



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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Rickmansworth

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Chorleywood

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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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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) - 5TH DECEMBER 2021

Come, Lord Jesus!

Vigilance. Let us focus on this important aspect of the Christian life. From the words of Christ, we see that vigilance is tied to alertness: be alert, do not get distracted, that is, stay awake! Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become “sleepy Christians” – and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness – Christians without spiritual fervour, without intensity in prayer, without enthusiasm for mission, without passion for the Gospel; Christians who always look inwards, incapable of looking to the horizon. And this leads to “dozing off”: to move things along by inertia, to fall into apathy, indifferent to everything except what is comfortable for us. This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.

We need to be vigilant so that our daily life does not become routine, and, as Jesus says, so we are not burdened by life’s anxieties. So today is a good moment to ask ourselves: what weighs on my heart? What weighs on my spirit? What makes me go to sit in the lazy chair? It is sad to see Christians “in the armchair”! What are the mediocrities that paralyze me, the vices that crush me to the ground and prevent me from raising my head? And regarding the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of our brothers and sisters, am I aware of them or indifferent to them? These are good questions to ask ourselves, because they help guard our hearts against apathy. Apathy is a great enemy of the spiritual life and also of Christian life. Apathy is a type of laziness that makes us slide into sadness, it takes away zest for life and the will to do things. It is a negative spirit that traps the soul in apathy, robbing it of its joy. It starts with sadness sliding downwards so that there is no joy. The Book of Proverbs says: “With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life” (Prov 4:23). Guard your heart: that means to be vigilant!

And let us add an essential ingredient: the secret to being vigilant is prayer. In fact, Jesus says: “Be vigilant at all times and pray” (Lk 21:36). Prayer is what keeps the lamp of the heart lit. This is especially true when we feel that our enthusiasm has cooled down. Prayer re-lights it, because it brings us back to God, to the centre of things. Prayer reawakens the soul from sleep and focuses it on what matters, on the purpose of existence. Even during our busiest days, we must not neglect prayer. The prayer of the heart can be helpful for us, repeating often brief invocations. For example, during Advent, we could make a habit of saying, “Come, Lord Jesus.” Only these words, but repeating them: “Come, Lord Jesus”. This time of preparation leading to Christmas is beautiful: we think of the nativity scene and Christmas, so let us say from the heart: “Come, Lord Jesus”. Let us repeat this prayer all throughout the day: the soul will remain vigilant! “Come, Lord Jesus”, is a prayer we can all say together three times. “Come, Lord Jesus”, “Come, Lord Jesus”, “Come, Lord Jesus”.

Extract from homily of Pope Francis, 1st Sunday of Advent, 28th November 2021

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 5TH DECEMBER	11.30am 12.00pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Baptisms	St John the Evangelist St John the Evangelist
WED 8TH DECEMBER	7.30pm 7.30pm	Alpha - Hall Alpha Prayer Ministry - Church	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 9TH DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 11TH DECEMBER	10am - 11am	Advent Holy Hour and the Sacrament of Reconciliation	St John the Evangelist
SUN 12TH DECEMBER	11.30am 4.15pm	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Confirmation Session - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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
MONDAY 6 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Ola & Adam Budzynski RIP		
TUE 7TH DECEMBER <i>ST AMBROSE, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Eileen McConway RIP		9.30am Brigid Fernandes RIP
WED 8TH DECEMBER <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am Fr David Irwin RIP	9.30am Robert Gibson RIP	
THURSDAY 9 TH DECEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
FRIDAY 10 TH DECEMBER	9.30am John Turner RIP		
SATURDAY 11 TH DECEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6pm (Vigil) Billy Kerins (Ints.)	
SUNDAY 12 TH DECEMBER <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Italico Tat RIP 11am Ina Murphy RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Eve Clark 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

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/rickmanworth.

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

COVID PRECAUTIONS

We continue to encourage face coverings to be worn in the church and when moving around our parish halls. 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.

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.

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

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

If you know someone who is sick and housebound in our parishes who would like to receive Holy Communion, please let the parish office know so that we can be in contact with them.

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.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive the weekly parish newsletter by email then please email the parish office with your contact details so that you can be added to the distribution list.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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 30th November and 12 noon on Tuesday 7th 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>

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our thanks to all those who contributed to the running of our parish Christmas fair on Sunday 28th November and for all those who came to support it.

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!

FOLK GROUP - APPEAL FOR NEW MEMBERS

We wanted to extend a warm invitation to anyone who would like to join the Folk Group as a singer or as an instrumentalist, we are always keen to have new woodwind, string, and guitar players. If you are an instrumentalist, there is some sight-reading involved, so all we ask is for you to be at a good standard to be able to learn any new music. We rehearse before the 6pm Mass each week and would love to have you join us. If you have any questions, please drop me an email (cepione@hotmail.co.uk). *Katy Pione*

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions, the box is now in the church porch. Please keep them coming!
Sheila Harrington.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

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.

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.

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.

ST JOHN FISHER'S CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Final news on our Garage Charity Christmas Fair. We have finished with our final total of £1,740 and the raffle prizes have all been collected! The Cardinal Hume Centre and the Franciscan Missionaries have both been paid. Very many thanks to all who helped in every way, in particular Marguerite for her spectacular cakes, Fr Andrew and Fr Damian, Eddie, Juliet, Jenny, Marion, Maureen, Rosemary and Toni and indeed to the whole parish for your support. We hope to do it all again next year. Let us hope it will be a half day wonder centred at our Church as it was in the past!! Happy Christmas and love to all, Mary xx