

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

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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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Anabel Green, Alice Hejjas and Rose Noble who were baptised here last weekend. Please pray for them, that they will grow to be faithful disciples of the Lord in the years ahead, and that their parents and godparents may be effective examples of love and holiness.

PILGRIMAGES TO LOURDES AND SICILY 2015

Itineraries and booking forms for the parish pilgrimages to Lourdes in May 2015 and Sicily in October 2015 are available at the back of the church. Book early to avoid disappointment!

ROTA FOR LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The new rota has now been emailed to ministers. Please let us know (770826) if you have not received it. Paper copies will be available at the back of church for those who need them.

MISSIO PROMOTERS

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now on sale in the repository.

RMS COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT, FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 7.30PM, IN THE CHAPEL.

Some of Our Lady's parishioners are singing. Please come along and support us.

OUR ADVENT COLLECTION FOR THE FOODBANK

We will be collecting groceries for the foodbank during Advent again. There will be the usual Christmas tree at the side of the Lady altar and plastic tubs to receive your donations. Remember the food must keep so no fresh or frozen food and nothing out of date. Last year we were commended on our generosity so let's keep it up. People going to the foodbank have to be referred by an authorised person such as a social worker, GP or parish clergy. They are given food for three days and directed towards help to solve their problems.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Maureen Digges, Elsie Alexander, Vinny Spiteri, Ruary Chisholm, Jonathan Pione, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Peter Czarniecki, Tony Infante, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Norah MacWilliam, Agnes Harper, Diana Price, Joan Marioni, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Noel Jackson, Roshini Alles and Maureen Douglas.

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Envelopes: £819.84; Loose Plate: £413.14; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1731.98**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, RICKMANSWORTH,
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MILL END & MAPLE CROSS,
AND ST JOHN FISHER, CHORLEYWOOD**



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1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 30TH NOVEMBER 2014 SUNDAY THOUGHT

Watch the ball! Watch the children! Watch the cars! Phrases such as these reveal that for us human beings, the verb "watch" is never passive. It involves alertness, discernment, judgement, quickness, action. We watch not simply with our eyes, but with our hearts, our very being. This is the kind of watching that Jesus in today's gospel commands of us.

Not knowing when the master of the house will return, the servants in the gospel story must constantly watch for his arrival so that all the house will be in order. We, too, must have our own house in order when Christ the Lord returns. Then he will not find us sleeping, but prepared for his coming in glory.

We keep our house in order by staying alert to the many ways Christ comes to us now. For example, Christ comes to us in the person who has hurt us and whom we need to forgive; the unjust situation we ought to have the courage to address; in the opportunity to turn the children's squabble into a learning moment. We learn to look for Christ in persons and situations where we might never dream of seeing him. We watch not simply with our eyes, but with our hearts, our very being.

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.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 30TH NOV	9.15am - 10.15am 12.00pm - 5.00pm	First Holy Communion Class - Hall Our Lady's Advent Fair - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 1ST DEC	10.00am - 11.45am 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Evening Prayer of the Church with a reflection on "Praying the Scriptures" by Rev Arderne Gillies Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
TUE 2ND DEC	7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Advent Film (Of Gods and Men) - Hall RCIA - Upper Room	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 3RD DEC	7.30pm	St John Fisher Music Group	St John Fisher
THU 4TH DEC	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 5TH DEC	10.00am	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 6TH DEC	11.00am - 12.00pm 7.30pm	First Reconciliation Service and Confessions (Our Lady's and St John Fisher) 6th Rickmansworth Sea Scout Quiz Evening - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians

WEEKEND MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

RICKMANSWORTH

8.30 am — For the People of the Parish
11.00 am — Mary Robinson RIP
6.00 pm — Ellie Enright RIP (Anniv.)

MILL END

6.00 pm (Vigil) — Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.)
10.30 am — For the People of the Parish

CHORLEYWOOD

6.00 pm (Vigil) — Mary Hand RIP
9.00 am — For the People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

RICKMANSWORTH

Mon 9.30 am — Cecilia Netto RIP
Tue 9.30 am — Gerard Koller RIP
Thu 9.30 am — Pat Carney RIP and Family
Fri 9.30 am — Ann Murphy RIP (Anniv.)

MILL END

Mon 9.30 am — Sean Corridan RIP
Wed 9.30 am — Kathleen Clarke RIP

CHORLEYWOOD

Tue 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of
the Parish
Fri 9.30 am — Stephen Birch (Ints.)

THIS WEEK'S FEAST DAYS

Wednesday 3rd December - St Francis Xavier, Priest

OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians, 5 Park Road, **Rickmansworth**, WD3 1HU
St John the Evangelist, Berry Lane, **Mill End**, WD3 7HG
St John Fisher, Hill Cottage, Shire Lane, **Chorleywood**, WD3 5NH

OUR ADVENT JOURNEY

This week we commence our Advent journey with two special events:

Monday 1st December 7.30pm: St John Fisher, Chorleywood - **Evening Prayer** (Vespers), followed by a reflection on ***Praying with the Scriptures*** by the Rev Arderne Gillies, Free Baptist Church, Chorleywood.

Tuesday 2nd December 7.30pm: Our Lady's Church Hall, Rickmansworth - **Thought-provoking Films for Advent – "Of Gods and Men"** (Cert. 15), followed by informal discussion over a cup of hot chocolate and cookies. Please do support these events. The season of Advent is a time for spiritual preparation for Christmas; we encourage you to take the opportunity for spiritual reflection that these two events afford.

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

We are blessed this year to have nine adults in the RCIA process in our parishes (six from Our Lady's and three from St John's, Mill End), journeying towards full communion with the Catholic Church. During Advent we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance with them. At the 8.30am Mass at Our Lady's this Sunday Colin Dodson will be accepted as a catechumen in preparation for his baptism at the Easter Vigil. Gemma Driscoll, Raymond Widdowson, and Robert Songhurst will be welcomed as Candidates for reception into the Catholic Church in preparation for receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter and Serena Williams and Annabel Lewak-Steed, 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. At the 10.30am Mass at St John's Mill End on Sunday 14th December, Steph Goodchild, Jim Elsdon and Sharon Petrie will also be welcomed as Candidates for reception into the Church. 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.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2015

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

RECOMMISSIONING OF READERS

At all the Sunday Masses next weekend of (**6th/7th December** - 2nd Sunday of Advent) all of our Readers will be re-commissioned in their ministry. All Readers are requested to make a special effort to attend one of the Masses next weekend.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – PRIEST'S REFERENCE

Fr Shaun and Fr Mark will be available for the signing of priest's references on **Tues. 9th December** (Our Lady's Parish hall) 4.30pm to 5.30pm; **Mon. 15th December** (Our Lady's Parish Hall) 5.00pm to 6.00pm; **Sat. 3rd 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.

MARY'S MEALS

With only one week to go before Mary's Meals arrives at our church on the morning of **Sunday 7th December** please remember to bring along all your unwanted clothing/bedding (***no duvets or pillows please***). Put all clothing/bedding into black sacks and bring them with you when you come to Mass that morning.

Mary's Meals is a no-frills charity committed to spending 93p in every £1 received on its charitable activities with only 6p spent on Fundraising and 1p on Governance.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP QUIZ EVENING & BUFFET SUPPER.

We invite you and your friends to join us for this Social Evening on **Saturday 6th December** at **7.30 pm** in Our Lady's Parish Hall. Licensed Bar. Tickets £10.00 inclusive. Quiz Teams comprise tables of 8 people – either bring your own team or you are welcome to take pot-luck. Tickets or further information available from Chris Doran – 776035.

ROOM TO LET?

Would you have a room to let to a married professional couple for about 8 weeks from January 2015? If you think you might be able to help with this please speak to Fr Shaun.