



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
shaunchurch@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Damian Ryan
damianryan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg
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Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga_forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) - 8TH DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY THOUGHT

Like last Sunday's Scriptures, today's readings proclaim that while salvation always comes from God, God does expect and await human response. Imagine – the Almighty chooses to save and re-create humankind only with our cooperation! While Isaiah paints a portrait of humanity perfected “that day” of God's final salvation, Matthew underscores the human role in bringing about a world ruled by divine values and power.

By describing the work of God's Messiah, the one through whom God was expected to bring a new age of salvation, Isaiah sketches an outline of the divine vision. The awaited Messiah will be king of the line of David (“a shoot ... of Jesse”, David's father) who will perceive, judge and act in “the spirit of the Lord.” In the Bible, divine “spirit” describes the powerful presence of God within a person or community, imparting strength to carry out God's wishes and commands.

As king, a Messiah acting in God's spirit will create a new human community of justice. This biblical term points to a state of right relationships: when justice reigns, human beings live in right relationships to the God who always saves, to all members of the human community, and to the material world. Under the rule of God's vision of justice, artificially created boundaries dissolve, all people work together to meet the needs of all, and the physical world itself functions as a peaceful unity.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist announces that this new world is at hand in Jesus, who fulfils Isaiah's prophecy. The expected one bearing God's Spirit is already present in the person of Jesus, and he will share that Spirit with those who respond with repentance.

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish
Dave Pione 01923 772606
rickmansworthsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Mill End Parish
Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Chorleywood Parish
Laura Turnbull 01923 897899
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

**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.

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Response to Psalm: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (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 £1060.00; Loose £294.81; S/Orders £703.08; **Total £2057.89**

Mill End: Envs: £301.80; Loose: £206.16; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £684.92**

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 8TH DECEMBER	10.00am	Tea and Coffee	St John Fisher
MON 9TH 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 10TH DECEMBER	10.00am for 10.15am 7.30pm - 8.30pm	Lectio Divina - Upper Room Advent Holy Hour and Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
WED 11TH DECEMBER			
THU 12TH DECEMBER	2.15pm for 2.30pm 8.00pm	Quiet Space Life in the Spirit Prayer Group	St Peter's, Mill End Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 13TH DECEMBER	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
SAT 14TH DECEMBER	10.30am - 11.30am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Burial of Ashes - Jessie Pione RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady Help of Christians 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 7TH DECEMBER <i>St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor</i>	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
MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am Marian Forrest RIP	9.30am Mary & Martin Cosgrove	
TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER	9.30am Nick Broome RIP		9.30am John Stewart RIP
WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER		9.30am Renne Conway RIP	
THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER	9.30am Adam Budzynski RIP		
FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER <i>St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr</i>	9.30am Private Intention		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER <i>St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor</i>	10.00am Jessie Pione RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Fr Peter Stevens RIP
SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)</i>	8.30am Auna Murphy RIP 11am Eliya Wijesundera (Ints.) 6pm Jonathan Pione RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Catherine Ryan RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parish

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

This Sunday is Bible Sunday. At all the Masses this 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.

GENERAL ELECTION

The Bishops of England and Wales have issued a statement on the forthcoming General Election. Copies are available at each parish if you would like to take one home.

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE AND WELCOME

We warmly congratulate our RCIA inquirers from all three parishes as they pass to the next stage in their preparations for being received into full communion with the Church at Easter. This transition from inquirers to catechumens and candidates is marked by the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome, during which they express their intent to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ; and we in turn respond with joyful acceptance, and prayers for their ongoing discernment and preparation. This first rite of the RCIA process will be celebrated at two Masses this weekend.

HILDA M^cGUINNESS

The funeral of Hilda M^cGuinness will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Friday 20th December, followed by committal at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

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.

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

ALPHA

We are excited to let you know that we will be re-launching Alpha in January! Alpha will run from **Tuesday 21st January** until **31st March, 7.30-9.30pm** at Our Lady's church hall, Rickmansworth with a day away on **Saturday 14th March**. There will be two small groups rather than the usual four, so the number of guest places is limited. If you previously had registered for Alpha in September you will have received an email from Mike Roche asking you to confirm if you wanted to take a place on the January Alpha. If you have not already replied could you please check your email and reply to Mike to confirm your place by **Wednesday 11th December**. If we have not filled all the places by then, we will open the Alpha out to others who may be interested. As always, those outside of the church or who have not done Alpha before will be given priority.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET 2019

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

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2020 - now available priced £4.50 each.

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.

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 COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next SVP Community Lunch is on **Sunday 15th 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 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 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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

WELCOMING AT OUR CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

Every year our Christmas Eve Family Mass at 6.00pm is full to overflowing, as we welcome regulars, visitors, strangers and newcomers. This year none of our Welcomers Team are available to help at this Mass. We want to give the **best welcome** that we can to everyone who will attend this special Mass. So, we are making a special appeal for any adults who would be willing to volunteer on a "one-off" basis to help with welcoming at this Christmas Eve Mass. Can you help us ensure that we are offering genuine and radical hospitality to everyone who will come to celebrate Christmas with us? If you are willing to help, please give your name to Fr Shaun or Fr Damian as soon as possible. Thank You.

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.

200 CLUB - congratulations to P Starck (£33.00), M Brady (£24.75), A Parker (£16.50), J Westrop (£8.25)

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING APPEAL - THANK YOU

Thank you for taking part in our 'Planned Giving' appeal. At the back of the church there are addressed envelopes for all parishioners who signed a promise card. 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, 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - CHARITY COLLECTION BOXES

Thank you to those children who have returned their boxes. If any children would like to keep their boxes this is absolutely fine, money can be returned in an envelope to any of the Children's Liturgy Group, Fr Shaun or Fr Damian. All money donated will go to our local SVP conference. Thank you.

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.

COFFEE AND TEA will be served after Mass this Sunday. All are very welcome to stay for a cuppa and chat.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

Our next three parishes SVP community lunch will take place on Sunday 15th December. We are inviting SJF parishioners to volunteer to help with the lunch this month. Volunteers are needed on Saturday 14th from 1.45pm for approximately an hour to help set up and on the Sunday to help in the kitchen and to serve lunch between 12 and 2.00pm. There will be a sign up sheet on the notice board and an SVP member available after Mass. Thank you SVP.

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*

OUR LAST CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR NOTICE for 2019.

May I send a huge THANK YOU to you all who helped in every way to make this year's Fair such a great success, both in the money we raised and also in the extremely happy and friendly morning we all shared. I am happy to report a GOLDEN RECORD PROFIT with STARS ON of £2,710, soon to be winging its way to the freezing streets of London, the very poor in Africa and to peace workers with the young in Columbia. With much love and thanks to you all. Until next year.... Mary **RED APF MISSIO BOXES.**

Please would everybody who holds a box bring it to Church next weekend (14th/15th December) 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		
7 & 8 Dec.	M Bychawski	S Hoy	E O'Sullivan	A Opie	J Hale	AM Farnsworth	Peter & Francis	A McReynolds
14 & 15 Dec.	E O'Sullivan	T Hartney	J McEwen	M Calvert	H McGrath	E Price	Kate & Yasmin	J Whelan