

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

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CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS – 6.00PM

At the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 6.00pm some of the children will be presenting the Nativity story to us during the reading of the Gospel. Any children wishing to be a part of this presentation should come to the hall on Christmas Eve **by 5.30pm**, so that they can have a brief rehearsal before the Mass. We invite all children to come dressed as shepherds or angels. We would also be grateful for any adults who would be willing to help with the preparation of the children. If you would be able to help, please give your name to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Following Fr Perry Sykes' Advent talk on praying in silence on Monday 15th December, a number of parishioners asked if a brief summation could be presented to help parishioners better understand the gift of contemplative prayer. A re-cap focussing on the method Fr Perry presented, based on the spiritual tradition of the Church, can be found on the parish website <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/>

VINNY SPITERI

Congratulations to Vinny Spiteri who will be 103 on 21st of December. She returned to the UK from Malta in 2003 and until two years ago attended the Vigil Mass. She moved from Wensum Court to River Court Watford recently. She is in good form – still speaking five languages! Thank you to the parishioners who ensured that Vinny was always able to attend Mass.

MISSION BOX

Someone kindly left a mission box in the sacristy with no name. Please could you contact Maurice Delaporte on 01923 774855 with your details. Many thanks.

FOODBANK NEWS

Thank you for all generous goods donated last week. The special Christmas items will provide a lovely surprise for those not expecting much for their Christmas. Please note that there is no collection this week.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY - ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

Due to the recent retirement of one of our Foundation Governors who had considerable experience in financial management as a qualified accountant, the Governors are keen to identify a suitable person with similar skills and expertise to work with the Governing Body as a Foundation Governor. The Governing Body plays a vital role in the strategic development of the school and provides challenge to the school leadership to ensure the school continues to develop and improve. If you have the requisite skills and are interested in finding out more about the role of Foundation Governor, please contact Tony Leahy, Chair of Governors, via the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Antonina Cirillo at acirillo@joa.herts.sch.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Maureen Digges, Elsie Alexander, Vinny Spiteri, Ruary Chisholm, 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: £826.56; Loose Plate: £360.57; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1686.13**

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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 21ST DECEMBER 2014 SUNDAY THOUGHT

Some “annunciations” are immediately and easily recognisable and easily invoke response. For example, a woman announcing to her husband and parents that she is pregnant elicits a joyful response; an unemployed father announcing to his family that he has landed a job elicits relief and hope; a struggling student announcing to parents that he or she passed a difficult exam elicits a celebration. Other annunciations, however, are not so easily evident. We need to keep ourselves open to recognising and responding to them.

God announces divine Presence and salvation to us in many ways, but always in ways we can come to recognise and understand. Often those annunciations come through others. Mary learned through Gabriel that she would conceive the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit and responded with openness and willingness to God's perpetual annunciations to us.

In our daily living, God may announce to us through a friend's remark that our life is off track and we need to change certain habits and behaviours. Or someone in need approaches us and we respond with care. In all these annunciations God is present, calling forth a response from us. How we respond to these messengers from God is how we respond to God.

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.

Response to Psalm: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS
20th / 21st December

RICKMANSWORTH

8.30 am — Gerard Koller RIP
11.00 am — Peter Moss RIP
6.00 pm — For the People of the Parish

MILL END

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

CHORLEYWOOD

6.00 pm (Vigil) — For the People of the Parish
9.00 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish

WEEKEND MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS
27th / 28th December

RICKMANSWORTH

8.30 am — Pat Carney RIP
11.00 am — Una Bugler RIP
6.00 pm — For the People of the Parish

MILL END

6.00 pm (Vigil) — For the People of the Parish (**Patronal Feast Day**)
10.30 am — Robert Kelly RIP

CHORLEYWOOD

6.00 pm (Vigil) — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
9.00 am — For the People of the Parish

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS (22nd Dec. - 2nd Jan.)

RICKMANSWORTH

Mon 22nd December 9.30 am — Rheya Ballance (Ints.)
Tue 23rd December 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
Tues 23rd December 12.00 pm — Funeral - Jonathan Pione RIP
Wed 24th December 6.00 pm — Joss and Stephen Dowds RIP (**Christmas Eve**)
Wed 24th December 11.30 pm — For the People of the Parish (**Christmas Eve**)
Thurs 25th December 8.30 am — For the People of the Parish (**Christmas Day**)
Thurs 25th December 11.00 am — For the People of the Parish (**Christmas Day**)
Fri 26th December 10.00 am — For all deceased members of Guild of St Stephen at Our Lady's
Mon 29th December 10.00 am — John Halter RIP (Anniv.)
Tue 30th December 10.00 am — For the Christians of the Holy Land
Thu 1st January 10.00 am — For the People of the Parish
Fri 2nd January 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish

MILL END

Mon 22nd December 9.30 am — Breege McLoughain RIP
Wed 24th December — No morning Mass
Wed 24th December 5.30 pm — For the People of the Parish (**Christmas Eve**)
Wed 24th December 11.15 pm — For the People of the Parish (**Christmas Eve**)
Thurs 25th December 10.30 am — For the People of the Parish (**Christmas Day**)
Mon 29th December 10.00 am — Deborah and Alex West
Wed 31st December 10.00 am — Valerie D'Cruze (Ints.)
Thu 1st January 11.00 am — Reg Brightman RIP

CHORLEYWOOD

Tue 23th December 9.30 am — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
Wed 24th December 8.00 pm — For the People of the Parish (**Christmas Eve**)
Thurs 25th December 9.00 am — Anne & Edward Fagan RIP (**Christmas Day**)
Fri 26th December — No Mass today
Tue 30th December 10.00 am — For the Christians of the Holy Land
Thurs 1st January 12.00 pm — For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
Friday 2nd January 9.30 am — Patrick Dowling RIP (Anniv.)

FEAST DAYS

Thursday 25th December — The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Friday 26th December — St Stephen, The First Martyr
Saturday 27th December — St John, Apostle and Evangelist
Sunday 28th December — Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Monday 29th December — St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
Tuesday 30th December — 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas
Wednesday 31st December — 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas
Thursday 1st January — Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Thursday 2nd January — SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

GROWING IN FAITH - A MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL NICHOLS

After three years' effort across the parishes of the diocese, our *Growing in Faith* campaign is coming to a close. I want very much indeed to express my thanks to you for the attention and support you have given to its three key themes: strengthening parish life; supporting priests, in formation and old age; and Caritas, our work with the poor. I thank you for your prayers, the work done by the volunteers and I thank all who have made financial contributions. In total, with gifts and pledges, a sum of £37 million has been given. This great achievement will do so much to enable us to meet our needs and look forward confidently. This is a marvellous measure of your great generosity and love for the Lord and His Church. Thank you so much.

I also want to take this opportunity to wish you a graceful and peaceful Christmas, full of the Lord's blessings for you all and your family.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

NEWSLETTER

There will be no Newsletter the weekend of 27th/28th December.

FUNERAL OF JONATHAN PIONE RIP

The funeral of Jonathan Pione will take place at **12.00 noon on Tuesday 23rd December** at Our Lady's, followed by committal at the Chilterns Crematorium. We pray for the repose of Jonathan's soul and offer our deepest condolences to Dave and Jessie, his parents; to his wife, Jana; and his sisters and brother, Andrea, Katy and David at this very sad and difficult time for them.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – MAY 2015

If you are considering going with Fr Mark on the 4 day pilgrimage to Lourdes in May 2015 (cost £499 per person), please so consider booking **before 31st December 2014**, as after that date bookings may be subject to a flight surcharge.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The offerings at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are your personal gift to your priests. The Christmas and Easter offerings, together with the stole fees and Mass stipends form the personal income paid by the parishes to Fr Shaun and Fr Mark. These monies are paid into the respective three parishes' accounts and are then paid to the priests as a monthly salary or stipend. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked *Christmas Offering*. If you do not use Planned Giving, there are loose *Christmas Offering* envelopes available at the back of church. If you know that you are going to be away for Christmas you might wish to put your Christmas offering envelope into the collection this weekend. Thank you.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – PRIEST'S REFERENCE

Fr Shaun and Fr Mark will be available for the signing of priest's references on **Saturday 3rd 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** and type "Vinnie Packs" into the sponsor a friend box. If you have a query, please email 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 7th 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 **30th December** so that a space can be reserved for wheelchairs and carers.