

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

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### ADVENT FAIR - THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our fair last Sunday. Thanks for the donations and to everyone who pitched in. We raised £1180.02 which will be shared equally between the following charities: The Passage, Mencap, Catholic Workers Farm and the Peace Hospice.

### 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.

### MARRIAGE

Congratulations to Anne Rooney and Paddy Cassidy who were married in Our Lady's Church on Saturday. May they be blessed with many years of happiness and be a witness and reminder to us of God's faithful love, made present in the sacrament of their marriage.

### RCC BUILDING FUND 200 CLUB

A list of the winners of the recent monthly draws and the November Grand draw are posted on the board in the porch. Many congratulations to all of them.

### 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 12<sup>TH</sup> 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

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent the Foodbank is trying to make up Christmas hampers so things like mince pies, Christmas cake, Christmas puddings, biscuits, chocolates and tinned Christmassy items would be good. Unfortunately homemade food cannot be accepted because of food hygiene regulations. Please note there will be no collection on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent because they have no time to process the gifts. Thanks for last Sunday's contributions.

### 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: £478.77; Loose Plate: £621.10; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1598.87**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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



**Parish Priest:** Fr Shaun Church **Assistant Priest:** Fr Mark Walker

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[www.stjohnfisherchorleywood.org.uk](http://www.stjohnfisherchorleywood.org.uk)

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014 SUNDAY THOUGHT

What we are expecting radically affects how we prepare. A couple expecting a new baby, for example, prepares a nursery. A family expecting a holiday prepares reservations, clothing, the car. A child expecting the first day of school prepares pencils, notebooks, backpack. The preparation matches the expectation. No matter what our preparation, however, the coming of the Lord always exceeds our expectations.

John the Baptist is telling the people that the one who is coming will exceed their expectation. He will be mightier than John because he will baptise with the Holy Spirit; his coming will initiate unprecedented, life-transforming change.

During this Advent are we primarily preparing ourselves for life-transforming change or merely preparing to celebrate a secular Christmas? What are our expectations? How does John the Baptist challenge us with a new set of expectations? Who helps us to listen to John and respond? What prepares us to open ourselves to respond more fully to the Spirit with whom we have been baptised? Do our responses show that we know our expectations will be exceeded? What really prepares us for the changes the coming of the Lord will bring into our lives?

**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.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

**Response to Psalm:** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 7TH DEC</b>	9.15am - 10.15am 4.00pm - 5.00pm	First Holy Communion Class - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (with anointing of the sick around 4.40pm)	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>MON 8TH DEC</b>	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 Mass" by Fr Andrew Connick Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
<b>TUE 9TH DEC</b>	4.30pm - 5.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Signing of Priest's Ref Forms - Primary School - Hall Advent Film (The Way) - Hall RCIA - Upper Room	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>WED 10TH DEC</b>	7.30pm	St John Fisher Music Group	St John Fisher
<b>THU 11TH DEC</b>	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 12TH DEC</b>	10.00am	Friends of Watersmeet Coffee Morning - all parishioners welcome	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 13TH DEC</b>	10.30am - 11.30am	First Reconciliation Service and Confessions (St John the Evangelist)	St John the Evangelist

#### WEEKEND MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

##### RICKMANSWORTH

8.30 am — Powell Family (Ints.)  
11.00 am — For the People of the Parish  
6.00 pm — Albert Kean RIP

##### MILL END

6.00 pm (Vigil) — For the People of the Parish  
10.30 am — John Conroy RIP

##### CHORLEYWOOD

6.00 pm (Vigil) — For the People of the Parish  
9.00 am — Pépe and Patricia Irisarri RIP

#### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

##### RICKMANSWORTH

Mon 9.30 am — James Redrup RIP  
Tue 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish  
Thu 9.30 am — Fr Brian Nash RIP  
Fri 9.30 am — Pieter Marteau RIP

##### MILL END

Mon 9.30 am — Gerry Koller RIP  
Wed 9.30 am — Joe Hornsby RIP (Anniv.)

##### CHORLEYWOOD

Tue 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish  
Fri 9.30 am — Fr Brian Nash RIP

#### THIS WEEK'S FEAST DAYS

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December - St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

#### 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

We continue our Advent journey this week with two special events:

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm:** Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth – Evening Prayer (Vespers) for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed by a reflection on **Praying the Mass** by Fr Andrew Connick, Chaplain, Westminster Cathedral.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm:** Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, Rickmansworth – Thought-provoking films for Advent – **"The Way"** (Cert.12), 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.

#### PARISH PILGRIMAGES IN 2015

Itineraries and booking forms for the parish pilgrimages to Lourdes in May (4 days) and Sicily in October (7 days) are now available. Both pilgrimages have been arranged to take place during the half-term holidays. The Lourdes pilgrimage cost is **£499** per person (single room supplement: £66 per person – limited availability). This price is guaranteed until **31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**, after which bookings may be subject to a flight surcharge. The cost of the Sicily pilgrimage will be **£1,069** per person (single room supplement at £144 per person – limited availability). This price is guaranteed until **31<sup>st</sup> January 2015**. Bookings after this date may be subject to a flight surcharge. Book now to avoid disappointment!

#### 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.

#### 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 this weekend (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> December - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent) all of our Readers will be re-commissioned in their ministry.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – PRIEST'S REFERENCE

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

#### VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. They would be very grateful if you could sponsor packs at a suggested donation of £3 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or go to **virginmoneygiving.com** and type "Vinnie Packs" into the sponsor a friend box. If you have a query, please email [VinniePacks@hotmail.com](mailto:VinniePacks@hotmail.com). Thank you for your support.

#### WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This year's Mass will take place at 2pm on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015**, and as in previous years, the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome, no seat reservations or tickets. If you are bringing a wheelchair, please let Fr Shaun or Fr Mark know before **30<sup>th</sup> December** so that a space can be reserved for wheelchairs and carers.

#### CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN SONG - FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.00PM

With Sr Avril & Friends at the Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Herts. WD23 4EE. Mulled wine and mince pies. Suggested donation £10. A donation will be made to the Denis Hurley Centre in South Africa. For details 020 8950 4000 or [bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk](mailto:bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk)