



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>

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

Fr Shaun Church
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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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 @ChessValleyRC

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - 26TH JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY THOUGHT

The scriptures use the contrast between darkness and light to describe our relationship with God. "The people that walked in darkness" were the people of Israel, who, on account of their infidelity to God, found themselves in exile in Babylon, longing to return to their own land, their homes and their religious practices. They could see no end to their predicament. The future was dark for them until the prophet Isaiah started to shine the light hope. Their exile did come to an end. They did return to their own land. Their Temple was rebuilt, but they were still in the dark. After the oppression of Babylon, they were still in the power of a succession of foreign invaders from Persia, Greece and Rome. By the time of Jesus, it was the Romans keeping the Jewish people as a subject nation. People still longed for real freedom, which they understood to be the light promised by Isaiah seven hundred years earlier.

St Matthew, in his Gospel describes the coming of Jesus in these same prophetic terms, "The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light." But the light that Jesus reveals is not a new political dispensation. The darkness is not merely the darkness of oppression. It is not just the people of Israel who have been subjected to a foreign power: it is the whole of humanity. Jesus is the light of the world that exposes the true darkness that is sin, which is preventing all human beings from fulfilling their true destiny as children of a loving Father in the everlasting kingdom of heaven.

The revolutionary project that Jesus starts is far from a political revolt. It involves a real change of heart and it starts with faith: faith in God, but first of all, faith in ourselves. Do I really believe that God loves me and has called me into a relationship of love? This is the project of Jesus, to change the world by changing one person at a time, enabling everyone to believe that they are the beloved children of the one Father, God in heaven. And so in today's Gospel, we see Jesus at the beginning of his project to bring this new light, this new revelation, into the world. He calls the fishermen, Peter and Andrew, James and John, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." With this small group, which gradually increases to twelve, Jesus goes around proclaiming the Good News, teaching and healing. Their mission is to capture the hearts and minds of people, opening them up to the promise of eternal life. This is still the mission of the disciples of Jesus today, to help people to discover that their true destiny is to live in love with God and with each other.

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 sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

1st Reading:

Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3

Response to Psalm:

The Lord is my light and my help.

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:10-13. 17

Gospel:

Matthew 4:12-23

Communion Antiphon:

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Next Sunday's Readings

Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (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 £404.50; Loose £354.12; S/Orders £647.01; **Total £1405.63**

Mill End: Envs: £392.50; Loose: £171.07; Standing Orders: £159.08 **Total: £722.65**

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 26TH JANUARY	11.30am 4.00pm - 5.45pm	Sunday Brunch - Hall Confirmation Session - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 27TH JANUARY	10.00am for 10.15am 10.30am - 12.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Quiet Space - Upper Room Mum's Connect - Hall RCIA - Small Hall Choir Practice	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
TUE 28TH JANUARY	10.00am 10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm	SVP Meeting SJF Ladies Meeting Alpha - Invitation to pray- Church Alpha - Hall	St John Fisher Patsy & Jo's Flat Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
WED 29TH JANUARY			
THU 30TH JANUARY	8.00pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 31ST JANUARY	10.00am 7.00pm - 8.45pm	Coffee after Mass for all - Hall Youth Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 1ST FEBRUARY	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 25TH JANUARY <i>THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE</i>	10.00am Private Intention	6pm (Vigil) Edda Ali RIP	6pm (Vigil) Gerry (Gerald) Moore RIP (Anniv.)
SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY <i>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.30am Mgr Anthony George Stark RIP 11am For the People of the Parish 6pm Private Intention	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am For the People of the Parish
MONDAY 27TH JANUARY	9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish	9.30am Phyllis & Derek Humphries RIP (Anniv.)	
TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY <i>St THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST & DOCTOR</i>	9.30am Ann-Mari Hill RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY		9.30am Kathleen McCann RIP	
THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY	9.30am Elaine Ward RIP		
FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY <i>St JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST</i>	9.30am Mary Robinson RIP		9.30am For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish
SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY	10.00am Mgr Charles John Klyberg RIP	6pm (Vigil) Mgr Charles John Klyberg RIP	6pm (Vigil) For the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY <i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parish 11am Pdraig Joyce RIP 6pm Private Intention	10.30am For the People of the Parish	9am Mgr Charles John Klyberg 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, Anne Trenchard, Vicky Williams, Paul Kennett and Ann Penn

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (JPPC) MINUTES

The Minutes of the January JPPC meeting are now available for viewing on the parish websites. A copy of the Minutes is also posted on the parish notice boards.

THREE PARISH YOUTH GROUP

To all 11-18 year olds, we invite you to our *new* Youth Group. It starts on Friday 31st January at 7.00pm - 8.45pm at Our Lady Help of Christians parish hall. There will be snacks, games and an opportunity to talk about faith and life. Please let Margaret Simon know if you're planning to attend (rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk) so we can count you in for catering.

PARISH RENEWAL SURVEY

Last weekend we invited parishioners to complete a Parish Renewal Survey. The purpose of the survey is to give us a snapshot of where we are, as parishes, on the journey of parish renewal and how parishioners are responding to it. If you were away last weekend and would like to take part in the survey, copies are available in each parish this weekend. Please complete it and hand it in before leaving Mass today. Alternatively, you can drop it in at the Parish Office at Our Lady's.

ALPHA - INVITATION TO PRAY

We are inviting all parishioners to join some of the Alpha team at Our Lady Help of Christians church for one or more of the next ten Tuesdays at 7.30-8.30pm to pray for the guests and team attending Alpha. In addition to this we would also love to invite you to pray daily for our parish community and its ongoing formation. Maybe you could consider praying the following prayer:

Thank you loving Father for all those you have called to participate in Alpha; we ask your blessing upon all, both team and guests. Without you we can do nothing you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pour out your Holy Spirit and abundant blessings and gifts during this Alpha. May Alpha ignite or re-ignite the flame of faith in all hearts so that we may experience the wonder, joy and hope that being in relationship with you brings. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit... Amen

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS (APMs)

The APMs for the three parishes will take place as follows:

Mill End – Sunday 9th February 2020 at 12 noon – Parish Centre

Rickmansworth – Sunday 23rd February 2020 at 3.00pm – Parish Hall

Chorleywood – Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30pm – Hill Cottage

There are no elections to the Joint Parish Pastoral Council (JPPC) this year, but there will be reports on various aspects of parish life, a report on the parish finances for 2019 and the opportunity for parishioners to ask questions. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend the APM of their respective parish.

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

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 10.15am to 11.00am in the Upper Room in Our Lady's Parish Hall. The next session will be on Tuesday **11th February**. You are warmly invited to come and share in the wonderful way of praying with Sacred Scripture.

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 2.00pm** 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.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

Are appealing for donations of long-life milk, toilet rolls and cleaning detergents for the Catholic Worker Farm who provide accommodation for refugees at the farm and at Mary House. Collection boxes in the church porches. *Could we politely ask that nothing else be left in the porch other than the requested items.* Thank you.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

THE AFTERPARTY

The Afterparty resumes on **Sunday 2nd February** 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.

COFFEE AFTER 8.30AM MASS

Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends at our coffee morning after Mass next Sunday.

REMINDER

The books on display in the porch have been donated and are for people to take and read. If you find them helpful please keep them or pass them on.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

PARISH CORE GROUP (PCG) MEETING – MINUTES

The Minutes of the recent PCG meeting can be found on *the Senior Leadership Team and Joint Parish Pastoral Council* page of the parish website. The Minutes are also available for viewing on the parish notice board in the porch.

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.

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday Brunch at St John's (with bacon and sausage rolls) will take place on **Sunday 26th January** 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.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

SJF SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENT the screening of *La Bohème* on **Monday 3rd February, 7.30pm, at The Elgiva Cinema**

The Social Committee look forward to seeing all those who have booked tickets for this event. Tickets will be distributed on the evening of the event. There is free parking from 6.00pm in the Council owned car park beside the Cinema and at Sainsbury's opposite the Cinema. Committee members will be in the bar from 6.30pm and invite you to join them if you wish to have a drink before the 7.30pm start of the show.

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).

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - CHORLEYWOOD WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE - 2.00PM ON FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

This year's service will be held at the Free Church in Hillside Road. It has been put together by the women of Zimbabwe on the theme "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". All are most welcome and there will be refreshments afterwards.

LADIES MEETING

Our meeting is this coming TUESDAY, 10.00am, at 9 Turneys Orchard (Patsy and Jo's flat). All are very welcome.

ROTAS	Saturday 6.00pm Mass			Sunday 9.00am Mass			Sunday Counters	Laundry
	Welcomer	Reader	MoC	Welcomer	Reader	Communion		
25 & 26 Jan.	E O'Sullivan	C Pierce	P Goble	J Whelan	M Fields	F Holly	Marguerite & Patsy	S Tarrant
1 & 2 Feb.	M Bychawski	E Page	M Latimer	M Calvert	C Holly	L Turnbull	Yasmin & Francis	V Terrill

DIOCESAN NOTICES

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes takes place on **Saturday 8th February** at 2.00pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during Mass. All are welcome to attend. A special invitation is extended to all who are sick or infirm, all hospital chaplains, doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants and all who work in healthcare. If you or someone you know plan to attend in a wheelchair, please let Fr Shaun or Fr Damian know by **Sunday 26th January**.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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