



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>

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
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Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
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Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
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Chorleywood

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) - 1ST DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Advent is a period of waiting, anticipation, and preparation for the celebration of a past event - Christ's birth - whilst also preparing for Christ's return in glory. Yet when Jesus warns us to be ready for "the coming of the Son of Man", he doesn't just mean an event in the past or the future, but that he (indeed, the entirety of the triune God) is continually with us, through times of joy and sadness, virtue and sin. God is always with us, and it is that presence which Advent celebrates.

The central message of Advent, and Christianity, is: "Stay awake, because you do not know when the Master is coming". Our readings today speak of the urgent need to wake up and be ready to receive Christ into our lives. This season is a pause which interrupts our daily lives and reminds us to think about what is really important. Like Lent, Advent is a time of conversion: of heightened and responsible commitment to the true meaning and hope of our existence. Like Lent, Advent is an opportunity for change; but we miss the point if we think that Advent comes around every year. This may be our last Advent - it certainly will be for millions of people. We need to be awake, and we need to be watchful, waiting expectantly, for something unprecedented to happen. We should look ahead to this time, whenever it may be, with both anticipation and consideration, to seek repentance for the sins we have committed, and to firm our resolve against the world's ceaseless temptations.

During Advent, the language we use, the symbols we employ, the readings we hear, are all about a God who comes - not from afar, but who is standing, knocking, at our door. He is present with us, and all the time we are being challenged to accept or reject him. Each one of us can decide to be either prepared for this coming of the Son of Man, or unprepared; through the lives we live and the moral choices we make. "One will be taken, and one will be left" - it is the most serious decision of all.

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Dave Pione 01923 772606
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
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Chorleywood Parish

Laura Turnbull 01923 897899
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**Diocesan Safeguarding
Coordinator** 0207 798 9356

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

1st Reading:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Response to Psalm:

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

2nd Reading:

Romans 13:11-14

Gospel:

Matthew 24:37-44

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (Gospel)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
rickmansworthalphayouth@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

Margaret Simon - Youth
Ministry Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Rickmansworth: Envs £329.89; Loose £316.23; S/Orders £703.08; **Total £1349.20**

Mill End: Envs: £239.10; Loose: £179.78; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £595.84**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of October - **£2432.88**

Sick & Retired Priests: Rickmansworth £515.79; Mill End £310.54; Chorleywood £228.50

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 1ST DECEMBER	9.00am - 1.00pm 7.00pm	Advent Fair Afterparty	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 2ND DECEMBER	10.30am - 12.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall RCIA - Upper Room Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 3RD DECEMBER	6.30pm 7.30pm	CCP Signing (Nursery/Reception) - Presbytery Advent Praise and Worship Evening	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 4TH DECEMBER			
THU 5TH DECEMBER	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 6TH DECEMBER	10.00am 7.00pm - 8.45pm 7.00pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Alpha Youth - Hall CCP Signing (Nursery/Reception) - Presbytery	Our Lady Help of Christians <i>Our Lady Help of Christians</i> Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 7TH DECEMBER	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 30TH NOVEMBER <i>St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland</i>	10.00am Holy Souls	6pm (Vigil) Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Oliver Digiorgio-Miller RIP 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm Ellie Enright RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Hernando Ariza RIP (Anniv.)	9am Malcolm Stacey RIP
MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER	9.30am Dan McGillicuddy RIP	9.30am George Daly RIP	
TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER	9.30am Eileen Jeffreys RIP		9.30am Fr Peter Stevens RIP
WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	
THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER	9.30am Philemone Cawley RIP		
FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER	9.30am Pat Breen (Ints.)		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER	10.00am Joe Olohan RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Phil Smyth RIP
SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Ina Murphy RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Ann Murphy RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Mary D'Souza RIP	9am Desmond Jenkins RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Eileen Durkan, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Joan Townsend and Maureen Douglas.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray; John Connor, Michael Dixon, Alfredo Rock and Joan Hart

St John Fisher: Nora O'Toole, Francis De Souza, Georgina Kelham, Pete Murray, Steve Kibbey, Matthew Leone, Jean-Pierre Roche, Angela Hoy, Pat Finucane, Colin Dowling, Kitty Finucane, Don Williamson, Betty McGuinness, Anne Trenchard, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett and Ann Penn (please, no phone calls)

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

ANNUAL COMMISSIONING OF READERS

Next Sunday is Bible Sunday. At all the Masses next weekend (7th/8th December) we will celebrate the annual commissioning of Readers in our parishes. All Readers will be invited forward after the homily to be commissioned afresh for a new year of ministry. We have now begun a year focused on God's Word in scripture and Fr Shaun's and Fr Damian's homily will be focused on the importance of the worthy proclamation of the Word at Mass.

JESSIE PIONE RIP

The ashes of Jessie Pione RIP will be interred in the Garden of Rest after the 10.00am Mass on Saturday 14th December.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET 2019

The leaflet giving the times and locations of Advent Praise and Worship, Advent Reconciliation and Christmas Masses across the three parishes is now available. Please take a copy home with you this weekend.

FR ANTHONY ARMSTRONG – MASS OF THANKSGIVING

At the 6.00pm Mass on Sunday 5th January 2020 at Our Lady's, Rickmansworth, Fr Anthony Armstrong will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for his ordination to the priesthood, which took place on 1st November this year in the USA. The Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the hall. We hope that many parishioners will come and share in this special celebration.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2020

Fr Shaun will be available for the signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice on **Tuesday 3rd December from 6.00pm to 6.30pm** and **Friday 6th December from 7.00pm to 7.30pm**. These sessions will be held in the Presbytery at Our Lady's, 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.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2021

Parents with a child who will be applying for a Nursery / Reception place in a Catholic School for September 2021 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 2021 school admissions.

THE BIBLE COURSE

As a result of many factors, the Discipleship Team have had to defer the next discipleship groups on The Bible Course until the New Year. As a result, there will be no Advent course running for the discipleship groups this year. In the meantime, if you wish to engage in an Advent programme, you may like to collect a 'Walk with Me' booklet mentioned by Fr Shaun and Fr Damian which are available at the back of the church. Thank you for your understanding and will be in touch shortly with details for a rescheduled start date. Margaret, Judy, Richard, Angela and Sharon (The Discipleship Team)

ST JOHN FISHER SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SJF Social Committee have booked tickets for the Live Screening from the Royal Opera House of La Bohème on Monday 3rd February, 7.30pm, at The Elgiva Cinema, Chesham <https://elgiva.com/shows/la-boheme-royal-opera-house/>. Tickets cost £15 each. The Committee have 10 tickets remaining for the event and would like to invite parishioners from Our Lady's and St John the Evangelist to join us. If you would like to purchase tickets please phone or text Francis Holly on 0795 6410908 as soon as possible. Tickets are allocated on a first come first served basis. Payment for the tickets need to be made in cash, which can be placed in an envelope with your name and address and given to Fr Shaun, Fr Damian, or hand it in at the Parish Office in the Presbytery. Once received by the Committee a receipt will be issued. Tickets to follow in the New Year.

SVP "VINNIE PACKS - URGENT: CAN YOU HELP?

Every winter we help the SVP to make up several thousand "Vinnie Packs" of thermal socks, gloves, a woolly hat and other items. They are distributed to the homeless living on our city streets to help them cope with winter weather. Helpers are urgently needed to make up the packs. Details of the assembly venue, in Wembley, and the first set of dates are on the notice board in the church porch and will be updated regularly in the coming weeks. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to help in this crucial work - the pack contents are greatly appreciated by our clients."

CATHOLIC WORKER FARM: CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Thankyou to everyone who has donated toiletries for the ladies at the CWF. We now have sufficient and the collection boxes will shortly be removed. It is much appreciated. Chess Valley SVP.

SVP SUDAN CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society carries out most of the charitable work in the Sudan. This Christmas we are making an appeal on behalf of the baby-feeding station in Khartoum. People in this area are destitute, they lack food, medicine and clean water. Would you or someone you know like to receive a certificate for their Christmas gift showing that they have provided for some of the poorest people in the world? You can do this by telephoning 020 7703 3030 or by going online at www.svp.org.uk Thankyou.

CONFIRMATION

For all those in year nine or above, who would like to make their confirmation, our confirmation program will be starting in early 2020. We will be looking at Choosing your purpose, Prayer, the Creed and Reconciliation, as well as a discernment evening. Throughout these sessions we want you to experience the love that God has for you. For more information please speak to Caitlin Scott, Roisin McAleavy or Jessica Kenny, or email rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

THREE PARISH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Will take place at St John the Evangelist's hall after the 10.30am Mass on **Sunday 22nd December** with Mr Marvel to entertain the children (children need to be accompanied by an adult)! Food donation lists will be in the back of the church nearer the time. If you are able to help organise and run the party on the day please email liztownsenduk@gmail.com.

ST JOHN'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BERRY LANE, RICKMANSWORTH

Are having their Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December 12-3pm. There will be lots of fun activities including Santa's grotto and a variety of homemade festive products to buy.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

ADVENT FAIR – TODAY! 9am – 1pm - Please come and support us

Please join us for brunch (bacon/sausage sandwiches, homemade cakes) and festive shopping – we have some fantastic stalls selling local produce, craft beer, jewellery, kids craft, unique gifts, cards and loads more. Try your luck the raffle and tombola – there are fantastic prizes on offer. Entry £2 and includes mulled wine or Irish coffee, children free.

GROWING IN FAITH CAMPAIGN - PARISH PROJECT

In October we received the sum of £4,277 as the fourth tranche of Growing in Faith parish project funds for our Youth Worker Project. I am very grateful to all those parishioners who have and continue to so generously support the campaign.

Fr Shaun

THE AFTERPARTY

The Afterparty resumes on **Sunday 1st December** after the 6.00pm Mass so starts at about 7.00pm, in the parish hall just behind Our Lady's church. There will be tea and hot chocolate waiting for you, as well as ping pong and table football. Everyone is warmly invited to come along.

APF MISSIO

Would promoters please collect the Magazines from the church porch and start collecting monies. Thank you.

TOY DONATION APPEAL

Do you have any spare toys you could donate to our Sunday Crèche group? Please contact Kerry at the parish office if you are able to help.

CHRISTMAS CARDS now available in the repository.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING APPEAL - THANK YOU

“For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.” - I Chronicles 29: 14-16

Thank you for taking part in our 'Planned Giving' appeal last weekend. At the back of the church there are addressed envelopes for all parishioners who signed a promise card last week. If you asked for a standing order form (bankers order) or a new batch of donation envelopes, you shall find them inside your addressed envelope. Please take a few minutes to collect your letter when you leave Mass today. If you are new to the parish, or missed signing a promise card last weekend, and would like a box of donation envelopes, or to donate to the parish by standing order (bankers order) or wish to Gift Aid, please complete a promise card at the back of the Church today and post it through our Presbytery letterbox. Once again, thank you for all that you do. Please keep our parish in your prayers.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS are now available in the repository

CHRISTMAS FAIR DONATIONS

We are asking for Donations of Bottles, Sweet, Chocolates and Homemade cakes to support the fair. Please bring in Bottles, Sweets and Chocolates for the Tombola's, all donations can be left at the back of the porch between now and the 14th December. Please bring Homemade cakes on the morning of the Fair (15th December).

CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets will be on sale in the porch after Saturday evening Mass and both before and after Sunday Morning Mass from this weekend to 15th December. 1st Prize will be £100, 2nd Prize £50 and other exciting prizes. Don't forget to get your tickets!

HALL BOOKINGS - please contact Kerry at the parish office if you would like to book the hall.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We now only have three catechists to lead the Children's Liturgy at the 9.00am Mass. This is an insufficient number to be able to run the Children's Liturgy with consistency or reliability. We are, therefore, asking for volunteers to step-up to join the team on a rota basis. You will need to apply for a Diocesan DBS check, but our Parish Safeguarding Representative will take you through this process. Sadly, if no volunteers come forward it is possible that we will have to discontinue the Children's Liturgy.

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

If you can help as Welcomer, Reader or Minister of Communion at the Christmas Masses, please sign the sheet on the noticeboard. Thank you. *Fr Shaun & Maureen*

PARISH CORE GROUP (PCG) - MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

The Minutes of the St John Fisher PCG's November meeting are now available on the SLT/JPPC page of the parish website. A printed copy is also available on the lobby noticeboard.

OUR CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you so much to everybody who worked so hard in every way and gave their time and goods, and to all who came and enjoyed the fun of the Fair and also thanks to our 40 wonderful shopkeepers who supported our efforts with their very kind gifts and vouchers. We do hope it has been a great success and will do our best to bring you interim results as quickly as possible. There will also be a table with some good unsold items this week end and next. Thank you all again in the name of the Homeless in London, orphans and poor in Africa and the Youth and Peace workers in Columbia, with love from Mary.

RED APF MISSIO BOXES.

Please would everybody who holds a box bring it to Church over the next two weekends so that the contents can be included in the December (end of the year) count. Thank you so much, Mary

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
30/11 & 1/12	J Ingham	M Foggo	P Goble	J Whelan	J Donohoe	J Hale	Marguerite & Patsy	C Steet
7 & 8 Dec.	M Bychawski	S Hoy	E O'Sullivan	A Opie	J Hale	AM Farnsworth	Peter & Francis	A McReynolds