



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](mailto:shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:**  
Fr Damian Ryan  
[damianryan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:damianryan@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator:**  
Kerry Van Rensburg  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Youth Worker:**  
Anke Vos  
[ankevos@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ankevos@rcdow.org.uk)

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

Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) - 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

### SUNDAY THOUGHT

God is totally committed to helping us become more deeply human, wiser and peace-filled. His love has the power to radically transform the lives of those who truly accept it. However, such transformation is a work of cooperation with God, which the Gospel calls repentance. Repentance means “change”, not just in one’s moral behaviour, but above all in one’s way of thinking. It involves a new way of looking at life, of relating to God and to others. Repentance makes the difference between a life of quiet desperation and a life of meaning and purpose.

Paul’s cheerful letter to the Philippians was written from prison. He was awaiting trial in Rome, but this was not enough to rob him of his joy. The secret to his unflinching optimism was his faith in Christ. This faith expressed itself in two important attitudes: an attitude of gratitude for the past, and an attitude of confidence in the future anchored in God’s faithfulness. Paul thanks God for his spiritual children the Philippians, and he waits with confident expectation for the Last Day when God will bring his work of salvation to completion.

This Advent most of us could do well to re-learn what it is to be truly joyful, and to share that joy with others. Let’s not grumble and begrudge those who have a different wish list this Christmas, who don’t yet see our Saviour as the greatest gift of all. But - since we believe that he is, we must show it! Pray for all that their love may increase “in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value” (Phil. 1:9-10). Instead of lamenting the commercialisation and materialism of the secular Christmas, or focusing on how “stressful” it is, “take off your robe of mourning and misery” (Bar. 5:1), assume the optimism of St. Paul and share with the world the mark of Christianity - our joy.

## SAFEGUARDING REPS.

**Rickmansworth Parish**  
Dave Pione 01923 772606  
Alison Foster 01923 440951

**Mill End Parish**  
Matt McKiernan 01923 493747

**Chorleywood Parish**  
Jennifer McEwen 01923 284402

**Diocesan Safeguarding  
Coordinator** 0207 798 9356

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Baruch 5:1-9

**Response to Psalm:** What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

### *Next Sunday’s Readings*

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18 (Gospel)

## LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION

**Rickmansworth:** Envelopes: £563.37; Loose Plate: £363.37; Standing Orders: £703.08 **Total: £1630.43**

**Mill End:** Envelopes: £267.50; Loose Plate: £136.85; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £581.31**

**Chorleywood:** The Offertory collection for the month of October - **£2366.85**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.00am 11.30am	Coffee and Tea after Mass Advent Fair - Hall	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
<b>MON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.30am - 11.30am 2.00pm 5.00pm - 6.00pm 8.00pm 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall Wedding CCP Signing (Nursery and Reception) - Hall Chorleywood PPC Meeting - Presbytery Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
<b>TUE 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.00am for 10.15am 7.30pm	Lectio Divina - Upper Room Rickmansworth PPC Meeting - Presbytery	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>WED 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	5.30pm - 6.30pm 7.30pm - 8.30pm 7.30pm	CCP Signing (Nursery and Reception) - Hall Advent Holy House and Confessions Choir Rehearsal	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John Fisher
<b>THU 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	2.15pm for 2.30pm 8.00pm	Quiet Space Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St Peters, Mill End Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.00am 7.00pm - 8.45pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Alpha Youth - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	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
<b>SAT 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Abraham & Beta Netto RIP	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) Robert Gibson (Ints.)	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
<b>SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> James Donnelly RIP <b>11am</b> Ina Murphy RIP (Anniv.) <b>6pm</b> Jonathan Pione RIP (Anniv.)	<b>10.30am</b> Gerty Morris RIP	<b>9am</b> Fr Charles Michael Reddan RIP
<b>MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>9.30am</b> For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish	<b>9.30am</b> Lee Tomlinson RIP	
<b>TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Marian Webster RIP		<b>9.30am</b> Fr Michael Lambert RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>		<b>9.30am</b> Jill Doherty RIP	
<b>THURS 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>ST LUCY, VIRGIN &amp; MARTYR</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Thomas Taylor RIP		
<b>FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>ST JOHN OF THE CROSS</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Anne Melling RIP		<b>9.30am</b> For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
<b>SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Fr Michael Lambert RIP	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) Fr Michael Lambert RIP
<b>SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Peter Moss RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Alan Terry RIP <b>6pm</b> Auna Murphy RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Patricia Fergus RIP	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parish

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

**Our Lady Help of Christians:** Kathleen Collins, Wendy Goldsmith, Kathy Wright, Brenda Reynolds, Olive Cordery, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, Olive Kiener, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Christina Thomas, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townend and Clive Powell-Williams.

**St John the Evangelist:** Rita Murray; Imogen Bailey, Harry Lennon, John Connor, Michael Dixon, Mary Gardner, Robert Gibson and Jimmy Hughes.

**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, Kitty Finucane, Don Williamson, Betty McGuinness, Anne Trenchard and Vicky Williams.

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### LETTER FROM FR SHAUN - LEADING OUT OF A TEAM

Two weeks ago Fr Shaun wrote a letter to all parishioners announcing and explaining his decision to create a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to work with him in developing and delivering the renewal of our parishes following the principles of Divine Renovation. The SLT will begin its work in January 2019 and will consist of Fr Shaun, Fr Damian, Anke Vos (Parish Youth Coordinator), Anne Lorrimer-Roberts (Chorleywood), Geraldine Page (Mill End) and Paul Forrest (Rickmansworth). Fr Shaun's letter is available on the parish websites under the *Making Missionary Disciples* tab.

### RECOMMISSIONING OF READERS

At the Sunday Masses this weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent) all of our Readers will be re-commissioned.

### PETER WARD RIP

The funeral of Peter Ward will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at **11.30am on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**, followed by committal at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

### 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 next weekend. Thank you.

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET 2018

The leaflet giving the times and locations of Advent Reconciliation and Christmas Masses across the three parishes is now available. Please note there will be 6.00pm Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, this was omitted in error. Please take a copy home with you this weekend.

### CONFIRMATION 2019

We are now beginning the process of application for the Confirmation programme for 2019. To be eligible the candidates should be beginning to build a habit of prayer and involvement in the life of the Church, be in Year 9 or above, and must have been baptised in the Catholic Church. Those young people who wish to be confirmed, and meet these requirements, should write a letter (no emails please) to Fr Shaun answering one of these two questions:

- 1) What type of Christian man or woman do you envision being in the future?
- 2) What steps do you need to take to get closer to God?

Please be sure to include your full name, address and the email address and phone number of a parent. The closing date by which you must have written to Fr Shaun is **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019**. No applications will be considered after this date.

### CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2019

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December** – 5.00pm to 6.00pm and **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – 5.30pm to 6.30pm. 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.

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December.** St John's Church Hall, Mill End. 11.30am - 1.30pm. Children from all three parishes, who are primary school age or younger, are most welcome. Children cannot be left unattended and must be accompanied by an adult. There is no pre-booking required and there is no charge. Details about what food to bring will be in the newsletter nearer the time. The children have a great time and it's a chance for parents to get together.

### CATHOLIC WORKER FARM - CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Thank you to everyone who has donated toiletries for the ladies at CWF. We now have plenty and the boxes will be removed from the three church porches. Your generosity is much appreciated. SVP.

### CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2020

Parents with a child who will be applying for a Nursery / Reception place in a Catholic School for **September 2020** are asked to collect a letter and Mass attendance card from Fr Shaun or Fr Damian after Mass this weekend. Please read the letter carefully, as it contains **very important** information regarding what is required of you in order for us to be able to provide a Certificate of Catholic Practice for your family. ***Please note that St John the Evangelist Primary School and St Anthony's Primary School no longer require a CCP for the 2020 school admissions.***

### SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next SVP Community Lunch is on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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.

### FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY - A THREE PARISH CELEBRATION OF THE POET ROBBIE BURNS

There will be Pipes and Dancing girls and Scottish Fayre in the neutral surroundings of the Chorleywood Memorial Hall. A chance for the men to show off their knees and for the ladies to bring decorum to the occasion. **PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY.** More info to follow.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### ADVENT FAIR

A big thank you - to all those who supported the Advent Fair last weekend by attending, baking and donating. It was a huge success and we received wonderful feedback from those who attended and our stall holders. The final sum raised will be announced as soon as possible.

### 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 Damian.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the PPC will take place on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. Parishioners with ideas or suggestions they wish the PPC to discuss should contact the Chair at [rickmansworthppcchair@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworthppcchair@rcdow.org.uk). Alternatively, parishioners can approach an individual PPC member (the names of all PPC members are listed on the parish website).

### INVITATION TO COME JOIN THE FOLK GROUP

With Christmas approaching, we would love to welcome new singers and instrumentalists (woodwind and string) to the Folk Group. We meet every Sunday at 5.30pm to rehearse before Mass at 6pm. There is no need to audition, but we do ask that instrumentalists be at Grade 4 standard. So, why not come and give us a try? We would love to have you. For any more information, you can email Katy Pione ([cepione@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cepione@hotmail.co.uk)).

**200 CLUB** - congratulations to Judy Gordon (£37), Tom McAteer (£27.75), John Reid (£18.50) & Anita Khurwal (£9.25)

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

**PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR** will take place after the 10.30am Mass this **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December**.

### PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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

### OUR CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR, FINAL NOTICE!!

Firstly, so many thanks to everybody who helped in every way towards the happiness and success of our fair. I am pleased to be able to report that the final figure is £2,601, an excellent figure and only a few pounds less than last year, but will still do such a lot of good for our charities. Each of our charities, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Africa, the Cardinal Hume Centre for the homeless in London and the village of Sebeya in Northern Ethiopia will shortly be receiving their one third share of our proceeds. Many thanks again.

**COFFEE AND TEA** is being served after Mass today, Sunday. Please stay for a while if you can.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. Parishioners with ideas or suggestions they wish the PPC to discuss should submit these to Malcolm Golin (PPC Secretary) [malcolmgolin@outlook.com](mailto:malcolmgolin@outlook.com). Alternatively, parishioners can approach an individual PPC member (the names of all PPC members are listed on the parish website).

### CHURCH SECURITY

To provide the appropriate degree of security for the church building, an additional external lock will be fitted to the front door on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Spare keys will be passed to the registered key holders. If you have any questions about the operation of the lock, please contact Alan Opie (07801 140422).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

If you can help as Welcomer, Reader or Minister of Communion, please sign up on the list on the noticeboard.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We have a newly formed St John Fisher Church social committee, whose aim is to organise social events for the St John Fisher Church parishioners. The focus of these events is building community and not charitable fundraising, which is already very well established and successfully run by other groups in the parish. The committee members are Francis Holly, Jo Whelan, Patsy Tyden, Toni D'Urso, Maureen Fields and Magda Bychawski. We are hoping to have our first event in February and will be in touch with more details after Christmas.

### RED MISSIO BOXES

Please can these be returned to church this weekend for the December end of the year collection. Thank you.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
<b>8 &amp; 9 December</b>	E O'Sullivan	A Penn	P Goble	A Opie	M Calvert	J Hale	Carolyn &	A McReynolds
<b>15 &amp; 16 December</b>	M Bychawski	GF	M Latimer	U Lean	M Golin	AM Farnsworth	Don & Marguerite	J Whelan

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### “I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME...”

The chaplaincy at Watford Hospital are look for volunteers who would be willing to spend an hour or two once a week visiting patients. This is a very rewarding role and the patients are always very glad to have someone to talk with while in hospital. Training and support is provided for all our volunteers. For an informal chat about volunteering please contact: Anthony (Head of Chaplaincy) tel: 01923 217994 email: [spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk](mailto:spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk)