



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  
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### Assistant Priest:

Fr Mark Walker  
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### Parish Administrator:

Mrs Kerry Van Rensburg  
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## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015

### SUNDAY THOUGHT

We use phrases like set the record straight, get this straight, look me straight in the eye - all of which mean pretty much the same thing: be direct, be truthful, upright emphatic. At stake is right relationship. John the Baptist is direct and emphatic in calling us to right relationship with God and one another.

For John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord is clear and simple: we must straighten out our lives. The way to do this is by repenting. Repentance comes from a single-minded focus on how the Word dwells among us and forms us. God leads us along right ways.

Are our relationships marred by the unevenness of being moody, the crookedness of dishonesty, the uppityness of being haughty; the lowness of self-deprecation, the roughness of vulgarity? John's call to repentance challenges us to examine our behaviours and our relationships with God, self, and others. Only through repentance – genuine building of right relationships – will we “see the salvation of God”.

**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:** Baruch 5:1-9

**Response to Psalm:** What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

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

### *Next Sunday's Readings*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18; **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7; **Gospel:** Luke 3:10-18

### LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

**Rickmansworth:** Envelopes: £635.50; Loose Plate: £500.51; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1635.01**

**Mill End:** Envelopes: £229.50; Loose Plate: £252.71; Standing Orders: £93.75 **Total: £575.96**

**Chorleywood:** The Offertory collection for the month of October amounted to **£2124.38**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

|                                     |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>SUN 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>  | 9.30am  | Coffee and Tea after 8.30am Mass - Hall  | Our Lady Help of Christians  |
| <b>MON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>  | 10.00am - 12.00pm<br>7.00pm<br>8.00pm                                 | Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall<br>Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's<br>Choir Practice  | Our Lady Help of Christians<br>Our Lady Help of Christians<br>St John the Evangelist   |
| <b>TUE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>  | 10.15am<br>2.00pm<br>5.00pm - 6.00pm<br><br>7.30pm<br>8.00pm - 9.30pm | SVP Meeting<br>Priest, Prophet, King DVD Series - Hall<br>Certificate of Catholic Practice for Primary<br>School Applications - Hall<br>Priest, Prophet, King DVD Series - Hall<br>RCIA - Upper Room | St John Fisher<br>St John the Evangelist<br><br>Our Lady Help of Christians<br>St John the Evangelist<br>Our Lady Help of Christians |
| <b>WED 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>  | 7.30pm  | Thought-Provoking Film ( <i>Lourdes</i> ) - Hall   | Our Lady Help of Christians  |
| <b>THU 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> | 8.00pm - 9.30pm   | Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall   | Our Lady Help of Christians  |
| <b>FRI 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> | 10.00am<br>11.00am  | Friends of Watersmeet Coffee Morning - Hall<br>Funeral - Maureen Digges RIP  | Our Lady Help of Christians<br>Our Lady Help of Christians   |
| <b>SAT 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> | 11.00am<br>2.30pm<br>5.30pm   | <b>NO Holy Hour and Confessions this week</b><br>First Reconciliation Service<br>First Reconciliation Service<br>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament   | Our Lady Help of Christians<br>St John the Evangelist<br>Our Lady Help of Christians<br>St John the Evangelist                       |

## Mass Times and Intentions this Week

|  | Our Lady Help of Christians   | St John the Evangelist                          | St John Fisher   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>5 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  | <b>10am</b> For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish  | <b>6pm (Vigil)</b> For the People of the Parish | <b>6pm (Vigil)</b> For the People of the Parish          |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br>6 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER<br><i>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>  | <b>8.30am</b> Mary Casey (Ints.)<br><b>11am</b> For the People of the Parish<br><b>6pm</b> James Redrup RIP                 | <b>10.30am</b> Stevie O'Connor RIP              | <b>9am</b> Desmond Jenkins RIP (Anniv.)                  |
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>7 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER<br><b>ST AMBROSE, BISHOP &amp; DR</b>  | <b>9.30am</b> Alice O'Mearha RIP  | <b>9.30am</b> Michael King (Ints.).             |  |
| <b>TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b><br><b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PATRON OF THE DIOCESE</b> | <b>9.30am</b> Canon John Francis Formby RIP   |   | <b>9.30am</b> Canon John Francis Formby RIP              |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>9 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER   |   | <b>9.30am</b> Hunter Family (Ints.)             |  |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br>10 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER   | <b>9.30am</b> Private Intention   |   |  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br>11 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER   | <b>9.30am</b> For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish  |   | <b>9.30am</b> For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>12 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER   | <b>10am</b> Canon John Francis Formby RIP   | <b>6pm (Vigil)</b> For the People of the Parish | <b>6pm (Vigil)</b> For the People of the Parish          |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br>13 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER<br><i>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>   | <b>8.30am</b> Peter Moss RIP (Anniv.)<br><b>11am</b> For the People of the Parish<br><b>6pm</b> Jonathan Pione RIP (Anniv.) | <b>10.30am</b> Paddy Butler RIP                 | <b>9am</b> Patricia Pepe Irisarri RIP                    |

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

**Our Lady Help of Christians:** Elsie Alexander, Vinny Spiteri, Ruary Chisholm, Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, John Overend, Monica Clatworthy, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Hunt, Maureen Giles, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Norah MacWilliam, Agnes Harper, Diana Price, Joan Marioni, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Roshini Alles, Maria Wallis, Peter Ward, Valerie Foster, Heather Kean and Olive Kiener.

**St John the Evangelist:** Jean Mulderrig; Rita Murray; Clare Schofield; Joyce Baldwin, Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, Seamus Fagan, Betty Page and Joe Donnelly.

**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, Tony and Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Margaret Lamb, Jacob Stern, Thomas Gillies, Kitty Finucane and Susan Maynard.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### **SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) AND PARISH 'POOR BOXES'**

Now that our new Chess Valley Conference of the SVP is up-and-running, I have decided to re-designate the Poor Box in each of the three parishes as being for donations for the SVP. Any donations left in these boxes will be regularly transferred to our SVP Conference so that they can use this money to help people in various kinds of need in our own local area. Please be generous in supporting the important work of our SVP.

### **THOUGHT-PROVOKING FILMS FOR ADVENT**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall we will have our second Thought-Provoking Film for Advent: *Lourdes* (2010). A young woman confined to a wheelchair for most of her life joins a party to Lourdes in hope of finding spiritual comfort or a bodily cure. As the trip develops, her faith is put to the test, whilst the affectations and jealousies of the assorted entourage of religious officials and fellow sufferers are being exposed. This is a French film with English subtitles. The film will be followed by the opportunity for an informal chat about it over hot chocolate and cookies.

### **YEAR OF MERCY**

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy begins with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door in the Vatican on 8 December. The Cardinal will open the Holy Door in Westminster Cathedral in the context of Vespers and Benediction at 3.30 pm on Sunday, 13 December. You are very welcome to attend. Those making a brief pilgrimage during the Year to the Cathedral Holy Door or the others through the Diocese may gain the Jubilee Indulgence for themselves or the Holy Souls. The Cardinal has prepared *A Pilgrimage Companion for the Year of Mercy* by way of explanation and to help us experience God's mercy to the full. Copies of the booklet are available in the parishes this weekend for £1 each. More information about is available on the Diocesan Website <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>

### **ADVENT GIVING FOR THOSE IN NEED.**

At this time of year we liaise with the Mill End Food Bank to see what is most needed. They have requested Clarks shoe vouchers which start at £1. We will also be doing small gift bags for the young refugee mothers currently staying at the Catholic Worker Farm. Shower gels body butter and jewellery are a few ideas. For simplicity's sake all donations can be placed in the collection boxes in the three church porches. Thank you. SVP

### **GROWING IN FAITH CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER**

Copies of the Growing in Faith Christmas Newsletter are available in all three parishes this weekend. The Newsletter gives lots of information about how the money raised across the Diocese during the campaign is being used to promote and support vocations to the priesthood, to care for our sick and retired priests, to help parishes open social outreach project and to enable parishes to strengthen the fabric of their communities.

### **SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)**

For those of you who would like to consider becoming a member you would be most welcome to come along to a meeting on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10.15am** at St John Fisher, Chorleywood. Meetings last approximately one hour.

### **PARISH YOUTH WORKER**

Sadly Eileen O'Sullivan, who was due to take up the role of Parish Youth Worker, has decided not to take up the post, as she has been offered a post in a school which she feels is more suited to her circumstances. This is disappointing news for us as we were very much looking forward to working with Eileen in developing youth ministry in the parish. Please continue to pray that the Lord will send us the right person to take up this important ministry in our parishes. *Fr Shaun*

### **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET 2015**

The leaflet giving the times and locations of the Advent Programme, Advent Reconciliation Services and Christmas Masses across the three parishes is now available and can also be downloaded from the three parishes' websites.

### **ADVENT PROGRAMME 2015**

Bishop Robert Barron's six part DVD series *Priest, Prophet, King* gives us the opportunity to discover Jesus as the Anointed One – the ultimate priest, prophet, and king foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. *Priest, Prophet, King* is being offered as both an afternoon and an evening programme on a Tuesday at **2.00pm** and at **7.30pm** in St John the Evangelist Parish Centre, Mill End.

### **CATHOLIC WORKER FARM**

We are, once again appealing for donations of Long-Life milk for the CWF who provide accommodation for refugees at the farm and at Mary House. Collection boxes are in the Church porches. Thank you. SVP

### **WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2016**

Copies of the 2015 Westminster Diocesan Yearbook are now available priced £4.50 each.

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE**

Fr Shaun will be available on the following dates to meet with parents requesting a Certificate of Catholic Practice for a child seeking a reception place at a Catholic school in September 2016: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December (Our Lady's Parish Hall) 5pm to 6pm; Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December (Our Lady's Parish Hall) 5pm to 6pm; Saturday 2<sup>nd</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. There is no need to make an individual appointment, please just turn up at any point during the above times. **N.B. A Certificate of Catholic Practice can only be given when there is clear evidence of regular Sunday Mass attendance in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.**

## GENERAL NOTICES

### **MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOUR - TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER AT 10.00AM**

Annual Advent reflection with Sister Regina McGarry OP & Sister Anne Walsh OP ending with Mass for the Immaculate Conception at 3.00 pm (suggested donation £12). Coffee/tea provided; please bring packed lunch. Rosary Priory 93 Elstree Road Bushey Heath WD23 4EE. Registrations welcomed 020 8950 4000 / [www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk](http://www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk)

### **LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM**

A charity concert in aid of Tyburn Convent and its Mission Foundations will be held at St. James' Church, Spanish Place. Tickets are on sale at Tyburn Convent or via the website: [www.tyburnconvent.or.uk/concert](http://www.tyburnconvent.or.uk/concert)

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### 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.

### MAUREEN DIGGES RIP

It is with sadness that we announce the death of one of our parishioners, Maureen Digges. Maureen's funeral will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December** at **11.00am** followed by committal 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.

### THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who came to support the Advent fair, the profits raised (to be advised) will be given to the Michael Sobell Hospice. A special thank you to everyone who helped on the day with donations, cake baking, cleaning, money counting, stall holders, piano players, kitchen staff and those on the door. We've had some fantastic feedback on the event and couldn't have done it without your support.

### 200 CLUB DRAW (NOVEMBER)

Congratulations to the following winners: Martin Brady (£58), Maureen Palmer (£43.50), Fabby Montesdeoca (£29), Tom McAteer (£14.50).

### COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS (6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER)

Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends at our coffee morning after Mass this Sunday.

### APF PROMOTERS

The 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.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On **Wednesday 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. Hot drinks and mince pies will be available afterwards in the hall.

### ADVENT FILMS CAR SHARE

If you would like a lift to attend the Advent films being shown at Our Lady's Church on the first three Wednesdays of Advent, please add your contact details to the sheet in the lobby. For information call Ewan Smith on (01923) 770989.

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Fair is next **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December** and we need your help to make it a success. Could we please ask for donations of bottles, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, and wrapped sweets. There are boxes in the porch for you to leave your donations. We will be collecting Christmas gifts for the Rickmansworth Food Bank again this year. At their request can they please have toiletries and socks for men and women only. Please wrap your gift and label it for a man or woman. On the weekend of the Fair we will be looking for donations of homemade cakes and pies as this stall is always popular. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you at the Fair.

### SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

There will be Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon rolls) next **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December** after 10.30am Mass at the Christmas Fair. All proceeds raised will go to Aid to the Church in Need which supports persecuted or oppressed Christians in over 130 countries around the world. We hope that you will come and join us!

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The party is on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December** immediately after the 10.30am Mass, and is open to all children of primary school age and younger. The food list is in the porch so if you are attending could you please sign up. Please bring the food to the church hall BEFORE the mass.

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR 2015

This will be the last notice for this fair, so may we thank you all once again for this year's tremendous support. So many wonderful helpers, before, during and after, and probably a record number attended on the day to find our busy and joyful occasion. I am very pleased to announce our final brilliant profit of £2,164.00. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

### VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

Can you help as welcomer (plus steward for communion), reader or Minister of Communion? If so, please sign the sheet on the noticeboard in the lobby. Thank you. *Maureen and Fr Shaun*

### CHRISTMAS TREE

We will put up and decorate the Christmas Tree in the church after Mass on **Sunday 20 December** and would be grateful for help from adults and children of all ages.

### APF RED MISSION BOXES

Another last notice. Please bring your boxes to church by next weekend, 12/13 December for the final collection of the year. More thanks to our generous parishioners.

|            | This week 5 / 6 December |           |           |                                       | Next week 12 / 13 December |          |           |                |
|------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------|
|            | Welcomer                 | Reader    | Communion | Counters                              | Welcomer                   | Reader   | Communion | Counters       |
| 6pm Vigil  | J Ingham                 | D Gibney  | P Goble   | Una Lean                              | G F                        | C Pierce | E Harris  | Carolyn Opie   |
| 9am Mass   | J Hale                   | N Johnson | F Holly   | Patsy Tyden                           | J Hale                     | A Opie   | J McEwen  | Don Williamson |
| 5 December | Laundry: S Tarrant       |           |           | 11 December Church Cleaning: A Dennis |                            |          |           |                |