



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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THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT (YEAR B) - 17TH DECEMBER 2017

GAUDETE SUNDAY

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Paul's exhortation in our second readings to rejoice (rather poorly translated in our lectionary as "*Be happy at all times*") gives this Third Sunday of Advent its traditional name Gaudete Sunday. St Paul concludes his first letter to the Thessalonians urging them to embrace the joy that is experienced in following the Spirit's prompting to create the ideals of Christian community: joy, thanksgiving, wise discernment, seeking and maintaining the common good.

Advent faith calls us to approach God not in fear but in joy: not a happy-face, sugar-coated denial of anything bad or unpleasant, but a constant awareness that God is always present to us. That despite the heartaches, there is always healing; that despite our forgetting and abandoning God, God neither forgets nor abandons us.

The coming of Christ calls us to the work of making a straight road for him, of transforming the barren deserts around us into harvests of justice and peace, of making the light of his presence in our midst known to all. As God gives himself so completely and unreservedly to us in the birth of his own Son, may we find our life's joy and fulfilment in giving completely and unreservedly of ourselves to others.

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

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

Response to Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8. 19-28

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

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION *(low due to adverse weather conditions)*

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £194.86; Loose Plate: £75.81; Standing Orders: £747.79 **Total: £1018.46**

Mill End: Envelopes: £253.70; Loose Plate: £145.33; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £596.03**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of November - **£2583.37**

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 17TH DECEMBER	12.30pm 7.15pm	SVP Community Lunch - Hall Young Adults Pub Social	St John's School Coach & Horses
MON 18TH DECEMBER	10.00am - 12 noon 5.00pm - 6.00pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall B-Attitude (year 9-13) Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 19TH DECEMBER	5.00pm - 6.00pm 7.30pm	CCP Form Signing (Nursery & Reception) - Hall Lectio Divina	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
WED 20TH DECEMBER	7.30pm - 8.30pm 7.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist St John Fisher
THU 21ST DECEMBER	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 22ND DECEMBER	1.45pm 6.00pm 7.30pm - 8.30pm	Funeral - Ruari Chisholm RIP Preparing the church for Christmas Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 23RD DECEMBER	10.30am - 11.30am 5.30pm	Confessions (NO EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT TODAY) 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 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
MONDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	9.30am Angiolina Ferrari RIP	
TUESDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Leila Robinson RIP (Anniv.)		9.30am Gill Farghes RIP
WEDNESDAY 20 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Tony & Ann Clark RIP (Anniv.)	
THURSDAY 21 ST DECEMBER	9.30am Fr John Leahy RIP		
FRIDAY 22 ND DECEMBER	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 23 RD DECEMBER	10.00am Agnes McAleenan RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 24 TH DECEMBER <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	10am J.J. (Jack) Crossan RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Declena & Eamon (Ints.)	NO MORNING MASS

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, Pat Beaton, 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



HAVE YOU READ THIS BOOK?

Divine Renovation: Bringing your parish from maintenance to mission, by Fr James Mallon, is the book which has inspired Fr Shaun and Fr Damian with a vision of how our parishes can respond to Pope Francis' call for parishes of missionary disciples. We invite all parishioners to read this inspirational book. Prepare to be challenged, but prepare too to be fired-up with a vision of what our parishes could be like in five years' time, in ten years' time. *Divine Renovation* is available from Redemptorist Publications website: <http://www.rpbook.co.uk> or from other online sellers. Fr Shaun's letter and recent homilies sharing his vision for our parishes are available on the *Making Missionary Disciples* page of the parish websites.

RUARI CHISHOLM RIP

The funeral of Ruari 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.

REQUEST FROM FR SHAUN

As some of you already know, I will be away in New Zealand from 2nd January until 1st February. So that I am not literally buried in a sea of emails upon my return, from which I might not emerge until mid-February, I would be most grateful if parishioners would please not send me emails during January. During January admin matters can be referred to Kerry, our Parish Administrator, and pastoral matters can be directed to Fr Damian. I would be most grateful for your assistance with this. With thanks, *Fr Shaun*.

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 this weekend. Thank you.

LECTIO DIVINA

The final evening of Advent Lectio Divina will be on **Tuesday 19th December** at St John Fisher, Chorleywood at 7.30pm. Please do come along to this evening of pondering and meditation on God's Advent word to us.

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.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2018

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice on **Tuesday 19th December 5.00pm - 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.

SVP CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Do you know anyone who is on their own this Christmas? The SVP are hosting a Christmas Day Lunch at St John's RC Primary School. Doors open at 11.30am and a traditional Christmas dinner will be served at 1pm. The suggested donation is £5 and it will be a day of festive fun and laughter. To find out more information, or to book your place, please ring Geraldine or Emily Page on 01923 776100. We can offer lifts within Rickmansworth and the surrounding areas.

STUDENT CROSS PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM IN HOLY WEEK

Annual cross-carrying pilgrimage for students and non-students alike. The group walking from London (18+) meet in Epping Friday evening 23rd March. Finish Sunday 1st April after lunch. More info on studentcross.org.uk. We're specifically looking to recruit some walkers who are good at eating lots of cake. For more details please contact Anke.

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 further information please call Adrian Ramsden tel 01923 775055.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

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 our recent 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 £1123.53 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 6pm 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 on the installation of the new lighting system has now been completed. The work will recommence on 8th January but we hope to be able to keep the church open for Masses at that time. The cleaning of the stonework around the Tabernacle, the Tabernacle plinth, the Holy Oils niche and the Memorial to Fr Chedal has also now been completed. 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.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

READERS AND WELCOMER'S ROTA for January to March 2018 are available now at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all those who helped make our Christmas Fair such a success last weekend, especially Geraldine Page, Natalie Zammit and Liz Townsend. Special thanks to Francis Walker who very generously donated all the prizes for the Cash Tombola! We appreciate the weather made it more challenging to get to Mass, so thank you to all those who supported our fair. Congratulations to our Raffle winners, Angela Steele won 1st Prize of £100 and Bob Livingston won 2nd Prize of £50. We raised an amazing £667.29 half of which will be donated to our Cafod Connect2 project in Sebeya.

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.

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.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

RECEPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF ERIC PRICE

At the 9.00am Mass this Sunday Fr Shaun will receive Eric Price into full communion with the Catholic Church and confer on him the Sacrament of Confirmation. Eric will then share with us at the Eucharistic table for the first time. We pray for Eric, that this will be a day of great blessing and grace for him.

WEEKDAY MASSES IN THE NEW YEAR

There will be **no** 9.30am weekday Masses at St John Fisher on the following dates: Tuesdays: 2nd, 16th and 30th January. Fridays: 12th, 26th January and 9th February. Masses on other Tuesdays and Fridays of January and February will be as normal.

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.

OUR CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR GOLDEN SATURDAY

CONGRATULATIONS SJF: I still have not got the exact final figure because of weather last weekend, however it looks as though we are going to reach £2,600, a wonderful increase over our previous best year of 2006. Huge thanks to everybody (and it was just about everybody in our lovely parish) who took part in so many ways: helping, attending, donating, furniture moving, etc. Let us pray that our joyous work will provide a little comfort to some of our poorest brethren. With thanks and love from Eddie, Fiona, Helena, Jenny, Juliet and Mary.

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*

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
16/17 Dec.	A Roberts	A Roberts	P Goble	M Calvert	D Treanor	AM Farnsworth	Francis & Marguerite	C Steet
23/24 Dec.	See list on noticeboard						No Sunday Count	

B-Attitude (year 9-13)

Put your faith into action

B-ATTITUDE We're meeting **Monday 18th 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 and then back again after Christmas!

Trampolining

3rd February 2018. For young people from the parish + friends, in school year 7 to sixth form. We'll meet at Gravity Force St Albans at 1.30 pm and finish at 3 pm. Forms to sign up will be available in the back of church.

Pub Social—This Sunday (17th December)

For young adults (age 18-35ish) from 7.15 pm to 9 pm at the Coach & Horses in Ricky. You're invited to come along for a drink & a chat.

Youth Mass—Thank You

BIG thank you to the young people who joined us for the Diocesan Youth Mass in Euston for a fantastic evening! Thank you for your enthusiasm, for your commitment and for good conversations!