



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

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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Response to Psalm:

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Communion Antiphon:

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) - 22ND DECEMBER 2019

In the Scripture readings of the previous Sundays of Advent, Isaiah looked forward to God's salvation in an unknown future. In today's reading, however, the prophet speaks to more immediate concerns. At the time of this prophecy, King Ahaz was engaged in a war that threatened the survival of Judah and the house of David. The Lord promised a sign of deliverance from such dangers: a royal son who would continue the line of David, which God had promised would endure forever. This son, to be named Emmanuel, would serve as a powerful sign that "God is with us," keeping the ancient promise and ensuring its future fulfilment.

Although Isaiah spoke to God's people of his own time, more than seven centuries later Matthew discerns in this prophecy the hidden, but now fully accomplished, intention of God. Significantly, the angel addresses Joseph as "son of David." In Jewish law, Joseph was considered Jesus' legal father, and so Jesus was also designated as a member of the house of David. Thus, St Matthew again reassures his audience of mostly Jewish Christians that all Israel's hopes and expectations will be fulfilled in the son to be born of Mary, however mysterious her pregnancy.

Matthew's primary focus rests not on Mary, however, but on the child she carries and his true origin. Twice we are told that Mary's son has been conceived "through the Holy Spirit." Matthew thus presents Jesus, even in his conception, as coming from and so bearing within himself the powerful presence and action of God. In this way Matthew suggests another fulfilment of prophecy that Isaiah could not have imagined. Jesus will indeed be "God with us"; in him, divine power will speak and act to establish God's final reign.

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. Thank you.

THANK YOU

The Parish Team would like to thank parishioners for their cards, gifts and good wishes this Christmas. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very much appreciated.

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.

FR ANTHONY ARMSTRONG – MASS OF THANKSGIVING

At the 6.00pm Mass on Sunday 5th January 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. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the hall. We hope that many parishioners will come and share in this special celebration.

NEWSLETTER – there will be no Newsletter next weekend.

MILL END PARISH CORE GROUP (PCG) MEETING

There will be a meeting of the St John Evangelist PCG on **Saturday 11th January**, prior to a meeting of the Joint Parish Pastoral Council (JPPC). If you have any matters that you would like to be raised concerning the **spiritual, pastoral or social life** of the parish would you please pass them to Maria Crossland at millendpcg@rcdow.org.uk, who is the St John Evangelist Vice-Chair of the JPPC.

ST JOHN FISHER 9.00AM MASS

Please could parishioners of all ages help with the decoration of the Christmas tree and crib after Sunday Morning Mass. Thank you.

ALPHA – Spaces for January!

We are excited to let you know that we still have six places left for our next Alpha which begins on 21st January, so if you would like to try Alpha or know someone you'd like to invite to try it, contact Mike Roche as soon as possible - chessvalleyalpha@rcdow.org.uk or 07505 307323. As always, those outside of the church or who have not done Alpha before will be given priority.

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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
MONDAY 23 RD DECEMBER	9.30am 9.30am Fr Peter Stevens RIP	9.30am Michael Ferry & Family	
TUESDAY 24 TH DECEMBER <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	6pm Jack (J.J.) Crossan RIP 11.30pm For the People of the Parish	5.30pm Patricia Davitt & Family 10.30pm For the People of the Parish	8pm For the People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 25 TH DECEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Fabby Montesdecoa (Ints.) NO EVENING MASS	10.30am Robert Gibson RIP	9am Malachy Moran (Ints.)
THURSDAY 26 TH DECEMBER <i>St STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</i>	10am Deceased Members of the Guild of St. Stephen at Our Lady's		
FRIDAY 27 TH DECEMBER <i>St JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST</i>	NO MASS TODAY	10am For the People of the Parish	NO MASS TODAY
SATURDAY 28 TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</i>	10am Fr Peter Stevens RIP	6pm (Vigil) Martin Daly RIP	6pm (Vigil) Fr Peter Stevens RIP
SUNDAY 29 TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH</i>	8.30am Fr Bernard Crowe RIP 11am Mary Bond RIP 6pm For the People of the Parish	10.30am Reg Viner RIP	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 30 TH DECEMBER <i>6TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	10am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	NO MASS TODAY	
TUESDAY 31 ST DECEMBER <i>7TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	NO MASS TODAY		10am Fr Bernard Crowe RIP
WEDNESDAY 1 ST JANUARY <i>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</i>	12 noon For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	10.00am Bill Berry RIP	11.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
THURSDAY 2 ND JANUARY <i>SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS</i>	9.30am Kenny D'Cruz RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 3 RD JANUARY	9.30am Fr Peter Stevens RIP		9.30am Fr Peter Stevens RIP
SATURDAY 4 TH JANUARY	10.00am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	6pm (Vigil) Mike & Margaret Tighe	6pm (Vigil) Patrick Dowling RIP
SUNDAY 5 TH JANUARY <i>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Michael Jubber RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Mass of Thanksgiving for the Ordination of Fr Anthony Armstrong	10.30am Anne Prendergast RIP	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, Anne Trenchard, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett and Ann Penn (please, no phone calls)