all donations can be left at the back of the porch between now and the 8th December. Please bring Homemade cakes on the morning of the Fair (10th 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. 1st Prize £100, 2nd Prize £50 and other exciting prizes. Don't forget to get your tickets!

CHRISTMAS CARDS, ADVENT & CHURCH ART CALENDARS are now available in the repository.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

OUR GOLDEN CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Very many thanks to everybody who helped and contributed in every way to make our Fair so successful. We hope to be able to give you an interim result in time for our Saturday evening Mass with a final figure next weekend. We hope our cheques will be sent shortly thereafter to our two main charities. Thank you all so much.

APF RED MISSIO BOXES

Please could all holders of these boxes return them to church on the next two weekends for the December end of the year collection. Thank you very much.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available in the lounge

MONEY COUNTERS

We need a few more volunteers to help count the offertory collection after Mass on a Sunday. It only takes 10-15 minutes and if we get enough volunteers then each one of us should only need to count about once a month. If anyone would be willing to join our Counters Rota or would like to find out a bit more about it, please contact Fr Shaun, Fr Damian or Carolyn Opie.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
2/3 Dec.	J Ingham	E Page	D Gibney	J Hale	C Holly	L Turnbull	Ann & Kate	A McReynolds
9/10 Dec.	D Gibney	M Williamson	C Johnson	D Treanor	L Munro	J Hale	Una & Carolyn	V Terrill

Saints (school year 7-9)

Games, food & reflection

Quiz time! We're looking forward to seeing our Saints' parents and siblings for some Advent fun on Tuesday 12th December from 6 to 7.30 pm in the parish hall at Mill End.

Dates for next term are now on the parish website (check "youth").



B-Attitude (school year 9-13)

Put your faith into action

If you are interested in visiting the care home or packing presents you're so welcome to join us! B-Attitude meet fortnightly on Mondays for planning and reflection. Next meeting is this **Monday 4th December @ Our Lady's parish hall** (it's in the upper room, up the staircase) **from 5 pm to 6 pm**. We'll talk about personality and understanding.



Pub Socials

For young adults (age 18-35ish) from 7.15 pm to 9 pm at the Coach & Horses in Ricky every third Sunday of the month. Next pub social will be in two weeks, on **Sunday 17th December**. You're very welcome to come along and invite your friends, too!