



St John The Evangelist

Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, WD3 7HG
<https://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>

Livestreaming: <https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Priest:

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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Belinda Calen - Alpha Youth:
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Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
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Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) - 28TH NOVEMBER 2021

Honouring Sunday

We are attentive to the experience of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a “homesickness.” We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live-streaming of the Mass and the response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance and resilience.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord’s sacrificial love to shine through. The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty and transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God’s holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ’s love. At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.

The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the “first day of the week,” and devote ourselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say “Amen” to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

*Statement from the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales
Thursday 18th November 2021*

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 28TH NOVEMBER	9.00am - 1.00pm 11.30am 4.15pm	Our Lady's Christmas Fair - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Confirmation Session - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
TUE 30TH NOVEMBER	7.30pm	Kairos	<i>Via Zoom</i>
WED 1ST DECEMBER	7.30pm	Alpha - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 2ND DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 4TH DECEMBER	1.30pm 2.00pm	Mill End PCG Meeting - Hall JPPC Meeting - Hall	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
SUN 5TH DECEMBER	11.30am 12.00pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Baptisms	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 27 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls	6pm (Vigil) Mickie McManamon (Ints.)	
SUNDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Peadar Cafferky RIP 11am Grace Bloom RIP 6pm Jessie Pione RIP	10.30am Paddy O'Donoghue	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 29 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Holy Souls		
TUESDAY 30 TH NOVEMBER <i>ST ANDREW, APOSTLE</i>	9.30am Holy Souls		9.30am Holy Souls
WEDNESDAY 1 ST DECEMBER	9.30am Verna Kendrick RIP (Anniv.)	9.30am Joseph Casey RIP (Anniv.)	
THURSDAY 2 ND DECEMBER	9.30am Patrick Mantle RIP		
FRIDAY 3 RD DECEMBER <i>ST FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</i>	9.30am In Thanksgiving		
SATURDAY 4 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Kate Harrison (Ints.)	6pm (Vigil) Mary Kerins (Ints.)	
SUNDAY 5 TH DECEMBER <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Jackie Prior RIP (Anniv.) 11am Joe King RIP 6pm Michael Thomas RIP	10.30am Michael Conway RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes



Mass Intentions

At the Altar the priest offers Mass for the good of the whole Church and for a particular intention. Do you want a Mass offered for a particular intention? Perhaps you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered, or you would like a Mass said for someone who is sick or for your own intention. For Mass to be offered it is the tradition that a stipend is donated to contribute to the upkeep of your priests. Please contact the parish office if you would like a Mass offered over the coming weeks.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISHES

Our Lady Help of Christians: Kathleen Collins, Brenda Reynolds, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Pam Bell, Maureen Douglas, Josie Westhrop, Michael Gaukroger, Molly Gray and Leslie Edwards.

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Michael Dixon and Alfredo Rock.

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, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, Paddy Goble, Pam Fitzpatrick, Julian Harris and Canon Robert Plourde.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

MOTHERS PRAYERS

For mothers who wish to pray together for their children and grandchildren. Mothers Prayers was launched in England in 1995 and is now in over 100 countries. A group will start in our parishes in January, meeting for an hour each week one morning. For more information visit www.mothersprayers.org. If you would like to join the group please contact Guyonne at guyonneberger@yahoo.fr

Lord, give me the eyes to see you in my children, your heart to love them and your gentleness to help them grow. Give me your wisdom to guide them, and your strength when I need to let them go. Amen

COVID PRECAUTIONS

To aid ventilation the church doors and windows will remain open during the celebration of Mass. We encourage parishioners to wrap up warmly, especially as we approach the colder months.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

The Advent Walk With Me booklets are now available (£1 per booklet).

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are happy to announce the popular children's party will be back this year on **Sunday 19th December 2021** at 11.30am in St John's Parish Centre, Mill End. Please put the date in your diaries. All children from across our parishes who are primary school age or younger are welcome to come along. We would ask that parents stay with the children please. Mr Marvel will be there to entertain the children while the parents can relax and enjoy a cup of tea. No booking is required, please just turn up.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

We had an excellent response to this appeal. Through the generosity of parishioners and St John's school we were able to send 146 warm winter coats to "Calling London" and they will make a big difference to the needy as the cold winter weather approaches. Thank you, *Allyson O'Grady*

ALPHA - INVITATION TO PRAY

This year Alpha launched on Wednesday 22nd September. We are inviting all parishioners to join some of the Alpha team at Our Lady Help of Christians church for one or more alternate Wednesdays from 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

GIFT AID

Thank you to everyone who has Gift-Aided their offering. Gift Aid adds 25p to the value of every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your offering please contact Kerry. ***Please let us know if your tax circumstances have changed so that we do not ask for a tax refund if you haven't paid the associated tax.*** We also need to know if you have changed your address since you signed your Gift Aid declaration.

VIRGIN MONEY GIVING - Important news about giving online

Virgin Money Giving is to close end of November 2021. While the diocese is working towards alternative online donation systems, we thought it wise to make everyone aware of what this situation means for the parishes.

What does this mean for you? During the pandemic online giving has become increasingly important for many parishes. We are fortunate to receive many one-off donations online. Some people have also generously set up recurring monthly donations via Virgin Money Giving to support the parish during COVID-19. From **30th November** these monthly donations will be cancelled automatically by Virgin Money Giving. If you are someone who makes an occasional or regular donation online, you may now be wondering how you can continue supporting the parish. We will be setting up new online giving tools but this will take a little time to arrange.

Giving by Standing Order. Regular giving is the financial bedrock of the parish. It also costs the parish less to manage than online giving so your money goes further. If you would like to know more about standing orders please contact Kerry, who will be happy to help you with this process.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

SYNODAL

As part of the Westminster Synodal Pathway we are invited to join with Bishop Paul McAleenan at an Area Listening Event on **Monday 29th November**, 7.00pm – 9.00pm – at Garston Parish, Crown Rose, Garston, Watford WD25 0NE. Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to a time of listening – of listening deeply to each other as we walk side by side, telling our stories of faith. Here in our local Church, our Diocese, this is just what we are doing. This Area Listening Event is an opportunity to listen, to share, and to dream about the Church we are called to be. All are welcome, and places can be booked by emailing catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.

THE PASSAGE

The Passage, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme from 12 noon. Every £1 donated online between 12 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. At a time when The Passage's finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

FR JIM DUFFY RIP

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Mass of thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Fr Jim Duffy on the evening of Tuesday 23rd November. Thank you in particular to all those who contributed to provide such a welcoming and beautiful liturgy and to our social committee for organising the refreshments afterwards, giving us all a chance to share our memories of Fr Jim.

CHRISTMAS FAIR - Sunday 28th November 9am to 1pm

We have some fantastic stalls selling local produce, craft beer, jewellery, unique gifts, cards and loads more. Try your luck on the tombola and raffle – there are fantastic prizes on offer. £2 entry, which includes a free drink, and 50p for children. All profits from the fair will be donated to the Catholic Worker Farm.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are in need of a team of volunteers to assist as leaders and helpers so that we can revive our Children's Liturgy at the 11am Sunday Mass. All volunteers would need to have DBS Check and will receive training. If you are interested in this role, please contact Fr Andrew for further information.

APPEAL FOR CLEANERS

Would you have a couple of hours to spare every 6-8 weeks to help us keep our beautiful church clean, shiny and safe? We have a small, dedicated team of volunteers already, but we would really need to boost our numbers to have more flexibility. You'd have a 'cleaning buddy' and it's surprising what friendships can develop while vacuuming, mopping or dusting. If you think you might be able to help, or if you have any questions, please contact Cristina on 07470 266 284 or at cristinapersonal19@gmail.com. Thank you!

APF MISSION

Would promoters please collect the magazines and calendars from the church porch and also start collecting monies. Thank you.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

You will find our new digital collection plate (Dona) in the church this weekend. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/device to make a donation. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%. If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received.

MILL END PARISH CORE GROUP (PCG) MEETING

There will be a meeting of the St John Evangelist PCG on Saturday 4th December, 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are planning to restart the Children's Liturgy group at the 10.30am Sunday Mass as soon as possible. We really need extra volunteers to help run the sessions. All materials are prepared by Liz and Regina, volunteers are needed to help on the day. New volunteers will always be paired initially with an existing member of the team. We have a team of 4 at the moment, 2 people are needed each week. Ideally we need a minimum of 6 volunteers therefore each person would only need to help once per month. If you are interested, please email liztownsenduk@gmail.com or speak to Fr Andrew or Fr Damian. All volunteers need to complete a DBS check arranged by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

A number of parishioners who use planned giving envelopes but are currently unable to attend Sunday Mass have contacted us regarding their planned giving and the offering that they make to their parish using them. For any parishioner who is in this situation and wishes to make a Sunday offering, we invite you to either drop your envelopes, together with your donation, at the parish office at the Presbytery at Our Lady's or to post a cheque made payable to St John Fisher, Chorleywood, together with at least one planned giving envelope, to the Parish Office. Alternatively, you could make a donation via an electronic payment to St John Fisher parish using the following details:

Account Name: **WRCDT Chorleywood**
Sort Code: **40-05-20**
Account Number: **21095552**

Please annotate the payment as: **Sunday Offering**. Thank you for your continued and valued support.

ST JOHN FISHER'S CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Charity Christmas Fair in aid of the Cardinal Hume Centre and the Franciscans in Africa has now closed. Very many thanks to all and in particular to Eddie, Jenny, Juliet, Marion, Marguerite, Maureen, Rosemary and Toni for all your help and support, for bringing such lovely gifts and for buying them back again!! We will have an interim, if not a final figure, for Father to announce today. We have had a joyful 5 weeks, thank you all very much. Love and blessings, Mary.

MISSION APF RED BOXES.

Please can I have your donations for our worthy missionaries by next weekend? Cash in the boxes or notes or cheques in envelopes, direct to me or in the church. All is good!! Thank you and love from *Mary* xx 284975.