



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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) - 19TH DECEMBER 2021

Oh the O Antiphons!

Whether they are family or Church customs, the many traditions associated with the Advent and Christmas seasons make this a special time of the year for us. One of these, often forgotten, ancient traditions is the O Antiphons: seven responses, or antiphons, that are sung or recited to introduce the canticle of Mary (the Magnificat) at evening prayer from December 17 to December 23, the octave before Christmas. These antiphons are based on Isaiah's prophecies and refer to the different ancient titles given to the Messiah. Although there are seven titles in the O Antiphons, only one has remained firmly in popular Christian culture, thanks to an Advent hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel. This messianic title is the final of the seven O Antiphons.

The full list of O Antiphons is as follows:

Dec 17 - **O Sapientia (O Wisdom)** Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29.

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care: Come and show your people the way to salvation.

Dec 18 - **O Adonai (O Lord)** Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22.

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

Dec 19 - **O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)** Isaiah 1:1; 11:10.

O Root of Jesse, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

Dec 20 - **O Clavis David (O Key of David)** Isaiah 9:6; 22:22.

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

Dec 21 - **O Oriens (O Rising Sun)** Isaiah 9:1.

O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Dec 22 - **O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)** Isaiah 9:5; 2:4.

O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man: Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

Dec 23 - **O Emmanuel (God with us)** Isaiah 7:14

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people: Come and set us free, Lord our God.

In these last days as we prepare for the coming of the Lord let us use these ancient titles as a focus in our meditation and prayer, as simple reminders throughout the day of the one whose coming we are joyfully expecting, and as words of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness throughout the ages and our lives.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 19TH DECEMBER	11.30am	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall	St John the Evangelist
TUES 21ST DECEMBER	7.30pm	Advent Holy Hour and the Sacrament of Reconciliation	St John Fisher
THU 23RD DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	9.30am John Coxon RIP	6pm (Vigil) Harry Lennon RIP	
SUNDAY 19 TH DECEMBER <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Tom Gilbert RIP (Anniv.) 11am Patrick Mantle RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Peter Moss RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Catherine Ryan RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 20 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Beryl Selley RIP		
TUESDAY 21 ST DECEMBER	9.30am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WEDNESDAY 22 ND DECEMBER	9.30am Fr Dominic Byrne RIP	9.30am Private Intention	
THURSDAY 23 RD DECEMBER	9.30am Fr David Irwin RIP		
FRIDAY 24 TH DECEMBER <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	NO MORNING MASS 6pm For the People of the Parishes 11pm Peter Scally RIP	5.30pm For the People of the Parishes	8pm Arles Borgi RIP (Anniv.)
SAT 25TH DECEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am J.J. Crossan RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Ann Murphy RIP NO EVENING MASS	9.00am Don Williamson RIP
SUN 26TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</i>	10am Fabby Montesdeoca (Ints.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Joan Gooden RIP	9am Private Intention



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

COVID PRECAUTIONS

It is now mandatory for face coverings to be worn in the church and when moving around our parish halls, unless genuinely exempt. 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.

Anyone with Covid symptoms should refrain from attending Mass, public events, or the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You may have an ordinary cold but equally it is important to ensure a precautionary approach.

BERYL SELLEY RIP

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death this past week of Beryl Selley. Beryl was a long-time parishioner at Our Lady's. We extend our deepest condolences to Beryl's family at this sad and very difficult time.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are sorry to announce that the Children's Christmas party scheduled to take place on Sunday 19th December 2021 at St John's Parish Centre, Mill End has been cancelled due to the current concerns regarding the spread of Covid. We do hope and pray that this will return in 2022!

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Please have a look at the *Advent & Christmas* tab under *News and Events* on the three parish websites for the times of our Christmas Masses. All services from Our Lady's, Rickmansworth will be livestreamed at www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth.

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 Andrew and Fr Damian. If you wish to make a Christmas offering, you can do so via BACS using your respective parish bank details. Please mark your gift as CHRISTMAS OFFERING. You will find the parish bank details on the *Donate to your Parish* tab of your respective parish website. If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please use the one marked Christmas Offering. Thank you

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

SVP NATIONAL

"Christmas Kindness Appeal"

Please give the Gift of Kindness this Christmas! This Appeal" was launched on 30th November and will run until 9th January 2022. It aims to raise £50,000 to replenish the SVP Hardship Fund, which was set up at the start of the pandemic to provide emergency funds for those in need and is now severely depleted. Please help if you can. To find out more, including how to donate, please visit <https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/page/93401/donate/1?chain&ea.tracking.id=web>

"The Gift of Warmth": a one-off donation of £20 will provide warm, nutritious meals, food parcels and vital 'Vinnie Packs' containing essential winter items, including hats, gloves and socks, to people suffering homelessness at this time of year. Please visit <https://www.svp.org.uk/gift-warmth-0> to donate.

Thank you for your generosity.

"CAP Life Skills"

The following course will run at Mill End Baptist Church, Field Way, Rickmansworth, WD3 7EJ. This course is free to participants. 8 week course - Join a friendly community and gain skills to lift the pressure of life on a low income.

Taster Session: Thursday 20th January 2pm. Course Starts: Thursday 27th January 1pm Lunch, 2pm course.

Book your free place by contacting Elaine Hawkings on 07786 608303 or elainehawkings@caplifefskills.org

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.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL

St Alban's Cathedral Thursday 3rd - Saturday 5th February 2022 from 10.00am to 4.00pm. We will be offering different ways of exploring the Scriptures in prayer, through creative activities and in Bible study. Join us for a joyful and profound experience. Come and join the pilgrimage. Explore the 'tents of encounter with the Word', participate in the times of prayer and reflection, enjoy family friendly activities and much more. To find out what's on see www.rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival

'THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR THE PERPLEXED'

A series of five online talks by Fr John Deehan as part of the Agency's series in 'The God Who Speaks', Thursday 13th, 20th, 27th January, 3rd and 10th February, 7.00pm. Please book by Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-god-who-speaks-the-new-testament-for-the-perplexed-tickets-221344626737> or contact Anna - annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

THE GARDEN CALVARY

You will notice that this weekend scaffolding has appeared around the Calvary Cross in our grounds. As has been mentioned over the past few months, after 100 years the wood of the cross has become very rotten and is now becoming dangerous, and so the cross will be taken down on Monday 20th December. The parish Finance, Operations and Premises (FOP) Committee has agreed that when we have finalized the plans for the restoration of the Calvary and assessed the costs involved, we will appeal to parishioners for specific donations to support the restoration of this iconic, unique and much loved garden Calvary.

CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00PM MASS CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

We encourage children to come to the Mass dressed up as characters from the Nativity story to mark this Mass in a special way.

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!

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS EVE 5.30PM MASS CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

We have decided to cancel the children presenting the nativity as is the tradition in the parish due to the current health concerns. However we do encourage children to come to the Mass dressed up as characters from the Nativity story to mark this Mass in a special way.

CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE CHURCH AND BLESSING OF OUR LADY ALTAR

It has now been confirmed that Cardinal Vincent Nichols will come to Mill End to celebrate Mass for the 50th anniversary of the opening of the church and to bless our new Lady Altar on **Sunday 16th January 2022** at our 10.30am Mass. Please add this date to your diary and look out for more details regarding this celebration in the coming weeks. On **Saturday 15th January at 2pm** we will need some assistance to move heavy furniture to prepare for the Reception for this celebration. If you are able to help with this then please contact Geraldine geraldine.page21@gmail.com

CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

You will find our new digital collection plate (Dona) in the church porch. 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.

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

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.

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

Very many thanks indeed for your generous donations for our Missionaries this December of £199.50. Our final total for the year amounts to £546.31 + gift aid £55 = £601. Just slightly less than last year. We would welcome some new parishioners to join in, some of our older donors are getting too frail to continue. Grateful thanks and love to all, Mary 284975.

FREE GIFTS!!

About 18 **Missio / APF Calendars** are available on the table in the lobby. They are lovely, showing every Saint's day through the year. Please take one.