



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
pga_forrest@btinternet.com

Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR A) - 12TH JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

The Christmas season closes with a focus on Jesus' baptism. Today's readings teach us that just as God was pleased with his own beloved Son, God is also well pleased to welcome us all into his family. St Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism, which we hear today, makes an editorial change to St Mark's account – a subtle, yet significant change. Whereas Mark tells us that the voice from heaven says, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you,' Matthew tells us that the voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him". In Mark's account, God's voice and message are a private revelation between Jesus and the Father. In Matthew's account, the Father's voice and message are a public revelation for all to bear witness.

The Second Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, also has the spirit of a public revelation of God's will. We hear proclaimed today part of a larger experience that Peter had in the household of Cornelius, a Gentile centurion. Peter bears witness to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon those assembled in Cornelius' household, and subsequently orders the baptizing of those Gentiles. Just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and on the disciples assembled in the upper room after Jesus' death and Resurrection, the Gentiles too had their own experience of the Holy Spirit and Baptism.

The Gospel today and the reading from the Acts of the Apostles preserve for us the public revelation that God is well pleased with all people who profess faith in his own beloved Son and who strive to do his will. Like Peter, we can conclude on this feast of the Baptism of the Lord 'that God does not have favourites, but that anyone of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

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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Entrance Antiphon:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

1st Reading:

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Response to Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

2nd Reading:

Acts 10:34-38

Gospel:

Matthew 3:13-17

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 49:3. 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34 (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 £426.42; Loose £471.25; S/Orders £703.08; **Total £1600.75**

Mill End: Envs: £367.00; Loose: £116.94; Standing Orders: £176.96 **Total: £660.90**

Chorleywood: The Offertory collection for the month of December - **£2507.68**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 12TH JANUARY	12.45pm	Baptisms	Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 13TH JANUARY	10.30am - 12.30pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	Mum's Connect - Hall RCIA - Mass Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 14TH JANUARY	10.15am	Lectio Divina - Upper Room	Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 15TH JANUARY			
THU 16TH JANUARY	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 17TH JANUARY	10.00am 11.30am	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Funeral - Pat Breen RIP	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 18TH JANUARY	10.30am - 11.30am 2.00pm 5.30pm	Holy Hour with Benediction and Confessions Baptism Preparation - Hall 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 11 TH JANUARY	10.00am In Thanksgiving	6pm (Vigil) Eamon Keely & Family	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 12 TH JANUARY <i>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am Brian Feehely RIP (Anniv.) 11am Clive Powell-Williams RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Mary Quilty RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Mary & Billy Kerins (Ints.)	9am Private Intention
MONDAY 13 TH JANUARY	9.30am Fr Bernard Crowe RIP	9.30am Jimmy & Margaret Smith RIP	
TUESDAY 14 TH JANUARY	9.30am Mgr Anthony George Stark RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 15 TH JANUARY		9.30am Donal O'Donoghue RIP	
THURSDAY 16 TH JANUARY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish		
FRIDAY 17 TH JANUARY <i>St ANTHONY, ABBOT</i>	9.30am Mary McNamara (Ints.)		9.30am Fr Bernard Crowe RIP
SATURDAY 18 TH JANUARY	10.00am Mgr Anthony George Stark RIP	6pm (Vigil) Shane Jobe RIP	6pm (Vigil) Mgr Anthony George Stark RIP
SUNDAY 19 TH JANUARY <i>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Bill Farrell RIP (Anniv.) 11am Mary Robinson RIP 6pm Pat Breen RIP	10.30am Mary Kathy Eileen	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

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THE YEAR OF THE WORD

2020 has been designated by the Bishops of England and Wales as *The Year of the Word*. In our parishes, throughout 2020, we will be offering a variety of different opportunities for parishioners to explore and deepen their knowledge of Sacred Scripture. Here are a couple of forthcoming opportunities:

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS - THE BIBLE COURSE AND LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GROUP

We are pleased to announce that all the resources have now arrived for us to run the next discipleship group on The Bible Course. We will shortly be contacting all who originally expressed an interest in this course. It will run from the week commencing 20 January for four weeks, break for Lent, and complete after Easter. Due to the short notice, places will need to be given on a first come first served basis, but the course will run again in May for all those who are interested and it is open to everyone. If anyone is willing to host or lead a group for this course, please could they contact the Discipleship Group on chessvalleydiscipleshipgroups@rcdow.org.uk. Many thanks, the Discipleship Group Team.

LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina (Latin for *Sacred Reading*) is a very ancient and beautiful way of praying with the scriptures. It's a prayerful process of listening and responding to the Word of God in a small group setting, as a bible passage is slowly read. Lectio Divina takes on the second Tuesday on the month from 10.15 to 11.00am in the Upper Room in Our Lady's Parish Hall. The next session is this coming Tuesday – **14th January**. You are warmly invited to come and share in the wonderful way of praying with Sacred Scripture.

HCPT 183

This weekend we welcome the HCPT 183 group who will be speaking at all Masses at St John Evangelist, Mill End and Our Lady's, Rickmansworth. There will be a retiring collection for this year's HCPT 185 trip to Lourdes.

PEACE SUNDAY – 19th JANUARY 2020

The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Pax Christi's vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, Pax Christi works with all who share its values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. If you would like to make a contribution to the work of Pax Christi, donation envelopes are available this weekend. Simply place your donation in the Pax Christi envelope and place it in the offertory basket either this weekend or next.

FIRE WARDEN TRAINING – 1st FEBRUARY 2020

Fire Warden training is being offered in the Deanery at Our Lady & St Michael, Garston on Saturday 1st February at 11.00am. If you would be interested in becoming a fire warden in the parish and would like to attend the training please give your name to your respective Parish Health and Safety representative or to Fr Shaun. The three H&S reps are:

Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – Paul Forrest

St John Fisher, Chorleywood – Alan Opie

St John the Evangelist, Mill End – Bo Bambridge

PAT BREEN RIP

The funeral of Pat Breen will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.30am on **Friday 17th January**, followed by committal at Woodcock Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A reminder for couples who have already seen Fr Damian or Fr Shaun regarding the baptism of a child that the next baptism preparation session is on **Saturday 18th January** at 2.00pm in Our Lady's hall.

SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next SVP Community Lunch is on **Sunday 19th January** 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.

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The origins of WDP date back to 19th century in USA and Canada when Christian women from different denominations started organising days of prayer for missionary work. Gradually the movement spread throughout the world and to the UK as well, where the first service was held in Scotland in 1930. Now it is a truly international and ecumenical world day of prayer with about 170 countries participating. Every year the focus is on a different country and the service is written by the women of that country and then translated into over 60 languages and 1000 dialects. In the Rickmansworth area the service rotates among the different participating churches and is a great opportunity for meeting and praying with fellow believers. This year we are celebrating the WDP on **Friday 6th March** at one of our own parishes - St John the Evangelist, Mill End. The time to be confirmed. This year's service has been written by the women of Zimbabwe. We extend a warm invitation to all parishioners – men, women and children – to join us. Some children from St John's School will also be taking part in the service. *Geraldine and Cristina*.

MUM'S CONNECT - 10.30AM TO 12.30PM IN ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST'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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

BOOKS

A number of parishioners have given their faith based books to the parish over the years. It would be good to pass them on. A small number of books will be on display each week in the porch for people to take. Five books found new homes last week. If you find them helpful keep them or pass them on. After books on Bible Study we will move on to prayer. Do keep browsing.

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.

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.*

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Christopher Knight (£33.00), Martin Brady (£24.75), Anita Khurwal (£16.50) and Josie Westhrop (£8.25).

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - CHARITY COLLECTION BOXES

Thank you to all the children who returned their boxes. An amazing £51.88 was collected and has been given to the SVP Chess Valley Conference.

CHRISTMAS FAIR AND RAFFLE

Thank you to all those who helped support our Christmas fair and Raffle this year, special thanks to those who helped set up and manage the stalls, making it all possible. We raised an amazing £639.84 from the fair and raffle combined. A list of all prize winners is on the noticeboard in the porch. A couple of prizes are unclaimed, please see the list at the back of the church and if you are a lucky winner please contact Liz Townsend on liztownsenduk@gmail.com or 07957 100802.

100 CLUB

Congratulations to Peter Waters (£100.00), Adrian Ramsden (£50.00), Mary Lavery (£30.00).

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon and sausage rolls) will take place on **Sunday 24th April** after 10.30am Mass. All proceeds raised will go to Aid to the Church in Need. We hope that you will come and join us!

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

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

FIRE WARDEN TRAINING

Safety is our key responsibility as a Parish community, particularly to ensure the church is evacuated quickly and safely in case of fire. For this reason, a simple two Fire Warden system will be introduced for Saturday and Sunday Masses and festivals/solemnities when the church is full. A copy of the Fire Warden notes is on the noticeboard. It is not an onerous duty as action is only required in the unlikely event of a fire, one warden responsible for evacuating people at the front and the second for evacuating those at the back. A rota is not needed as wardens volunteer on arrival for each service. If you are willing to consider acting as a fire warden, please contact Alan Opie (Alan.opie@live.co.uk).

LADIES MEETING

The next Ladies Meeting has been POSTPONED to **Tuesday 28th January** (10.00am) from Monday 20th January.

MISSIO/APF/RED BOXES.

Thank you so much for your support of our Missionaries during 2019. I am very happy to report that we collected £544.69, with Gift Aid added (£53.40) this gives a total of £598.09. A very good response from our little parish. Thanks again.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
11 & 12 Jan.	J Ingham	A Roberts	C Johnson	J Hale	M Golin	AM Farnsworth		A McReynolds
18 & 19 Jan.	A Roberts	E O'Sullivan	J McEwen	A Opie	K Cottingham	E Price		J Whelan

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

Please visit our website at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> where you can view the latest vacancies.