



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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Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
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@ChessValleyRC

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) 11TH DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY THOUGHT

While adolescence is considered to be *the* time when young people are seeking their identity, in reality we spend our entire lives discovering and rediscovering who we are. Our truest identity is always in relation to Jesus the Messiah. Seeking our identity in Christ is never a *fait accompli*, but is a dynamic, lifelong journey.

In this Sunday's gospel John the Baptist's identity is revealed as a messenger pointing to the Messiah. Jesus' identity is revealed as "the Christ" who can be known by his works. We are revealed as members of the Messiah's kingdom who are greater even than John the Baptist. How can this be?

Living out our identity as those who know Jesus is not a *fait accompli*. Every day we discover anew who Jesus is, and we make choices revealing to others the Jesus whom we have come to know. Others see us acting as he acted, speaking as he spoke, caring as he cared, loving as he loved, giving as he gave. "Here is your God": John points, Jesus is, we reveal.

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

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

Response to Psalm: Come, Lord, and save us.

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £538.10; Loose Plate: £528.26; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1576.36**

Mill End: Envelopes: £439.06; Loose Plate: £183.70; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £819.76**

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

SUN 11TH DECEMBER	11.30am	Christmas Fair	St John the Evangelist
MON 12TH DECEMBER	10am - 12pm 1.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Catholicism : The Pivotal Players (St Catherine of Siena) Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's Advent Reconciliation Service Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
TUE 13TH DECEMBER	4.30pm - 5.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm - 9.30pm	Signing of CCP (Nursery and Reception 2017) - Hall Catholicism : The Pivotal Players (St Catherine of Siena) RCIA - Upper Room	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 14TH DECEMBER	7.30pm	Thought Provoking Films For Advent - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 15TH DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 16TH DECEMBER	10.00am 5.00pm - 6.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Signing of CCP (Nursery and Reception 2017) - Hall Advent Reconciliation Service	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SAT 17TH DECEMBER	10.30am - 1.30am 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 10 TH DECEMBER	10.00am Mr & Mrs Candon RIP	6pm (Vigil) Seamus Fagan RIP	6pm (Vigil) Pepe & Patricia Irisarri
SUNDAY 11 TH DECEMBER <i>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Nalene (Ints.) 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm Alan Philip Terry RIP	10.30am Delia Considine RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 12 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Sheila & Martin Candon RIP	9.30am Seamus Fagan RIP	
TUESDAY 13 TH DECEMBER <i>ST LUCY, VIRGIN & MARTYR</i>	9.30am Jonathan Pione RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 14 TH DECEMBER <i>ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST & DOCTOR</i>		9.30am Seamus Fagan RIP	
THURSDAY 15 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Michael Sparrow RIP		
FRIDAY 16 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Mary Robinson RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	10.00am Sheila & Martin Candon RIP	6pm (Vigil) Angiolina Ferrari RIP	6pm (Vigil) Joe McGuinness RIP
SUNDAY 18 TH DECEMBER <i>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Peter Moss RIP (Anniv.) 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm Auna Murphy RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Tom O'Brien RIP	9am 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, Oliver Watson and Henry Cutting.

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

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 Catherine of Siena. Monday lunchtime at 1.30pm or Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Both at St John's, Mill End

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Monday 12th December 7.30pm St John Fisher, Chorleywood

Friday 16th December 7.30pm St John the Evangelist, Mill End

Monday 19th December 7.30pm Our Lady's, Rickmansworth

Visiting clergy will be available to hear confessions at Mill End and Rickmansworth, but not at Chorleywood, where one of the parish clergy will be available to hear confessions.

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.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next SVP Community Lunch is on **Sunday 18th 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.

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

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:

Tuesday 13th December 4.30pm to 5.30pm or **Friday 16th December 5pm to 6pm.**

All 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 2018 and Secondary Transfer 2018

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 2018** 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.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP – AKELA'S (ROBERT PHIPPS) LEAVING PARTY

Many of you will be aware that our Cub Pack leader 'Akela' – Robert Phipps will be stepping down at Christmas after 29 year's service to the pack. There will be a leaving party for him on **Saturday 17th December 2016**, between 6.30–10.30pm at Our Lady's Church Hall. All current and past 6th Ricky cubs and their families are invited so please spread the word. Everyone is welcome! If you are unable to make it we are collating a 'Memory Book' - collecting memories of your child's time in cubs, if they and / or you would like a memory to be included in the book, please email it to this address akela6thricky@hotmail.com - Many thanks. We hope to see lots of current and past cubs there!

6TH 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 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

DIOCESAN NOTICES

VINNIE PACKS

The St Vincent de Paul Society is distributing 12,000 Vinnie Packs to the homeless over the winter, mostly in the Westminster diocese. See svp.org.uk/node/330 for more information. They cost about £3.20 to produce. Any contribution will be very welcome. Donations can be made by text VIMP33£[AMOUNT] to 70070 or by cheque made out to SVP and sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, SW1P 9EZ.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

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.

HCPT GROUP 183

The Rhodes family are selling raffle tickets after the 8.30am and 11.00am Masses this weekend in support of Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) Group 183. HCPT is a charity offering pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes for disabled and disadvantaged people from around the UK. Please support this worthy cause.

OUR LADY'S ADVENT FAIR – THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to the Social Events Committee and to everyone who worked so hard to make our 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 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*

200 CLUB - congratulations to Deirdre Edwards (£39), John Reid (£29.25), Liz Waddington (£19.50) & Judy Gordon (£9.75)

USED STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

As we come too Christmas, please don't forget to save the stamps received on cards and parcels, for the Missions. Just cut about an inch or so around the sides, and leave them in the box in the church porch. As well as this little reminder - please ask for Nativity stamps at the Post Office when buying your own! S.H.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On **Friday 23rd 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 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 18th 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

NEW VESTMENTS

Thanks to very generous donations from two parishioners we have been able to purchase new green, purple and red vestments. These new vestments, which are in the Diocesan design, match the white Diocesan vestment which was used by Fr Jim Brand.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY FAIR - THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to all the people who worked so hard to make our 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 £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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available for sale in the lounge.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
10/11 Dec.	M Fields	T Hartney	C Johnson	M Calvert	L Munro	J McEwen	Marguerite & Kate	T Price
17/18 Dec.	R Ellis	S Hoy	M Latimer	A Opie	J Hale	L Turnbull	Carolyn & Ann	J Whelan

YOUTH EVENTS

YOUTH EVENT - Monday 19th 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 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. We're looking for 8 volunteers to help out with the youth groups. Contact Anke (ankevos@rcdow.org.uk) if you're interested.

YOUNG ADULTS PUB SOCIAL

All young adults (i.e. age 18-35ish!) are warmly invited to meet up at the Coach and Horses in Rickmansworth at 7.15pm (after the 6pm Mass) on Sunday 18th December and Sunday 8th January for a drink and a chat.