



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:

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Parish Administrator:

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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 20TH DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY THOUGHT

What joy a child brings when receiving the loving attention of an adult! What joy all of us feel whenever we are acknowledged as loved, valued, and good! Yet in our society our tendency is to speak and hear less-than-positive words about each other. In our hunger to hear good words, God comes to us speaking the good Word.

Gabriel reveals to Mary the good news about Elizabeth's pregnancy. Mary sets out immediately to go to Elizabeth – and what an exchange of good news! To both women, God had come. Both women responded with joyful recognition of God's presence.

Mary went "as quickly as she could" to go to Elizabeth. God also comes quickly to us. For time-trapped, impatient humans, however, God's coming might seem immeasurably slow. God simply doesn't always come in ways we expect, and so we might often miss divine Presence. Yet God does faithfully come in every moment, every event, every encounter with another. How do we respond?

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: Micah 5:1-4

Response to Psalm: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

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

Next Sunday's Readings

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52 (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: £622.50; Loose Plate: £389.26; Standing Orders: £499.00 **Total: £1510.76**

Mill End: Envelopes: £350.09; Loose Plate: £166.18; Standing Orders: £93.75 **Total: £610.02**

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 20TH DECEMBER	10.00am 11.30am 7.15pm	Decorating the Christmas Tree Children's Christmas Party Young Adults Pub Social with Fr Mark	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist Coach and Horses
MON 21ST DECEMBER	10.00am - 12.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Lets Get Together and Grow - Hall Running Club - meet outside Our Lady's Reconciliation Service Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 22ND DECEMBER			
WED 23RD DECEMBER	6.00pm	Preparing the church for Christmas	St John the Evangelist
THU 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
FRI 25TH DECEMBER			
SAT 26TH DECEMBER			

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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
MONDAY 21 ST DECEMBER	9.30am For the Sick and House-bound of the Parish	9.30am Thady McGloin RIP	
TUESDAY 22 ND DECEMBER	9.30am The Dawson Family (Ints.)		9.30am Neal Perry RIP
WEDNESDAY 23 RD DECEMBER		9.30am Margaret Connor RIP	
THURSDAY 24 TH DECEMBER <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	NO MORNING MASS TODAY 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	8.00pm For the People of the Parish
FRIDAY 25 TH DECEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Fabby Montesdeoca (Ints.)	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am For the People of the Parish
SATURDAY 26 TH DECEMBER <i>St STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</i>	10am Deceased members of the Guild of St Stephen's at Our Lady's	NO VIGIL MASS TODAY	NO VIGIL MASS TODAY
SUNDAY 27 TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</i>	8.30am Laurence Joseph Rooney RIP 11am In Thanksgiving (Montesdeoca Family) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am For the People of the Parish (<i>Patronal Feast Day</i>)	9am John Hagger 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

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. 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.

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.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

There will be an Advent Reconciliation Service on **Monday 21st December 7.30pm** at **Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth**. Visiting clergy will be available to hear confessions. 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.

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) this **Sunday 20th December** for a drink and a chat.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

During January the SVP will be meeting on: Thursday 14th January, 7.30pm at St John the Evangelist and on Tuesday 26th January 10.15am at Our Lady Help of Christians. If you would like to consider becoming a member of the SVP you would be most welcome to join us.

YEAR OF MERCY

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy began with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door in the Vatican on 8 December. The Cardinal opened the Holy Door in Westminster Cathedral in the context of Vespers and Benediction at 3.30pm on Sunday, 13 December. 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 Saturday 2nd January (Our Lady's Presbytery) 10–11am to meet with parents requesting a Certificate of Catholic Practice for a child seeking a reception place at a Catholic school in September 2016. 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.

CAN YOU ADD A PRESENT ONTO YOUR LIST FOR SOMEONE HOMELESS?

The SVP are distributing 12,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. They would be very grateful if you could sponsor packs at a suggested donation of £3.25 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or go to virginmoneygiving.com and type "SVP" into the charity section. Vinnie Packs is in the **Campaign** drop down box. Thank you so much for your support.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes in this Year of Mercy will take place in the Cathedral on **Saturday 6th February 2016 at 2.00pm**. As in previous years, the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass. All are welcome, no seat reservations or tickets. If you are bringing a wheelchair, please let Fr Shaun or Fr Mark know before Friday 22nd January so that the appropriate space can be reserved in the Cathedral.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS – CHILDREN’S NATIVITY TABLEAU

At the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 6.00pm 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 **5.30pm** for a rehearsal for the Mass.

OFFERTORY BOX NO. 146

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are now on sale in the repository.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

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CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Everyone is welcome at Carols before Midnight Mass from 10.00pm on Christmas Eve.

PATRONAL FEAST - ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - 27TH DECEMBER

At the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 27th December we will celebrate our Patronal Feast. We hope that many parishioners will join us for this special occasion.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Fair a success. Great teamwork. 1st prize in the raffle was won by Isabella Mitchell, 2nd Harriet Elsdon, 3rd Katy Pione. A full list of all the winners and the money raised is on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The party is this **Sunday 20th December** immediately after the 10.30am Mass, and is open to all children of primary school age and younger. Please bring the food to the church hall BEFORE the Mass.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards are now available in the repository.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

COUNTING THE WEEKLY OFFERING

We are a small team of eight Counters, which means that we each count once in each month. The counting takes place after the 9.00am Mass and usually takes about half an hour. If we were able to increase our number, even by just a few, it would help spread the load so if any Parishioner feels that they would like to offer their services please contact Don Williamson on don.williamson@btinternet.com or telephone 01923 286790.

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.

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 this **Sunday 20 December** and would be grateful for help from adults and children of all ages.

RED MISSION BOXES

Many thanks to all our most kind and dedicated box holders. I am so happy to be able to tell you that the December quarterly collection amounted to £250.33 and the amount for the whole year was £698.57. With Gift Aid of £82.21 this gives a grand total for 2015 of £780.78. A wonderful total from our little parish.

	This week 19 / 20 December				Next week 26 / 27 December			
	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Sunday Counters	Welcomer	Reader	Communion	Sunday Counters
6pm Vigil	A Dennis	A Penn	E O'Sullivan	Marguerite Watkins Ann Brew	No Vigil Mass			Francis Holly
9am Mass	D Treanor	S Marston	L Turnbull		M Calvert	L Munro	J Hale	Peter Mackie
19 December	Laundry: S Treanor							