



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:

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1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 29TH NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Waiting can be a process that strikes us as quite relative. If we are waiting for a dentist appointment, the wait can pass all too quickly. If we are waiting for a desperately needed cheque to come in the mail, the wait can seem interminable. These are concrete situations where we can “measure” our waiting. They are experiences we actually might have in our living. This Sunday’s gospel, however, admonishes us to be vigilant for a future event – the Second Coming of the Son of Man – of which none of us has any experience. How do we wait in anticipation of something so utterly beyond our experience?

The answer to this question comes when we take a deeper look at today’s gospel reading. Yes, Jesus is surely talking about his coming when the world as we know it will end. But the gospel is not really about the end of the world; it’s about the completion of the kingdom. The Second Coming is not a deadline; it is an invitation and incentive to live in a certain way in the present time. The gospel calls us to be vigilant not about a future event but about a present way of living a *now* shaped by the Jesus before whom we will stand.

The way we ought to live *now* is shaped by this particular time of the liturgical year, Advent, with its motif of joyful anticipation. During Advent we wait for more than a *day* (Christmas); we await a *Person* – Jesus Christ who now reigns in glory. This Jesus is among us now, inviting us to live as he did, with unselfish response to others’ needs, with the kind of self-giving that draws people into a venue of joy and peace. When we live the Gospel well, the future is now. Our waiting is pregnant with life. That’s nice waiting.

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: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Response to Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

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

Next Sunday’s Readings

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9; **2nd Reading:** Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11; **Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £500.51; Loose Plate: £635.50; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1635.01**

Mill End: Envelopes: £289.30; Loose Plate: £161.91; Standing Orders: £93.75 **Total: £601.21**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of October amounted to **£2124.38**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 29TH NOVEMBER	8.45am 9.00am - 1.00pm 9.15am 11.30am	First Communion Class Our Lady's Advent Fair First Communion Class - Hall Sunday Brunch	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
MON 30TH NOVEMBER	10.00am - 12.00pm 5.30pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall First Communion Class - Hall Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 1ST DECEMBER	7.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	1 st Communion Parents' Meeting - Hall Priest, Prophet, King DVD Series - Hall RCIA - Upper Room	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 2ND DECEMBER	2.00pm 7.30pm	Priest, Prophet, King DVD Series - Hall Thought-Provoking Film (<i>Molokai</i>) - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 3RD DECEMBER	1.00pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Older Parishioners Christmas Lunch (Our Lady's) Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 4TH DECEMBER	10.00am 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Pilgrimage Reunion - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 5TH 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 28 TH NOVEMBER	10am Holy Souls	6pm (Vigil) Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 29 TH NOVEMBER <i>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm Ellie Enright RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am Holy Souls
MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER ST ANDREW, APOSTLE, PATRON OF SCOTLAND	9.30am Holy Souls	9.30am Joseph Hornsby RIP (Anniv.)	
TUESDAY 1 ST DECEMBER	9.30am Aidan Quigley RIP		9.30am Canon John Francis Formby RIP
WEDNESDAY 2 ND DECEMBER		9.30am Paddy Kelly	
THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER ST FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST & DOCTOR	9.30am Martin RIP		
FRIDAY 4 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Private Intention (S&M)		9.30am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish
SATURDAY 5 TH DECEMBER	10am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 6 TH DECEMBER <i>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Mary Casey (Ints.) 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm James Redrup RIP	10.30am Stevie O'Connor RIP	9am Desmond Jenkins RIP (Anniv.)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Elsie Alexander, Vinny Spiteri, Ruary Chisholm, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Norah MacWilliam, Agnes Harper, Diana Price, Joan Marioni, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Roshini Alles, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Valerie Foster, Heather Kean and Olive Kiener.

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Clare Schofield; Joyce Baldwin, Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Seamus Fagan, Betty Page and Joe Donnelly.

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, Tony and Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Margaret Lamb, Jacob Stern, Thomas Gillies, Kitty Finucane and Susan Maynard.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

TWO NEW AUXILIARY BISHOPS NAMED FOR OUR DIOCESE

Pope Francis has named two new Auxiliary Bishops for our Diocese. One of them is well known to us, Canon Paul McAleenan, who is currently Parish Priest of Holy Rood, Watford. The other is Mgr. John Wilson, who is a priest of the Leeds Diocese. Bishops-elect Paul and John will be ordained to the Episcopate on the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, Monday, 25 January, 2016 at 12 Noon in Westminster Cathedral. We pray for both of them as they prepare for ordination and for all that will follow. Bishop-elect Paul will have oversight of Hertfordshire.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) AND PARISH 'POOR BOXES'

Now that our new Chess Valley Conference of the SVP is up-and-running, I have decided to re-designate the Poor Box in each of the three parishes as being for donations for the SVP. Any donations left in these boxes will be regularly transferred to our SVP Conference so that they can use this money to help people in various kinds of need in our own local area. Please be generous in supporting the important work of our SVP.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) – RITE OF ACCEPTANCE AND WELCOME

We are blessed this year to have four adults in the RCIA process in our parishes (two from Our Lady's, one from Chorleywood and one from Mill End) journeying towards full communion with the Catholic Church. During Advent we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance with them. At the Saturday Vigil Mass at St John's, Mill End this weekend Lily Lewin, and Natalie Edwards will be accepted as catechumens in preparation for their baptism at the Easter Vigil and Beata Budzynska and Nicola Hayden, who are already Catholics, 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.

THOUGHT-PROVOKING FILMS FOR ADVENT

Our first Thought-Provoking Film for Advent this year will be shown this Wednesday (2nd December) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. This week's film will be *Molokai*, the story of St Damien of Molokai. After the film there will be the opportunity for an informal chat about the film over a cup of hot chocolate and cookies!

YEAR OF MERCY

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy begins with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door in the Vatican on 8 December. The Cardinal will open the Holy Door in Westminster Cathedral in the context of Vespers and Benediction at 3.30 pm on Sunday, 13 December. You are very welcome to attend. Those making a brief pilgrimage during the Year to the Cathedral Holy Door or the others through the Diocese may gain the Jubilee Indulgence for themselves or the Holy Souls. The Cardinal has prepared *A Pilgrimage Companion for the Year of Mercy* by way of explanation and to help us experience God's mercy to the full. Copies of the booklet are available in the parishes this weekend for £1 each. More information about is available on the Diocesan Website <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>

PARISH YOUTH WORKER

Sadly Eileen O'Sullivan, who was due to take up the role of Parish Youth Worker this past week, has decided not to take up the post, as she has been offered a post in a school which she feels is more suited to her circumstances. This is disappointing news for us as we were very much looking forward to working with Eileen in developing youth ministry in the parish. Please continue to pray that the Lord will send us the right person to take up this important ministry in our parishes. *Fr Shaun*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET 2015

The leaflet giving the times and locations of the Advent Programme, Advent Reconciliation Services and Christmas Masses across the three parishes is now available and can also be downloaded from the three parishes' websites.

ADVENT PROGRAMME 2015

Bishop Robert Barron's six part DVD series *Priest, Prophet, King* gives us the opportunity to discover Jesus as the Anointed One – the ultimate priest, prophet, and king foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. *Priest, Prophet, King* is being offered as both an afternoon and an evening programme on a Tuesday at **2.00pm** and at **7.30pm** in St John the Evangelist Parish Centre, Mill End. **Please note - the afternoon session next week will be held on Wednesday 2 December, and not on Tuesday, for this week only.**

CATHOLIC WORKER FARM

We are, once again appealing for donations of Long-Life milk for the CWF who provide accommodation for refugees at the farm and at Mary House. Collection boxes are in the Church porches. Thank you. SVP

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2016

Copies of the 2015 Westminster Diocesan Yearbook are now available priced £4.50 each.

RECOMMISSIONING OF READERS

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

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

Fr Shaun will be available on the following dates to meet with parents requesting a Certificate of Catholic Practice for a child seeking a reception place at a Catholic school in September 2016: Tuesday 8th December (Our Lady's Parish Hall) 5pm to 6pm; Monday 14th December (Our Lady's Parish Hall) 5pm to 6pm; Saturday 2nd January (Our Lady's Presbytery) – 10.00am to 11.00am. It is essential that you bring with you the child to whom the application applies. There is no need to make an individual appointment, please just turn up at any point during the above times. **N.B. A Certificate of Catholic Practice can only be given when there is clear evidence of regular Sunday Mass attendance in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.**

PETITION ORGANISED BY THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The government has decided to exclude some key recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry on the treatment of asylum seekers and the SVP believe that this should be reconsidered. There will be the opportunity this weekend to sign a petition which will be sent to the government to express concern about the manner in which asylum seekers are treated in the UK. Please take time to sign this petition as you leave the Church.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

For those of you who would like to consider becoming a member you would be most welcome to come along to a meeting on **Tuesday 8th December at 10.15am** at St John Fisher, Chorleywood. Meetings last approximately one hour.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS – 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.

MAUREEN DIGGES RIP

It is with sadness that we announce the death of one of our parishioners, Maureen Digges. Maureen's funeral will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Friday 11th December** at **11.00am** followed by committal 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.

HCPT – RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets will be sold after the 8.30am and 11am Mass this Sunday. They are in aid of HCPT Group 183 which take disabled and disadvantaged children to Lourdes at Easter time. This is the group that Declan Rhodes of our Parish will be travelling with next year. The money is to go towards helping to fund the travel expenses for the children and the helpers. Any help would be greatly appreciated and the prizes are great too. First Prize £4,000, Second Prize £1,000, Third Prize £750 and 25 runners up of £20.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON FOR OLDER PARISHIONERS - THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER FROM 1-3PM

The Parish would like to invite you to a Christmas Party in Our Lady's Church Hall. We will have a finger buffet lunch and a quiz. Transport will be provided, if necessary. If you are interested please telephone Susan Ray on 01923 778796 or Theresa Jubber 01923 772618 or e-mail sandaray17@hotmail.com so that we may know the numbers.

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS (6TH DECEMBER)

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

APF PROMOTERS

The calendars are in the church porch ready for distribution. Please collect money from supporters - thank you.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On **Wednesday 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. Hot drinks and mince pies will be available afterwards in the hall.

ADVENT FILMS CAR SHARE

If you would like a lift to attend the Advent films being shown at Our Lady's Church on the first three Wednesdays of Advent, please add your contact details to the sheet in the lobby. For information call Ewan Smith on (01923) 770989.

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S (29TH NOVEMBER)

Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon rolls) will take place this Sunday 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!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Fair is on **Sunday 13th December** and we need your help to make it a success. Could we please ask for donations of bottles, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, and wrapped sweets. There are boxes in the porch for you to leave your donations. We will be collecting Christmas gifts for the Rickmansworth Food Bank again this year. At their request can they please have toiletries and socks for men and women only. Please wrap your gift and label it for a man or woman. On the weekend of the Fair we will be looking for donations of homemade cakes and pies as this stall is always popular. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you at the Fair.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note the children's Christmas party is on **Sunday 20th December** immediately after the 10.30am Mass. The party is open to all children of primary school age and younger.

APF - RED BOX

Thank you to everyone who has handed in their Red Box/Envelope for APF. Your generosity is very much appreciated. 2016 Calendars are now available in the porch for Red Box holders. If anyone still has their box/envelope please be aware that all monies must be collected by the beginning of Advent at the very latest.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Very many thanks to everybody who contributed in any way to the successful and happy running of this year's Charity Fair. We hope to have the preliminary results in time for this weekend's Masses and will know the final total by next weekend and all being well our main two charities will have their cheques before Christmas. Thank you again.

RED APF MISSION BOXES

Will you please bring your red boxes to church on either of the next two weekends, 5/6 and 12/13 December (latest) for the end of the year collection. With thanks.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The next Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be on **Saturday 5th December** at 5.30pm.

	This week 28 / 29 November				Next week 5 / 6 December			
	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Counters	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Counters
6pm Vigil	R Ellis	E Page	C Johnson	Peter Mackie	J Ingham	D Gibney	P Goble	Una Lean
9am Mass	A Opie	C Holly	E Price	Don Williamson	J Hale	N Johnson	F Holly	Patsy Tyden
28 November Laundry: I Schwartz 4 December Church Cleaning: T Barrett								