



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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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) 18TH DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Joseph is one of the great examples in the Bible of what can happen when people cooperate with God. Even before the angel spoke to him, he had determined to protect Mary, at the risk of his own standing in the community. Simply on Mary's testimony that she was with child by the Holy Spirit, Joseph trusted God and chose what he considered to be the safest path for the woman he had planned to make his wife. His trust was rewarded when the angel confirmed Mary's words and told him that the child to be born was destined to save his people from sin.

Joseph believed in God's plan and worked to see it fulfilled; this, the Messiah was born. The wonder and the glory of all God's promises came to fruition, in part through the cooperation of this humble and upright man. Joseph's simple trust in God showed that he was open to the grace God was pouring out to him. Like Joseph, we are called to dedicate our whole being – body and soul – to the Lord's work. As we cooperate with him, we –like Joseph – will see great things.

The birth of Christ marks the dawning of our redemption. Let us put aside sin and indifference and ask Christ, our King, to remove any obstacles that might hinder his coming in more fully. Let us take hold of the grace that is available to us.

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Response to Psalm: Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of glory.

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Next Sunday's Readings (during the day)

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £634.50; Loose Plate: £332.90; Standing Orders: £510.00 **Total: £1477.40**

Mill End: Envelopes: £278.10; Loose Plate: £183.69; Standing Orders: £197.00 **Total: £658.79**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of November - **£2001.86**

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 18TH DECEMBER	11.30am 12.30pm 7.15pm	Children's Christmas Party SVP Community Lunch - Hall Young Adults Pub Social	St John the Evangelist St John's School Coach and Horses
MON 19TH DECEMBER	10.45am 1.30pm 4.30pm - 7.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Catholicism : The Pivotal Players (Michaelangelo) Christmas Crafting - Hall Advent Reconciliation Service Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 20TH DECEMBER	7.30pm	NO SVP MEETING THIS WEEK Catholicism : The Pivotal Players (Michaelangelo)	St John the Evangelist
WED 21ST DECEMBER			
THU 22ND DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 23RD DECEMBER	10.00am 6.00pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Preparing the church for Christmas	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SAT 24TH DECEMBER	5.30pm 7.30pm 10.00pm 11.00pm	Carols before Mass Carols before Mass Carols before Mass Carols before Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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
MONDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	9.30am John Coxon RIP (Anniv.)	9.30am Bridie Quirke RIP	
TUESDAY 20 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Catherine Wright RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 21 ST DECEMBER		9.30am Seamus Fagan RIP	
THURSDAY 22 ND DECEMBER	9.30am Cathleen O'Brien		
FRIDAY 23 RD DECEMBER	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 24 TH DECEMBER <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	NO MORNING MASS 6pm For the People of the Parish 11.30pm For the People of the Parish	5.30pm For the People of the Parish 10.30pm For the People of the Parish	8pm For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 25 TH DECEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Special Intention NO EVENING MASS	10.30am Seamus Fagan 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 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

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS – CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (WESTMINSTER)

The Christmas Crib offering in all three parishes will be for the support of the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) in their work of helping families in need in our Diocese. Donations can be left at the crib (in the basket/box provided). Alternatively, donations can be made direct via the Society's website – www.cathchild.org.uk

MASSES DURING CHRISTMAS WEEK

There will be just one morning Mass celebrated each day (at 10.00am) from Monday to Saturday of Christmas week. Please consult the Christmas Mass times leaflet for details of where the Mass will be celebrated each day. Tuesday of Christmas week (27th December) is the Feast of St John the Evangelist, so the Mass that day will be celebrated at St John's, Mill End. The Wednesday morning Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady's.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE –MAY/JUNE 2017

As many of you will know, I had been planning a walking pilgrimage to Santiago di Compostela for May 2017. Due to difficulties in arranging suitable flight times, I have decided to postpone this pilgrimage until 2018. However, I have now arranged an alternative pilgrimage from **Tuesday 30th May to Sunday 4th June 2016** to the early saints of northern England in Northumbria and Holy Island (Lindisfarne). We will be based in Newcastle, from where we will visit Durham, Jarrow and Monkwearmouth (home of St Bede), Inner Farne Island and Holy Island. The cost of the pilgrimage including travel to and from Newcastle by train, accommodation at the Premier Inn, Newcastle, breakfasts and dinners will be £699 per person (single room supplement = £180 for the 5 nights). We are also able to offer a great deal for families with two children under 15 willing to share a family room (4 people) – the children's price would be £299 each. The itinerary and booking forms are available in the parishes this weekend and are also downloadable from the parish websites. If you would like to join this pilgrimage please do consider booking before 27th January 2017, as the price is fixed only until that time. *Fr Shaun*

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

There will be an Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth. Visiting clergy will be available to hear confessions.

ADVENT COURSE – CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS

The pivotal player whose life we will be reflecting on this week is Michaelangelo. Monday lunchtime at 1.30pm or Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Both at St John's, Mill End

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.

CATHOLIC WORKER FARM - CHRISMAS GIFTS

Thank you very much for the many donations towards gifts for the ladies of CWF. We now have enough to make up twelve good sized gift bags and will not be collecting any more. We are very grateful for your generosity. We do continue to request donations of long life milk and toilet rolls which can be left in the boxes in the three church porches. SVP.

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

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.

SLEEPING BAG APPEAL

Many many thanks to everyone who has donated bedding or money to buy sleeping bags. We have been overwhelmed at the generosity of your church family and we know that your gifts have met a very real and urgent need in our community. It has been a witness to us of God's provision "just for today". We continue to ask for on-going donations throughout the winter months if you feel able, but we just wanted to say a big THANK YOU!

God Bless, Malcolm and Anna 07926 193877, 07805 121379

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everybody who contributed to the Advent fair and raised so much money for HCPT (group 51). This charity takes disadvantaged/disabled children on pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter. The children have an amazing time and benefit spiritually and emotionally. They all come back absolutely buzzing and as well as joining in with many of the Lourdes services they enjoy concerts, café trips, picnics in the mountain, outings to the zoo and parties, and that is just a few of the things that they do! It costs £750 for each child so this money will go towards paying for two children to go. Your generosity is much appreciated. *Berny Tomlin*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR – THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to all those who planned and organised last Sunday's Christmas Fair and to everyone who helped in any way on the day. There was a great turnout and a really lovely atmosphere. We raised a total of £868.86 to support the work of the parish. Thank you to everyone who came along to the Fair for your very generous support. Fr Shaun

CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

1st £100 Audrey and Paddy Lewin; 2nd £50 Mary Harris; 3rd £20 Bill Mulderrig

A full list of all the raffle and other prize winners at the fair can be found on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

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.

ROTAS - READERS, WELCOMERS, OFFERTORY AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The new rotas are available now at the back of the church. Please take your copy.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Will take place after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th December with Mr Marvel to entertain the children!

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.

WELCOMERS/STEWARDS + MINISTER OF COMMUNION FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

We still need welcomers/stewards for both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, plus one more Minister of Communion for Christmas Day. Please sign up on the list on the noticeboard if you can help! *Maureen*

MISSIO/RED BOX HOLDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you very much for all your contributions through the year for our brave and dedicated Missionaries. For such a little parish our collections are always excellent. This year our total is £644.75 plus Gift Aid £84.90, giving a grand total of £739.65. Well done! *Mary*

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
17/18 Dec.	R Ellis	M Foggo	M Latimer	A Opie	J Hale	L Turnbull	Carolyn & Ann	J Whelan
24/25 Dec.	See volunteer list on noticeboard						No counting	

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING Monday 19th December from 4.30pm - 7.00pm

We are looking forward to seeing all young people 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 for games, food, discussion and reflection. And, especially, to meet new friends!

VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for 8 volunteers to help out with the youth group, 1 or 2 evenings every month, from January to July 2017. If you're interested, I'll be very happy to hear from you! – *Anke* (ankevos@rcdow.org.uk)