



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 Damian Ryan
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:
Kerry Van Rensburg
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

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 @ChessValleyRC

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 6TH JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Today we celebrate the solemnity of Epiphany, and also the Magi who brought Jesus their costly and symbolic gifts of gold, myrrh, and frankincense. The term Epiphany is from a Greek verb which means “to reveal,” or “to manifest.” It recognises the many ways through which God has revealed himself to us and our world.

We hear in our first reading the Prophet Isaiah describe an incredible longing to return from exile, and what that would mean. We know ourselves that this is still mankind’s desire: to return to God from the exile that we experience in sinfulness. Isaiah foretells the story of Magi, how “all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord”. Indeed, the kings are a symbol in Matthew’s Gospel for all the peoples of the world of every background, who could now come and worship the Lord. There are many lessons for us in their story. The Magi came to offer Christ genuine worship - like theirs, our worship must be sincere and from our hearts, not the false worship proposed by Herod. Like the kings, we must be ready to offer Jesus something precious. The best gift we can offer God for his goodness to us is ourselves. It is the gift of good life, the gift of love; the gift of obedience, of humility, of peace and of sacrifice for one another.

Another important lesson is that we must continue to follow the light that Jesus shows us, trusting that he will never mislead us. Each of us has a star that we follow, something that draws us and guides us in a particular direction. As well as guidance through prayer, our stars are people, places and things here on earth that show us the way, that inspire us, that attract us to a good and holy life. And through all of these, Jesus is constantly working to guide us to God. We must not allow ourselves to be deceived or distracted on our journey by the Herods of this world. Jesus Christ is always the brightest star - he is our way, our truth and our life.

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

AT THE MASS DURING THE DAY

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Response to Psalm: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Communion Antiphon: We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Next Sunday’s Readings

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16. 21-22 (Gospel)

LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envelopes: £644.55; Loose Plate: £281.11; Standing Orders: £703.08 **Total: £1628.74**

Mill End: Envelopes: £247.61; Loose Plate: £158.73; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £583.30**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of November - **£2384.73**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 6TH JANUARY			
MON 7TH JANUARY	10.30am - 11.30am 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 8TH JANUARY			
WED 9TH JANUARY			
THU 10TH JANUARY	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 11TH JANUARY	10.00am	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 12TH JANUARY	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 5 TH JANUARY	10.00am Fr Robert Barry RIP	6pm (Vigil) Mary & Billy Kerins	6pm (Vigil) Patrick & Philip Dowling RIP
SUNDAY 6 TH JANUARY <i>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Violet Thorpe RIP 11am Jack Crowley RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Reg Viner RIP (Anniv.)	9am Walter Cockle RIP
MONDAY 7 TH JANUARY	9.30am Fr Bob Barry RIP	9.30am Eileen Corcoran	
TUESDAY 8 TH JANUARY	9.30am Denise Waters RIP		9.30am Fr Bob Barry RIP
WEDNESDAY 9 TH JANUARY		9.30am Brian Feehely RIP	
THURSDAY 10 TH JANUARY	9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish		
FRIDAY 11 TH JANUARY	9.30am Fr Bob Barry RIP		9.30am For the Sick & Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 12 TH JANUARY	10.00am Brian Feehely RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) Declena & Eamon Keely	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 13 TH JANUARY <i>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Jimmy Logan RIP (Anniv.) 11am Michael Jubber RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Zigmunt Kakulski RIP	9am Barbara Cannon 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, Vicky Williams and Paul Kennett.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

PHILIP ELLIS RIP

The funeral of Philip Ellis will take place at Chilterns Crematorium at **10.45am** on **Monday 7th January**. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY IS OUR THREE PARISH CELEBRATION OF THE POET ROBBIE BURNS

If you did not get your invitation last weekend, please collect an envelope on the way out of church today. Bring your friends! Please complete the menu choices and enclose a cheque made out to Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth and leave in the sacristy. You can also pay by BACS to A. Parker - Barclays. Sort 20 37 15. Account No 20490377. This promises to be a fun evening with outside catering and Scottish amusements. Further information from Adrian - 07503 898689 or email adrian@justparkers.co.uk

ALPHA 2019!

I am excited that our three parishes will be beginning 2019 with a new Alpha! It will run on Tuesdays from 22nd January to 2nd April at 7.30-9.30pm at Our Lady's parish hall, with an Alpha Day on Saturday 2nd March. Alpha is an opportunity for everyone and anyone to explore the big questions: life, faith and meaning. Each evening will include food, a short and engaging video designed to generate conversation, and a small group discussion where there's no obligation to say anything and there is nothing you can't say - seriously! Alpha is free of charge, though a small donation is suggested towards food.

If you registered for Alpha last term and didn't get a place, you may have received an email inviting you onto this Alpha. If so, please reply ASAP to Mike & Leona Roche at chessvalleyalpha@rcdow.org.uk or on 07505 307323 if you wish to attend. It will be assumed you are unable to attend if you have not replied by Friday 11th January. Places are limited again due to constraints on space, and priority will be given to those who don't go to church or who haven't attended Alpha before. I also hope that we will have a mix of parishioners from across our three parishes. If there are still places remaining on 11th January, registration forms will be available at the back of church next weekend for you to complete and hand in to myself or Fr Damian. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Mike and Leona. *Fr Shaun*

THREE PARISHES' PILGRIMAGE 2019 - LORETO, RAVENNA, BOLOGNA & FERRARA

The 2019 three parishes' pilgrimage will take place from 28th September to 5th October. 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.

ALPHA YOUTH

Alpha Youth is a place to explore the big questions of life, faith, and meaning. In a series of 10 sessions you will be able to ask every question you want to ask, and say anything you want to say. Every evening starts with a hot meal (come hungry - free of charge, donations welcome), followed by a game, a good video and great conversation. No pressure, no judgment, no wrong answers. Practical details: every Friday from 7.00pm until 8.45pm, 25th January until 29th March 2019, at Our Lady's parish hall. Please let Anke know if you're planning to attend (ankevos@rcdow.org.uk) so we can count you in for catering. The course includes an overnight in Pinner Friday evening 1st March until Saturday evening 2nd March.

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 21st January 2019**. No applications will be considered after this date.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2019 - now available priced £4.50 each

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

Are appealing for donations of long-life milk, toilet rolls and cleaning detergents for the Catholic Worker Farm who provide accommodation for refugees at the farm and at Mary House. Collection boxes in the church porches. *Could we politely ask that nothing else be left in the porch other than the requested items.* Thank you.

MUM'S CONNECT - 10.30AM TO 11.30AM IN OUR LADY'S CHURCH HALL

Come and join our friendly group! Plenty of toys for the children and cake and chat for the mums! If you have any questions, please contact Caitlin Boshoff on caitbos22@gmail.com or 07484 754843.

WATFORD, HEMEL AND ST. ALBANS NHS HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

On admission to hospital, please ensure that your religion is registered and ask for a visit from hospital chaplaincy team. Chaplains visit the wards during the week and will organise sacramental and pastoral care for you; they also provide an 'on-call' service in case of emergency. Please let Fr Shaun or Fr Damian know if you or a close relative are in hospital. To contact the hospital chaplaincy directly by calling **01923 217994** or **0777 659 8704** referrals can also be made via email: spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP

We are looking for additional people to join our team of adult leaders working with children in any of our three sections Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. *This could be your opportunity to make a difference for the young people of the parishes.* New leaders will have plenty of support from the other leaders within the Group. If you would like to know more about what is involved in a leadership role, please contact our Group Scout Leader - Chris Doran at 6thRickySeaScouts@gmail.com or call 07792 103736. For places in Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, please register your interest via our website: www.6thrickyseascouts.co.uk

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

THANK YOU

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who played any part in making our Christmas Masses so special. Particular thanks to our organists Susana Tierney, Katy Pione and Austin Finan, to Cormac Purtill for coordinating the music and to the Choir, and the Folk Group for the wonderful music at all the Masses. Thanks too to Annie Kent and her team of flower arrangers and helpers for decorating the church so beautifully, to the parishioners who helped with the children's presentation of the Nativity and to our Welcomers, Church Cleaners, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Readers and Ministers of Communion. The hard work of so many people ensured worthy, beautiful and joyful celebrations of our Saviour's birth. On behalf of Fr Damian and myself, I also wish to express our thanks for the many Christmas cards and gifts that we have received from parishioners. Your generosity and kindness is very much appreciated. *Fr Shaun*

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The minutes of the PPC meeting held on 11th December 2018 are now available on the porch notice board and on the Pastoral Council page of the parish website. A few 'hard copies' are available at the back of the church for those without internet access. The final meeting of the PPC will take place on **Wednesday 16th January**. Parishioners with ideas or suggestions they wish the PPC to discuss should contact the Chair at rickmansworthppcchair@rcdow.org.uk. Alternatively parishioners can ask a PPC member known to them to raise the matter on their behalf.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Many thanks to all who have saved their used stamps for the Missions. Everyone's small contributions can make a difference. The box is in the church porch. Please keep them coming! *Sheila Harrington.*

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

THANK YOU

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who played any part in making our Christmas Masses so special. Particular thanks to Katy Pione, Jo Rodrigues, and the choir for the wonderful music, to Liz Townsend and all those who helped with the children's Nativity presentation and to our Welcomers, Church Cleaners, Readers, Altar Servers and Ministers of Communion. Special thanks to Mary Fagan for all her hard work behind the scenes. The hard work and dedication of so many people ensured worthy, beautiful and joyful celebrations of our Saviour's birth. On behalf of Fr Damian and myself, I also wish to express our thanks for the many Christmas cards and gifts that we have received from parishioners. Your generosity and kindness is very much appreciated. *Fr Shaun*

COFFEE AND TEA AFTER 10.30AM MASS

A reminder that tea and coffee is available in the parish hall after the 10.30am Mass each Sunday. Do please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

THANK YOU

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who played any part in making our Christmas Masses so special. Particular thanks to Patricia O'Sullivan and the instrumentalists and the choir, for the wonderful music, to those who helped decorate the church and arranged the flowers, and to our Welcomers, Readers, Altar Servers and Ministers of Communion. The hard work of so many people ensured worthy, beautiful and joyful celebrations of our Saviour's birth.

On behalf of Fr Damian and myself, I also wish to express our thanks for the many Christmas cards and gifts that we received from parishioners. Your generosity and kindness is very much appreciated. *Fr Shaun*

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 soon.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
5 & 6 January	A Roberts	S Hoy	E O'Sullivan	M Fields	T D'Urso	L Turnbull	Carolyn & Francis	
12 & 13 January	J Ingham	J Stratton	P Goble	J Whelan	C Holly	J Hale	Una & Marguerite	

DIOCESAN NOTICES

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes takes place on Saturday 9th February at 2.00pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during Mass. All are welcome to attend. A special invitation is extended to all who are sick or infirm, all hospital chaplains, doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants and all who work in healthcare. If you or someone you know plan to attend in a wheelchair, please let Fr Shaun or Fr Damian know by Sunday 27th January.

"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