



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:

Fr Shaun Church  
[shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk)

### Assistant Priest:

Fr Mark Walker  
[markwalker@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:markwalker@rcdow.org.uk)

### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

### Parish Youth Worker:

Anke Vos  
[ankevos@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ankevos@rcdow.org.uk)

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5 Park Road  
Rickmansworth  
WD3 1HU

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## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016

### SUNDAY THOUGHT

“You need to change your ways!” “Who, me?” “What about you?” Instead of accepting constructive criticism from another, we often turn the criticism back on the other. We find it difficult to acknowledge our shortcomings and change our ways. Yet, repentance is the call of the gospel and is necessary for living in the “kingdom of heaven.” The choice to repent is ours and ours alone. On this we will be judged.

This gospel reveals that judgement is constitutive of Advent. In the fullness of time the Son of Man will come to judge whether we are wheat he gathers or chaff he burns. He will not judge us according to our ancestral lineage, but according to whether or not we choose to repent. Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of the Son of Man and the just judgment he brings.

How do we move beyond the normal defensiveness we feel whenever someone challenges us to repent? We must spend time reflecting on our behaviours and their effects on others. We must ask God for the grace to be truthful about ourselves. We must practice asking forgiveness of others for the wrong we do them. The choice to repent is ours and ours alone. On this we will be judged.

**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 11:1-10

**Response to Psalm:** In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 15:4-9

**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

### *Next Sunday's Readings*

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (Gospel)

### LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

**Rickmansworth:** Envelopes: £734.20; Loose Plate: £339.72; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1583.92**

**Mill End:** Envelopes: £267.84; Loose Plate: £209.24; Standing Orders: £99.00 **Total: £576.08**

**Chorleywood:** The Offertory collection for the month of October - **£2321.93**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

### TEXT GIVING THROUGH YOUR MOBILE PHONE

Special Gift? Top-Up Offering? For Rickmansworth text: **Parish RICKM** to 70800; For Chorleywood text **Parish CHORL** to 70800; for Mill End text **Parish MILLE** to 70800. It's easy! To make a £5 Donation. It's Easy! Thank You!

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	9.30am 12.45pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>MON 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10am - 12pm 1.30pm 4.30pm - 5.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Catholicism : The Pivotal Players (St Thomas Aquinas) Signing of CCP (Nursery and Reception 2017) - Hall Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's Catholicism : The Pivotal Players (St Thomas Aquinas) Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
<b>TUE 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.00am 12.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	SJF Ladies Meeting - Lounge Funeral Mass - Vinny Spiteri RIP RCIA - Upper Room	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>WED 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	11.00am 7.30pm	Funeral Mass - Tony Finucane RIP Thought Provoking Films For Advent - Hall	St John Fisher Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THU 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	SVP Meeting - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.00am	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	11.00am 2.30pm 5.30pm	<b>NO Holy Hour and Confessions this week</b> First Reconciliation Service First Reconciliation Service Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist

## Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>St FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Sr Anna O'Driscoll, dJ RIP	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) Rosemarie Carter RIP	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) Gregory McEwen RIP
<b>SUNDAY</b> 4 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER <i>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> For the People of the Parish <b>11am</b> Pol Gaite RIP <b>6pm</b> Ann Murphy RIP (Anniv.)	<b>10.30am</b> Seamus Fagan RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Katherine Burridge RIP	<b>9.30am</b> Gaby Lynch RIP	
<b>TUESDAY</b> 6 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Sheila & Martin Candon RIP		<b>9.30am</b> For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
<b>WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>St AMBROSE, BISHOP &amp; DOCTOR</i>		<b>9.30am</b> Seamus Fagan RIP	
<b>THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Sr Perpetua O'Connell RIP		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 9 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Natalie Zammitt		<b>9.30am</b> For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
<b>SATURDAY</b> 10 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>10.00am</b> Mr & Mrs Candon RIP	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) Seamus Fagan RIP	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) Pepe & Patricia Irisarri
<b>SUNDAY</b> 11 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER <i>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Nalene (Ints.) <b>11am</b> Mary Robinson RIP <b>6pm</b> Alan Philip Terry RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Delia Considine RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parish

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

**Our Lady Help of Christians:** Elsie Alexander, Ruary Chisholm, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, Jeannine Simonds, John Caneparo, Josie Westhrop, Eric Selley and Oliver Watson.

**St John the Evangelist:** Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Joyce Baldwin, Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Joe Donnelly, John Connor and Mary Hornsby

**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, Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Margaret Lamb, Thomas Gillies, Kitty Finucane, Susan Maynard, Don Williamson and Aidan O'Mahony.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### ADVENT COURSE – CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS

The pivotal player whose life we will be reflecting on this week is St Thomas Aquinas. Monday lunchtime at 1.30pm or MONDAY **not Tuesday** evening at 7.30pm. Both at St John's, Mill End

### RECOMMISSIONING OF READERS

At all Sunday Masses this weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent) all of our Readers will be re-commissioned.

### 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. Those of you who make your offering to the parish by standing order might also wish to use the Christmas Offering envelopes for your Christmas offering to the clergy of the parish. 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.

### VINNY SPITERI RIP

The funeral Mass of Vinny Spiteri will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm** followed by cremation 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.

### TONY FINUCANE RIP

The funeral Mass of Tony Finucane will take place at St John Fisher, Chorleywood on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am**, followed by burial (family only) at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time. Please note that the parking restriction on Shire Lane has been lifted for the day.

### ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm St John Fisher, Chorleywood †  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm St John the Evangelist, Mill End \*  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm Our Lady's, Rickmansworth \*

\* A number of priests will be available to hear confessions. † Parish clergy only.

### CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE

This Christmas, why not give the gift of helping someone to work their way out of poverty with a CAFOD World Gift. These alternative Christmas gifts make unique presents for family or friends while making a real difference for many in the developing world. CAFOD World Gift Catalogues are available for you to take home after Mass, and the full selection is also available online at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET 2016

The leaflet giving the times and locations of the Advent Programme, Advent Reconciliation Services and Christmas Masses across the three parishes is now available. Please take a copy home with you this weekend.

**WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2017** - now available priced £4.50 each.

### CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE– NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2017

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice for Nursery/Reception 2017 as follows:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 4.30-5.30pm; Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 4.30-5.30pm and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 5pm to 6pm.**

All three sessions will be held in Our Lady's Hall, Rickmansworth. There is no need to make an individual appointment or to bring with you the child for whom you are applying for a place; please just turn up for the date and time that best suits you.

**Please be sure to bring your Mass attendance card.** If you have been regularly attending Sunday Mass elsewhere please remember to bring the documentation outlined in the letter which accompanied your Mass attendance card.

### CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – Nursery/Reception 2017/18 & Secondary Transfer 2018

Parents with a child who will be applying for a Nursery / Reception transfer place in a Catholic School for **September 2018** are asked to collect a letter and Mass attendance card from Fr Shaun or Fr Mark after Mass this weekend. Please read the letter carefully, as it contains **very important** information regarding what is required of you in order for us to be able to provide a Certificate of Catholic Practice for your family.

If you are new to the parish, and have not been issued with a Mass Attendance Card, and will be seeking a Certificate of Catholic Practice for a **September 2017** reception or nursery place in a Catholic primary school or a **September 2018** place in a Catholic Secondary school, please speak to Fr Shaun or Fr Mark as soon as possible.

### 6<sup>TH</sup> RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

Our Cub Pack leader 'Akela' – Robert Phipps is stepping down at Christmas. Over recent months, the Group has been actively looking for someone to head a team of leaders working with 8 to 10½ year old children in that section. **As yet no volunteer has come forward – this could be your opportunity to make a difference for the young people of the parishes.** The new leader will have plenty of support from the current team and the other Group leaders. If you would like to know more about the role, please contact our Group Scout Leader - Chris Doran at [6thRickySeaScouts@gmail.com](mailto:6thRickySeaScouts@gmail.com) or call 07792 103736.

### CATHOLIC WORKER FARM

This Christmas we would like once again to make up gift bags for the ladies currently living at the Catholic Worker Farm and Mary House. It was a great success last year and much appreciated. There are twelve ladies and we are asking for: jewellery, scarves, gloves (in good condition) shower gel, body butter and lotion. These items can be left in the collection boxes in the three church porches. Thank you, SVP

## GENERAL NOTICES

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Rickmansworth Masonic School Community Choir and the school choirs will be presenting a Christmas concert in the Great Hall of the school, on **Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm**. Four of Our Lady's parishioners will be taking part. Please come and support us for an evening of festive music and carols.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### OUR LADY'S ADVENT FAIR – THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to the Social Events Committee and to everyone who worked so hard to make last Sunday's Advent Fair such a success. Special thanks to everyone who planned, organised and set-up for the fair and to everyone who provided delicious things to eat and drink and goods to sell, to all those who manned the stalls, provided refreshments, and helped clear up afterwards. Thank you too, to all those people who came along on Sunday morning to support the fair. We raised £1362.94 for the HCPT charity – a really brilliant result, due to a great deal of hard work and generosity by many people! *Fr Shaun*

### 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.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### CHRISTMAS FAIR DONATIONS

We are asking for donations of Bottles, Sweets, Chocolates, Homemade cakes and any unwanted gifts to support the fair. Please bring in Bottles, Sweets and Chocolates and unwanted gifts for the Tombola's, all donations can be left at the back of the porch between now and the 10<sup>th</sup> December. Please bring Homemade cakes on the morning of the Fair (11<sup>th</sup> December).

### CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets will be on sale in the porch after Saturday evening Mass and both before and after Sunday Morning Mass this weekend. First Prize will be £100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £50 and other exciting prizes. Don't forget to get your tickets!

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS** are now on sale in the repository.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Will take place after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December with Mr Marvel to entertain the children! Food donation lists will be in the back of the church nearer the time.

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### CHRISTMAS CHARITY FAIR - THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to all the people who worked so hard to make last Saturday's Charity Fair such a success. Special thanks to everyone who planned, organised and set-up for the fair and to everyone who provided delicious things to eat and drink and goods to sell, to all those who manned the stalls, provided refreshments, and helped clear up afterwards. Thank you too, to all those people who came along on the day to support the fair. The figure raised for our three charities was Our final result is £2,165. As always, a really fantastic result, due to a great deal of hard work and generosity by many people! *Fr Shaun*

### CHRISTMAS FAIR RESULT

Thank you so much to everybody, those who helped in each and every way and to those who came and supported us. We had such a great time and we're helping the poorest people of the world as well. Our final result is just £2 on last year - £2165. Well done and see you next year! Eddie, Juliet, Helena, Fiona and Mary.

### VOLUNTEERS TO HELP AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

Can you help as a welcomer, reader or Minister of Communion at either of the Christmas Masses please? Please sign up on the list on the noticeboard in the lobby. Many thanks.

### LADIES MEETING - TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

We are meeting in the LOUNGE at ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH after Mass at about 10.00am. All are very welcome.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** are now available for sale in the lounge.

### APF/RED MISSIO BOXES

Please bring all your boxes for the year end count on the weekends of 3/4 and 10/11 December. Thank you.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
3/4 Dec.	GF	M Foggo	E O'Sullivan	D Treanor	M Williamson	F Holly	Carolyn & Patsy	C Steet
10/11 Dec.	M Fields	T Hartney	C Johnson	M Calvert	L Munro	J McEwen	Marguerite & Kate	T Price

## YOUTH EVENTS

### YOUTH MASS - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6.45pm

This week Friday 9 December, 6.45pm @ St Aloysius church Euston (London, NW1 1TA): YOUTH MASS with lots of young people from across the diocese. After Mass there will be a reception with some food in the church hall. If you would like to attend, please e-mail [ankevos@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ankevos@rcdow.org.uk) by 12 noon on Friday 9 December.

### YOUTH EVENT - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 4.30pm - 7.00pm

We are looking forward to seeing all children in year 6 and above for our youth group event at Our Lady's Hall. We will be making Christmas table decorations and also decorating Christmas biscuits. £10 per child. There will be mince pies and mulled wine for parents at 6.15pm. For more details please contact Katie - [katiebaichoo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katiebaichoo@hotmail.co.uk) or 07518 352478.

### YOUTH GROUP

Year 7-8 youth group will start on Tuesday 10 January, 6-7.30pm in the hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End.

Year 9-11 youth group will start on Thursday 12 January, 6-8pm in the hall at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth.

Youth groups will meet every other week.