



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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 - GAUDETE SUNDAY

### SUNDAY THOUGHT

We are halfway through the Advent season - the third Sunday, also called "Gaudete Sunday". "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice", and it comes from the first word of our Second Reading from St. Paul, which echoes the theme of rejoicing begun in the First: "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

We may ask: how can someone rejoice always when they are surrounded by apparently insurmountable problems and difficulties? Anxiety affects many of us, and we can be particularly plagued in the run up to Christmas with the secular pressure for everything to be "perfect" (homes, gifts, food, our families and ourselves). Illness and financial worries do not disappear at Christmas; the approach of the New Year can heighten worries. Sometimes the season brings sad memories of deceased or estranged loved ones. Paul gives us the answer: "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Phil. 4:6) Paul does not ask us to deny that we've got problems or to pretend as if they are not there. He instead urges us to face our problems squarely: in every situation, in every difficulty or problem, in all circumstances, we must take them all to the Lord in prayer. Prayer is indeed the key to overcoming or coping with anxiety, because it reassures us of God's presence and reminds us of our need to rely on his strength, not on our own. This is how we can arrive at that inner peace - the peace that God gives, the peace that nothing else in the world can give.

"Let nothing disturb you, nothing cause you fear. All things pass; God is unchanging. Patience obtains all. Whoever has God needs nothing else; God alone suffices." *St. Teresa of Avila*

## 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:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18  
**Response to Psalm:** Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> 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; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44 (Gospel)

## LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

**Rickmansworth:** Envelopes: £337.96; Loose Plate: £379.22; Standing Orders: £703.08 **Total: £1420.26**

**Mill End:** Envelopes: £408.65; Loose Plate: £170.18; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £755.79**

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	11.30am - 1.30pm 12.30pm 12.45pm	Children's Christmas Party - Hall SVP Community Lunch - Hall Baptisms	St John the Evangelist St John's School Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>MON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.30am - 11.30am 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
<b>TUE 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>			
<b>WED 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	11.30am 7.30pm - 8.30pm 7.30pm	Funeral - Peter Ward RIP Advent Holy Hour and Confessions Choir Rehearsal	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John Fisher
<b>THU 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>FRI 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER</b>	10.00am 6.00pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Decorating the Church for Christmas	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
<b>SAT 22<sup>ND</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>SATURDAY</b> 15 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<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</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER <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
<b>MONDAY</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Fr Michael Lambert RIP	<b>9.30am</b> Michael Sullivan RIP	
<b>TUESDAY</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Leila Robinson RIP (Anniv.)		<b>9.30am</b> Fr Michael Lambert RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER		<b>9.30am</b> Josie Taggart (Ints.)	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 20 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> John Coxon RIP (Anniv.)		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 21 <sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Viktor Boehler RIP		<b>9.30am</b> For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
<b>SATURDAY</b> 22 <sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER	<b>10.00am</b> Fr Michael Lambert RIP	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	<b>6pm</b> (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
<b>SUNDAY</b> 23 <sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Mary Casey (Ints.) <b>11am</b> Mark Banks RIP <b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parish	<b>10.30am</b> Frances Carroll RIP	<b>9am</b> Fr Michael Lambert RIP

### 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

### RITE OF ACCEPTANCE AND WELCOME

This Sunday we celebrate two combined rites of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) process: the Rite of Acceptance for those who are not baptised, and the Rite of Welcome for those who have been baptised in another Christian tradition. This is the first time our inquirers will publicly declare their intention to become full members of the Catholic Church at Easter, and an opportunity for us to welcome them! Please continue to encourage and pray for our new Catechumens (unbaptised) Lucy Insua, Theresa Jackson, Beatrix Li, Alexandra Mallet-Collins, Robyn Sheeky, Steve Siu, Lucy -Jane Smith and Leanne Willcox; and Candidates (baptised) Peter Baxter and Deborah Booth, during this very special time.

### 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.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION – DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Following the great success of last year's Reading Groups, and the very positive response to Alpha in our parishes, I am delighted to announce that next year we are launching a regular programme of small group faith formation. Called **Discipleship Groups**, these groups will revolve around short, discussion-based courses with a focus on a variety of faith formation topics (such as catechesis, spirituality and Bible study). Each Group will meet weekly for approximately 4-8 weeks in parishioners' homes, and we are planning to hold 4-5 of these events per year. The Groups will be temporary, only meeting for a particular programme with no expectation beyond that. They will be open to every person, and it is my sincere hope that each of you will consider attending at least one event a year. I am very grateful to Samantha Benson, for accepting my invitation to take on the role of Discipleship Groups Coordinator. Samantha will be building a team of parishioners to work with her in delivering this important aspect of our parish renewal. Our inaugural Discipleship Groups will begin in Lent 2019 - more details to follow! *Fr Shaun*

### THREE PARISHES' PILGRIMAGE 2019 – LORETO, RAVENNA, BOLOGNA AND FERRARA

The 2019 three parishes' pilgrimage will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019. We will spend two nights in the town of Loreto to visit the Basilica of the Holy House and five night in the historic town of Ravenna, where we will have the opportunity to visit several churches containing the finest examples of Byzantine mosaics in the western world. From Ravenna we will also have two day trips: to the city of Bologna (with a visit to the shrine of St Dominic) and to the beautiful Renaissance city of Ferrara. Itineraries and booking forms are available in each parish. There are only a limited number of single rooms available. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

**WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2019** - now available priced £4.50 each

### 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.

### 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. The children have a great time and it's a chance for parents to get together.

### 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 1.00pm. 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

### 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 £1346.90 for charity – a really brilliant result, due to a great deal of hard work and generosity by many people! *Fr Shaun*

### 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.

### 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).

### STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

As we come towards Christmas, please don't forget to save the stamps received on cards and parcels, for the Missions. Just cut about an inch or so around the sides, and leave them in the box in the church porch. As well as this, a little reminder, please ask for Nativity stamps at the post Office when buying your own! *Sheila Harrington*

**CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CANDLES** on sale in the repository.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### 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! Thank you to all those who came along and supported our fair. Congratulations to our Raffle winners, Ann Hows won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £100, Graham Wilson won 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of £50, Michael Flannigan won 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of a Bottle of Baileys and Robert won 4<sup>th</sup> Prize of a bottle of Vodka. We raised an amazing £830.09 half of which will be donated to our CAFOD Connect2 project in Sebeya.

### GROWING IN FAITH CAMPAIGN - PARISH PROJECT

At the beginning of December we received the sum of £2,764 from the Growing in Faith parish project fund. This will be used to off-set some of the costs of re-ordering the Sanctuary. I am very grateful to all those parishioners who generously supported the campaign. *Fr Shaun*

### 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.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS, ADVENT & CHURCH ART CALENDARS** are now available in the repository.

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### GROWING IN FAITH CAMPAIGN – PARISH PROJECT

At the beginning of December we received the sum of £4,950 from the Growing in Faith parish project fund. This will be used to off-set some of the costs of re-ordering the church. I am very grateful to all those parishioners who have and continue to so generously support the campaign. *Fr Shaun*

### PPC MINUTES

The Minutes of the PPC meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 are now available on the parish notice board in the lobby and on the Pastoral Council page of the parish website. A few 'hard copies' are available in the lobby for those without internet access.

### 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.

### CHRISTCHURCH KENYAN CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Thank you so much for all the silver foil and cans, please keep them coming. Also bring your used stamps to jar in lobby. We also sell old mobile phone, golf balls, stamp collections, etc. £1,000 has recently been sent for two years of these sales. Any queries phone Mary 284975. Thank you.

### 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.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
15 & 16 December	M Bychawski	GF	M Latimer	U Lean	M Golin	AM Farnsworth	Don & Marguerite	J Whelan
22 & 23 December	V & A Cray	M Foggo	J McEwen	M Mackie	M Fields	E Price	Francis & Yasmin	S Tarrant