



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:
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Assistant Priest:
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 @ChessValleyRC

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT (YEAR B) - 10TH DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY THOUGHT

The word prophet comes from the Greek word meaning ‘one who proclaims.’ Not all prophets wear camel skins and eat locusts – there are prophets among us right now who proclaim in their ministries, in their compassion and in their kindness, in their courageous commitment to what is right that Jesus the Messiah has come. In the baptismal call to become prophets of the God who comes, we are to do the work of transforming the wastelands around us into harvests of justice, charity and peace. To be a prophet of God’s justice begins with embracing God’s vision of what the world can and should become and then giving oneself totally to the work of realising that vision.

These days of Advent are a microcosm of our lives: we work to become, we struggle to change, we adjust to the new. The completion of a ‘straightened path’ leads to new directions to travel; the discovery of God reveals new possibilities for our lives; the waters of baptism recreate in us the Spirit of God’s compassion and grace. Our own baptisms call us to take up the Advent work of John the Baptist: to straighten the crooked roads of our lives, to transform ‘deserts’ barren of love into places of welcome and reconciliation, to gather up the lost and forgotten, to proclaim the coming of God’s Christ in our midst. ‘Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight’.

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.

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

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

2nd 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.

Next Sunday’s Readings

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11; 1 Peter 5:16-24; John 1:6-8. 19-28 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £588.19; Loose Plate: £352.99; Standing Orders: £722.62 **Total: £1663.80**

Mill End: Envelopes: £296.00; Loose Plate: £164.60; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £657.60**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of October - **£2623.31**

Sick & Retired Priests Fund: Rickmansworth £813.01; Mill End £334.97; Chorleywood £354.00

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. Thank You!

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 10TH DECEMBER	11.30am	Christmas Fair - Hall	St John the Evangelist
MON 11TH DECEMBER	10.00am - 12 noon 5.00pm - 6.00pm 5.30pm - 6.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall B-Attitude (school year 9 to 13) - Upper Room CCP Form Signing (Nursery & Reception) - Hall Rickmansworth PPC Meeting - Presbytery Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 12TH DECEMBER	6.00pm - 7.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Saints (school year 7-9) Lectio Divina RCIA - Upper Room	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 13TH DECEMBER	8.00pm	Chorleywood PPC Meeting - Presbytery	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 14TH DECEMBER	2.15pm for 2.30pm 8.00pm	Quiet Space Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St Peters, Mill End Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 15TH DECEMBER	10.30am	Burial of Ashes - Catherine Purtill RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 16TH DECEMBER	10.30am - 11.30am 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	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
SATURDAY 9 TH DECEMBER	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Patsy Fagan RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 10 TH DECEMBER <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Madeline & Patrick Doyle RIP (Anniv.) 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm Jonathan Pione RIP	10.30am Nora O'Driscoll RIP	9am Desmond Jenkins RIP
MONDAY 11 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Smith & Taggart Family (Ints.)	
TUESDAY 12 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Eddie Dunlea RIP	9.30am Candalaria Cooper RIP
WED 13TH DECEMBER <i>ST LUCY, VIRGIN & MARTYR</i>		9.30am Pete Corrigan RIP	
THURS 14TH DECEMBER <i>ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST & DOCTOR</i>		9.30am Norah O'Shea (Ints.)	
FRIDAY 15 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Catherine Purtill RIP	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 16 TH DECEMBER	10.00am Philip Nolan RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 17 TH DECEMBER <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)</i>	8.30am Auna Murphy RIP 11am John Coxon RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Peter Moss RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Catherine Ryan RIP (Anniv.)	9am Joan Giles RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Christina Thomas, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townend and Mike Townend.

St John the Evangelist: Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Joe Donnelly, John Connor, Michael Dixon, Audrey and Paddy Lewin

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Fr Peter Stevens, Angela Hoy, Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Margaret Lamb, Kitty Finucane, Don Williamson and Helen Forrest.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

MAKING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Two weeks ago I wrote to all parishioners about a new and exciting direction for our parishes as we prepare to set out on a journey seeking to become communities of missionary disciples. In our homilies over the past two weekends Fr Damian and I have shared with you something of the vision and the passion we share for this work of renewal and transformation of these parishes. My letter and my two homilies can all be downloaded from the *Making Missionary Disciples* page of the respective parish websites. If you have been away from the parish over the past couple of weekends I encourage you to download my letter and homilies, as they explain why we need to focus our energy and resources on being faithful to Jesus' command to "make disciples". In our homilies last weekend we also shared with you the inspiration that Fr James Mallon's book *Divine Renovation: Bringing your parish from maintenance to mission* has played in helping us to begin to form a vision for an exciting future for our parishes. Some of you have expressed a desire to read this challenging but inspirational book. The book is available from the usual well-known online sellers and can also be purchased through Redemptorist Publications website: <http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/> If you do decide to read *Divine Renovation* we would really love to hear your thoughts about it.

RUARY CHISHOLM RIP

The funeral of Ruary Chisholm will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Friday 22nd December at 1.45pm** followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

This year there will be no Reconciliation Services but there will be additional times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday 20th December 7.30-8.30pm at St John the Evangelist and Friday 22nd December 7.30-8.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians. On each of these evenings there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ending with Benediction. The parish clergy are available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday mornings between 10.30am and 11.25am.

There are additional times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at **Holy Rood, Watford** - Monday 18th December to Friday 22nd December - everyday from 11.15am to 11.45am.

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 Damian. 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 next weekend. Thank you.

LECTIO DIVINA

The next evening of Advent Lectio Divina will be on **Tuesday 12th December** at St John's, Mill End at 7.30pm. Please do come along to this evening of pondering and meditation on God's Advent word to us.

CATHERINE PURTILL RIP

The ashes of Catherine Purtill RIP will be interred in the Garden of Rest at 10.30am on **Friday 15th December**.

SYLVIA ATHILL RIP

The funeral service of Sylvia Athill will take place at St Swithuns Church, Yateley at 2.30pm on **Thursday 14th December**. Flowers can be delivered to George Parker and Son's, White Lodge Court, Reading Road, Yateley, GU46 7RX, brought with you or there will be a collection box for the Alzheimer's Society at the Church. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next SVP Community Lunch is on **Sunday 17th December** at 12.30pm in St John's School Hall. Please do come along and have a meal and befriend our guests. Spread the word. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2018 - now available priced £4.50 each

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2018

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice for Nursery and Reception 2018 on **Monday 11th December 5.30-6.30pm** and **Tuesday 19th December 5.00-6.00pm**. These 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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - Sunday 17th December

The party will be after the 10.30am Mass at St John the Evangelist. Children from all Parishes are welcome to attend but we do ask that parents stay with their child(ren) at the party or nominate another adult to keep an eye on them and that your child knows who that adult is. The only donation requested is a plate of food. If you would like to come please email your interest to: liztownsend_uk@yahoo.co.uk. Liz will email you back the plate of food we want you to bring. If you attend Mass at St John the Evangelist please sign up on the list in the porch as usual.

GENERAL NOTICES

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - Reception Class Admissions - September 2018

If you are interested in applying for a place in our reception class in September 2018 and missed the open days. Please contact the school office on 01923 774004 to arrange a tour of the school and a meeting with the headteacher.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTH OXHEY

Recently rated as Outstanding by Ofsted. The school is looking for 2 new Catholic Foundation Governors to join the Board in the New Year. If you are able to offer your services or would like some further information please call Adrian Ramsden tel 01923 775055.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the PPC will take place on **Monday 11th December**. Parishioners with any ideas or suggestions that they would like to be discussed should contact the Chair at rickmansworthppcchair@rcdow.org.uk.

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 Damian.

REDECORATION OF THE CHURCH

The first phase of the work commenced on Monday 4th December and will continue until 21st December. During this phase work has begun on the installation of the upgraded lighting. The new lighting system will not have been fully completed before Christmas, but we will see a significant improvement. Also during this time the stonework around the Tabernacle, the Tabernacle plinth, the Holy Oils niche and the Memorial to Fr Chedal will all be cleaned. During this period there will be no weekday Masses at Our Lady's, but there will be a 9.30am Mass each morning at St John's, Mill End. Saturday and Sunday Masses will continue at Our Lady's as normal. There will be further periods in the early part of next year when we will have to cancel weekday Masses as the work of redecoration of the church continues.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now on sale in the repository.

200 CLUB - congratulations to Maureen Palmer £39, Anita Khurwal £29.25, Tom McAteer £19.50, Hilary Barnett £9.75.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On Friday 22nd 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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR will take place after the 10.30am Mass this **Sunday 10th December**.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS — CHILDREN'S NATIVITY TABLEAU

At the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 5.30pm the children will be presenting a tableau of the Nativity story. Any children who would like to take part in this tableau should come to the hall at 5.00pm for a rehearsal for the Mass.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, ADVENT & CHURCH ART CALENDARS are now available in the repository.

200 CLUB - congratulations to Kevin Toland £50, Mrs Bugler £30 and M Rice £20.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) MEETING

The next meeting of the PPC will take place on **Wednesday 13th December**. Parishioners with ideas or suggestions they wish the PPC to discuss should submit these to Malcolm Golin (PPC Secretary) malcolmgolin@outlook.com. Alternatively, parishioners can approach an individual PPC member.

DISTRESS ALARM

A new distress alarm has been fitted in the church toilet. It is activated by pulling the emergency cord, which sets off the alarm and a flashing light in the corridor. The alarm is reset by pressing either the panel on the toilet wall or the panel in the corridor.

CHARITY FAIR 2017

Our Charity Fair has been a huge success but this weekend is the last chance for any last minute transactions. There are just a few items remaining for sale in the lounge so have a look and if anything catches your eye, please get it this weekend. This will allow us to work out the final sum raised and issue the cheques to our chosen charities before Christmas. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER WELCOMERS, READERS & MINISTERS OF COMMUNION NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES - if you can help, please sign up on the list on the noticeboard. Many thanks. *Maureen*

APF RED MISSIO BOXES

Please can these be returned to church by next weekend for the December end of the year collection. Thank you.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
9/10 Dec.	D Gibney	M Williamson	C Johnson	D Treanor	L Munro	J Hale	Una & Carolyn	V Terrill
16/17 Dec.	A Roberts	A Roberts	P Goble	M Calvert	D Treanor	AM Farnsworth	Francis & Marguerite	C Steet

Saints (school year 7-9)

Reflection, games, pizza & sausage rolls

Quiz time. Tuesday 12th December from 6 to 7.30 pm in the parish hall at Mill End. Next term we start again on the 9th of January. New members are welcome to join anytime!



B-Attitude (school year 9-13)

Put your faith into action

B-ATTITUDE You're so welcome to join us to make a difference in our community! Next meeting is this **Monday 11th December @ Our Lady's** parish hall (it's in the upper room, up the staircase) **from 5 pm to 6 pm**. Last meeting this term, back again after Christmas break.

Trampolining

Save the date. **Saturday 3rd February 2018** at Gravity Force, St Albans. For young people in school year 7 to sixth form.

Pub Socials

Pub social next week, on **Sunday 17th December**, for young adults (age 18-35ish) from 7.15 pm to 9 pm at the Coach & Horses in Ricky every third Sunday of the month. You're very welcome to come along!