



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
rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Rickmansworth

Paul Forrest
pga_forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
anne@themessagemachine.com

Mill End

Geraldine Page
geraldine.page21@gmail.com

Address for all correspondence:
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU
Telephone: 01923 773387

 @ChessValleyRC

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) - 15TH DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY THOUGHT

In today's First Reading, Isaiah presents yet another glorious vision of the final coming of God that Israel longed for. In a part of the world where large swaths of land lie parched for most of the year, the image of sudden lush greenery evokes joyful song. Isaiah indicates that as certainly and suddenly as rain transforms bare desert, so surely will God arrive to bring new life to body, heart, and spirit. In such a moment the long, seemingly fruitless wait gives way to rejoicing in a new world created by the God who "is coming to save you".

As we reflect on Advent readings that promise God's final act of salvation, it's important to hear these Scriptures in their own time and place. Unfortunately, many Christians have reduced "salvation" to assurance of a blessed afterlife with God. In the Bible, however, salvation clearly belongs to this world as well. Judaism developed a belief in the afterlife only in the mid-second Century before Jesus; even in his day, not all Jews held such a belief. Biblical words normally translated as "salvation" convey meanings of healing, wholeness, and right relationships, all of which can and ought to begin on this earth. And so Isaiah envisions salvation as healing of the blind, deaf, mute, and lame, which elicits songs of "joy and gladness."

St Matthew, always eager to demonstrate that Jesus completes all of Israel's hopes, announces the beginning of that fulfilment. Some who considered the Baptist as God's awaited Messiah question him on the matter, but he rightly points to the one who makes Isaiah's prophecy a living reality. The hoped-for new healing and wholeness take shape before their eyes through one greater than his messenger: Jesus the Messiah. God's rule of salvation has already begun!

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: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

Response to Psalm: Come, Lord, and save us.

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

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

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (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 £420.27; Loose £337.88; S/Orders £703.08; **Total £1461.23**

Mill End: Envs: £232.00; Loose: £140.36; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £549.32**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of November - **£2430.13**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 15TH DECEMBER	11.30am 12.30pm	Christmas Fair SVP Community Lunch - Hall	St John the Evangelist St John's School
MON 16TH 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 17TH DECEMBER			
WED 18TH DECEMBER			
THU 19TH DECEMBER	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 20TH DECEMBER	10.00am 11.00am	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Funeral - Betty (Hilda) McGuinness RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 21ST 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 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
MONDAY 16 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Patrick McCullagh RIP	9.30am Joe Furey & Family	
TUESDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Tim Mumford RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 18 TH DECEMBER		9.30am Margaret Connor RIP	
THURSDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	9.30am John Coxon RIP		
FRIDAY 20 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Peter Moss RIP		9.30am Kathleen Barclay RIP (Anniv.)
SATURDAY 21 ST DECEMBER	10.00am Leila Robinson RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) Mary Furey & Family	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 22 ND DECEMBER <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Fr Peter Stevens RIP 11am Bea & Joe Dunphy RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Sheila Sheehan RIP	9am Fr Peter Stevens 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 Townend 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, Anne Trenchard, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett and Ann Penn (please, no phone calls)

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

BETTY (HILDA) McGUINNESS RIP

The funeral of Betty (Hilda) McGuinness 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.

TOM GILBERT RIP

The funeral of Tom Gilbert will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.30am on **Monday 30th December**, followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. 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

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.

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.

PLEASE TAKE HOME A CAFOD WORLD GIFT CATALOGUE AFTER MASS

Stuck for a Christmas present? CAFOD World Gifts offers a great alternative for friends or family who don't need anything, but might appreciate a gift which helps poor communities to access services like basic healthcare, clean water, and education. CAFOD provides you with a certificate detailing a gift that has been given to a community overseas on your behalf. Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass.

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 £1240.97 for charity – a really brilliant result, due to a great deal of hard work and generosity by many people! *Fr Shaun*

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.

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.

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

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

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.

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On **Friday 20th 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.

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 RAFFLE TICKETS

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

100 CLUB - congratulations to Mary Lavery (£35.00), Sandra Tew (£20.00), Ann Hows (£15.00).

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*

RED APF MISSIO BOXES.

Please would everybody who holds a box bring it to Church this 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		
14 & 15 Dec.	E O'Sullivan	T Hartney	J McEwen	M Calvert	H McGrath	E Price	Kate & Yasmin	J Whelan
21 & 22 Dec.	A Roberts	L Johnson	P Goble	M Mackie	M Calvert	F Holly	Carolyn & Marguerite	S Tarrant