



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

Assistant Priest:

Fr Mark Walker
markwalker@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Mrs Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Address for all correspondence:
5 Park Road
Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU
Telephone: 01923 773387

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 13TH DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY THOUGHT

We naturally tend to gravitate toward relationships with people who share our values, desires and expectations. But, at the same time, we also gravitate toward persons whose experiences, wisdom, and knowledge can challenge us and lead us beyond where we are.

Our desires and expectations to know what we should do and who we should be lead us to seek Jesus. John the Baptist pointed his listeners to Jesus as the One who would fulfil their expectations. Each day brings us people who point us to that same presence of Jesus. Then as now, Jesus is the Good News who shows us what we should do and how we should be.

Our hearts long to know not only a good direction for our lives, but also to know someone who might show us the way. At some time or other we have all chosen a mentor, a spiritual director, counsellor, teacher, idol, coach – someone whom we trust, respect, and who can engender in us the willingness to give ourselves over to their judgement. Such people incarnate Jesus who, indeed, acts through them.

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

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Response to Psalm: Sing and shout for joy for
great in your midst is the
Holy One of Israel.

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

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

Micah 5:1-4; Hebrew 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44 (Gospel)

SALVE REGINA (HAIL, HOLY QUEEN)

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy!
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished
children of Eve, to thee do we send
up our sighs, mourning and weeping
in this valley, of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us; and
after this our exile show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus;
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £442.39; Loose Plate: £521.12; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1462.51**

Mill End: Envelopes: £225.40; Loose Plate: £113.74; Standing Orders: £93.75 **Total: £432.89**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of November amounted to **£2317.07**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 13TH DECEMBER	10.00am 11.30am 11.30am 12.45pm	Tea and Coffee after 9am Mass St John the Evangelist - Christmas Fair Sunday Brunch Baptisms	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 14TH DECEMBER	10.00am - 12.00pm 5.00pm - 6.00pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Certificate of Catholic Practice for Primary School Applications - Hall Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 15TH DECEMBER	2.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Priest, Prophet, King DVD Series - Hall Reconciliation Service Priest, Prophet, King DVD Series - Hall	St John the Evangelist St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
WED 16TH DECEMBER	1.45pm 7.30pm	Funeral - Neal Perry RIP Thought-Provoking Film (<i>Millions</i>) - Hall	Chiltern Crematorium Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 17TH DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 18TH DECEMBER	10.00am 7.30pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Reconciliation Service	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SAT 19TH 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 12 TH DECEMBER	10am Canon John Francis Formby RIP	6pm (Vigil) Mary O'Connell (Ints.)	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 13 TH DECEMBER <i>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Peter Moss RIP (Anniv.) 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm Jonathan Pione RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Paddy Butler RIP	9am Patricia Pepe Irisarri RIP
MONDAY 14 TH DECEMBER ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST & DOCTOR	9.30am Anne Rutherford RIP	No Mass today	
TUESDAY 15 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Canon John Francis Formby RIP		9.30am Canon John Francis Formby RIP
WEDNESDAY 16 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Katie Butler (Ints.)	
THURSDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	9.30am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish		
FRIDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Leila Robinson RIP		9.30am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish
SATURDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	10am John Coxon (Jnr.) RIP	6pm (Vigil) Dennis Coleman RIP	6pm (Vigil) Alan Philip Terry RIP
SUNDAY 20 TH DECEMBER <i>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Mary Olivier (Ints.) 11am Calvin Netto RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Neal Perry RIP	9am For the People of the Parish

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

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY – SALVE REGINA

Pope Francis has emphasized the role of Mary as Mother of Mercy, and the prayer *Salve Regina (Hail Holy Queen)*: 'that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes towards us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus.' The Cardinal wishes, therefore, the 'Hail Mary' in the Sunday prayers of the faithful be replaced by the 'Hail, Holy Queen' throughout the Year of Mercy, starting this Sunday. The words of the Hail Holy Queen can be found on the front of the Newsletter.

THOUGHT-PROVOKING FILMS FOR ADVENT – MILLIONS (2004)

On Wednesday 16th December our third and final Thought-Provoking Film for Advent 2015 is *Millions* by Danny Boyle. Seven-year-old Damian believes he's received a divine gift from above when a suitcase filled with cash falls out of the sky. Against the advice of his older brother Anthony, Damian is anxious to share the wealth with those less fortunate. But when the loot turns out to be stolen, his noble intentions are put to the test – with heart-warming and hilarious results. The film will be followed by the opportunity for an informal chat about it over hot chocolate and cookies.

FUNERAL OF NEAL PERRY RIP

The funeral of Neal Perry will take place at the Chiltern Crematorium at 1.45pm on Wednesday 16th December. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

The Advent Reconciliation Services this year will be as follows:

Tuesday 15th December 7.30pm – St John Fisher, Chorleywood

Friday 18th December 7.30pm – St John the Evangelist, Mill End

Monday 21st December 7.30pm – Our Lady Help of Christians, 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.

Other local Reconciliation Services are as follows:

Holy Rood, Watford – Tuesday 15th December at 10.30am

St Bede's, Croxley Green – Tuesday 15th December at 7.30pm

The Year of Mercy has now begun! We encourage you all to take this opportunity to receive the precious gift of the mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

ECUMENICAL CAROL SINGING

The local churches in Rickmansworth and Mill End are joining together to sing carols outside of Marks and Spencer at **10.30am** and at Tudor Parade, Mill End at **2.30pm** on **Saturday 19th December**. All parishioners are welcome to come and join in.

YOUNG ADULTS PUB SOCIAL

All young adults (i.e. age 18-35ish!) are warmly invited to join Fr Mark at the Coach and Horses in Rickmansworth at 7.15pm (after the 6pm Mass) on **Sunday 20th December** for a drink and a chat.

YEAR OF MERCY

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy began 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 3.30pm 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

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

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.

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: Monday 14th December (Our Lady's Parish Hall) 5.00pm – 6.00pm; Saturday 2nd January (Our Lady's Presbytery) 10.00am – 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

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAROL SERVICE

Christ Church Chorleywood invites you to a traditional Christmas Carol service in relaxed and accessible surroundings. All welcome - especially people with dementia or memory problems, their family, friends and carers. Monday 21st December - Service at 3.00pm (Church open from 2.30pm). Festive refreshments available from 3.30pm.

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.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who came to support the Advent Fair, we raised £1,240 for 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.

OFFERTORY BOX NO. 146

Would the parishioner with planned giving box number 146 please contact Kerry, the Parish Administrator, with your details.

200 CLUB DRAW (NOVEMBER)

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are now on sale in the repository.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

WEEKDAY MASS – MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER

There will be no 9.30am Mass at St John the Evangelist on Monday 14th December as the new Ambo and Tabernacle plinth are due to be fitted on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

ROTAS - MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND READERS

The new rotas for January, February and March are available now at the back of the church. Please take your copy.

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

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

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

There will be Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon rolls) this **Sunday 13th 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 20th 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.

200 CLUB DRAW (NOVEMBER)

Congratulations to the following winners: S Walker (£25); Tony Oxley (£20) and Jane Milne Smith (£15).

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards are now available in the repository.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

HELP NEEDED

If there is any parishioners (ideally one who attends the Saturday 6.00pm Mass, but the 9.00am if not) who might be willing to give a lift to church to a person living in Sarratt, please speak to Fr Shaun.

TEAS & COFFEES AFTER MASS ON SUNDAY

All are welcome to stay for a while after Mass, for a cuppa and a chat with fellow parishioners.

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

Please bring your boxes to church by this weekend, 12/13 December for the final collection of the year. Thank you.

	This week 12 / 13 December				Next week 19 / 20 December				
	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Sunday Counters	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Sunday Counters	
6pm Vigil	G F	C Pierce	E Harris	Carolyn Opie Don Williamson	A Dennis	A Penn	E O'Sullivan	Marguerite Watkins	
9am Mass	J Hale	A Opie	J McEwen		D Treanor	S Marston	L Turnbull	Ann Brew	
12 December Laundry: J Whelan				18 December Church Cleaning: Volunteer					