

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

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### GROWING IN FAITH

Last weekend we completed the *Growing in Faith* Campaign in our parish. As you know, our goal was to raise £200,000 in five year pledges. We are delighted to be able to let you know today that we have exceeded our goal and raised nearly £208,000 in pledges and gifts from 94 parishioners. This is a truly wonderful achievement and we wish to thank all those who have prayed for the success of the campaign and all those who have been able to make a financial contribution to it. We also wish to thank our team of parish volunteers who have played such a key role in helping us to share the Cardinal's vision with the parish. The parish now stands to receive over £54,000 of this money for our parish project of employing a Youth Worker. In the New Year we will begin the process of laying the groundwork for this new role. The *Growing in Faith* campaign has challenged many of us to step outside of our normal "comfort-zones", but we can now move forward knowing that we have played our part in supporting the clergy of our Diocese at all stages of their ministry, strengthening the Diocese's outreach to those in need through Caritas, and opening up the possibility of an exciting new development in our parish which will engage our young people and support and encourage them in the living out of their Catholic faith.

*Fr Shaun & Fr Mark*

### GERARD KOLLER RIP

The ashes of Gerard Koller will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 9.30am Mass on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**.

### 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.

### MARY'S MEALS - RAGS TO RICHES COLLECTION

Many thanks for the donations of unwanted clothes - 187 bags were collected and also donations of £326.55 giving a total contribution of £776.55 from the three parishes.

### 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.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** are now on sale in the repository.

### FOODBANK

Many thanks for the food already generously donated. This weekend will be the last Sunday for collection this year as there is too little time after next Sunday to process the food donated. This week we have asked specially for Christmas items like Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, mince pies to put in Christmas hampers for those who have nothing this Christmas for their families.

### 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, Roshini Alles and Maureen Douglas.

### LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Envelopes: £708.00; Loose Plate: £533.50; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1740.50**

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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## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014 SUNDAY THOUGHT

Crying out with conviction can take many forms. Some such as Martin Luther King Jnr use their voice in effective and powerful ways. Others, such as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta speak through quiet action. Still others, such as the cloistered Thomas Merton, convey conviction through the written word. The manner of crying out is not as important as the conviction behind it.

John the Baptist's manner of crying out was direct, bold, courageous, clear, challenging and effective. His conviction was grounded in the person of the Christ to whom he gave testimony. This conviction was the fruit of his own years of being tested in the desert.

The "deserts" of our own lives are opportunities testing us and leading us to deeper conviction about who Christ is. For example, the 'desert' of a long, debilitating illness tests our trust in God's presence and care. The "desert" of a broken relationship tests our understanding of love and fidelity and our willingness to forgive. The "desert" of unemployment and financial stress tests our priorities and values and our willingness to depend on God. Such testing shapes our convictions, helps us encounter Christ in our daily living and enables us to testify to him with greater authenticity.

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

**Response to Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Thess. 5:16-24

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8. 19-28

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 14TH DEC</b>	10.00am 11.30am	Tea and coffee after Mass St John the Evangelist Christmas Fair - Hall	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
<b>MON 15TH DEC</b>	10.00am - 11.45am 11.00am 5.00pm - 6.00pm  7.30pm  8.30pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall St John Fisher Music Group Signing of Priest's Ref Forms - Primary School - Hall  Evening Prayer of the Church with a reflection on "Praying the Jesus Prayer" by Fr Perry Sykes Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher  Our Lady Help of Christians  St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
<b>TUE 16TH DEC</b>	7.30pm	Advent Film (Babette's Feast) - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>WED 17TH DEC</b>	7.30pm	Reconciliation Service	St John Fisher
<b>THU 18TH DEC</b>	7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Reconciliation Service Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 19TH DEC</b>	10.00am  10.00am 7.30pm	Ashes of Gerard Koller RIP interred in the Garden of Rest  Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Reconciliation Service	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 20TH DEC</b>			

#### WEEKEND MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

##### RICKMANSWORTH

8.30 am — Gerry Koller RIP  
11.00 am — Mary Robinson RIP  
6.00 pm — For the People of the Parish

##### MILL END

6.00 pm (Vigil) — For the People of the Parish  
10.30 am — Phil Smyth RIP

##### CHORLEYWOOD

6.00 pm (Vigil) — For the People of the Parish  
9.00 am — Alan Philip Terry RIP

#### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

##### RICKMANSWORTH

Mon 9.30 am — Fr Brian Nash RIP  
Tue 9.30 am — Alina Ayyildiz RIP (Anniv.)  
Thu 9.30 am — Mary Robinson RIP  
Fri 9.30 am — Gerard Koller RIP

##### MILL END

Mon 9.30 am — John Conroy RIP  
Wed 9.30 am — Tommy O'Donell RIP

##### CHORLEYWOOD

Tue 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish  
Fri 9.30 am — Fr Michael Powell RIP

#### THIS WEEK'S FEAST DAYS

No feast days this week.

#### 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm:** St John the Evangelist, Mill End – Evening Prayer (Vespers), followed by a reflection on ***Praying the Jesus Prayer*** – A Way into the Silence of God - Fr Perry Sykes, Parish Priest, St Paul's, Wood Green

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm:** Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, Rickmansworth – Thought-provoking films for Advent – "**Babette's Feast**" (Cert. U) (English Subtitles), 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.

#### ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

This week we have our Advent Reconciliation Services. These are the main opportunities in the three parishes for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before Christmas. As well as Fr Shaun and Fr Mark, visiting priests will be available to hear confessions.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm – St John Fisher, Chorleywood

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm – St John the Evangelist, Mill End

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm – Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth.

Other local Reconciliation Services are as follows:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 10.30am – Holy Rood, Watford

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm - St Helen's, North Watford

#### 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** - are now available priced £4.50 each.

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

Fr Shaun and Fr Mark will be available for the signing of priest's references on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December** (Our Lady's Parish Hall) 5pm to 6pm; **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** (Our Lady's Presbytery) 10am to 11am. 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](http://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 **2.00pm 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.