



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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Assistant Priest:

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Parish Administrator:

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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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Mill End Parish

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Chorleywood Parish

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**Diocesan Safeguarding
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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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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR C) - 26TH DECEMBER 2021

A Christmas note.

Christmas is a time when we think of giving and receiving. At home we wrap up gifts for our loved ones and leave them by the tree, in memory of the greatest gift that we could ever have received, the infant Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes in the manger. But there are other images from the nativity story of those who gave what they had. Mary gave herself with her great words of acceptance at the annunciation, “let your will be done to me”. Joseph gave up his life, pictured so beautifully as he leads his wife on a donkey on the long journey to Bethlehem, protecting and guiding the family entrusted to him by the Lord. The innkeeper gave what little he had available – a stable – so that the couple desperately seeking shelter could have somewhere to bring their child into the world. And later, the magi, brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the newborn king.

Since my arrival in our parishes, I have discovered that there are many people who give what they can to help our mission to grow. I would like to thank you for all that you have done to support Fr Shaun, Fr Damian and I in 2021. It has been another challenging year, with many uncertainties and we enter this Christmas season with yet more question marks about the way forward. We thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we have tried to live out the parish mission, whilst keeping those who come here as safe as possible. We thank all those who have contributed to keeping our churches open in times of restriction. We thank all those who have helped us to reach out into the community to those who have been isolated in this time. We thank all those who have been patient in returning to their liturgical ministries and prayer groups, often following new ways of doing things. We thank all those who keep our parishes in their daily prayers, asking God to guide and protect us. And we thank all those who help our parishes to operate on a day-to-day basis, especially those in our SLT, FOP and JPPC groups, whose wisdom and support have enabled the parish clergy to try to do what is best for the parishes in these challenging times, whilst always focusing on living out our vision to encounter Jesus whilst serving others.

The Christmas story is a story of hope, and we enter 2022 renewed by this hope and in our vision for the mission ahead. Let us pray that over the coming year the Holy Spirit may empower us to grow together in our love for Jesus Christ, so that the people of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Mill End will discover the Good News that we profess with joy.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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
MON 27TH DECEMBER <i>ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST</i>	NO MASS TODAY	10am Fr Des Baker RIP	
TUE 28TH DECEMBER <i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</i>	NO MASS TODAY		10am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WED 29TH DECEMBER <i>ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR</i>	10am Beryl Selley RIP		
THU 30TH DECEMBER <i>6TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	10am Special Intention		
FRI 31ST DECEMBER <i>7TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	10am Fr Jim Duffy RIP		
SAT 1ST JANUARY <i>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</i>	10am Fr Des Baker RIP	6pm (Vigil) Mary Duffy RIP	
SUN 2ND JANUARY <i>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY</i>	8.30am For the People of the Parishes 11am Kenny D'Cruz RIP 6pm Joe Blundell RIP	10.30am May Hard (Ints.)	9am Patrick Dowling RIP (Anniv.)
MONDAY 3 RD JANUARY	9.30am Fr Dominic Byrne RIP		
TUESDAY 4 TH JANUARY	9.30am Verna Kendrick RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WEDNESDAY 5 TH JANUARY	NO MASS TODAY	11.00am Funeral - Ruth Gillespie RIP	7.30pm (Vigil) Fr Des Baker RIP
THU 6TH JANUARY <i>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	7.30pm Anne Gemmell (Ints.)	
FRIDAY 7 TH JANUARY	9.30am Fr David Irwin RIP		
SATURDAY 8 TH JANUARY	9.30am Michael Jubber RIP (Anniv.)	6pm (Vigil) Mary & Billy Kerins (Ints.)	
SUN 9TH JANUARY <i>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i>	8.30am John Eldridge RIP 11am Brian Feehely RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Joanne Nairn RIP	10.30am Mary Doherty RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have generously given us Christmas cards, gifts and best wishes over the past few days in the build-up to Christmas. We hope and pray that you have a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and new year. Fr Andrew and Fr Damian.

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.

FR DES BAKER RIP

It is with sadness that we share the death of Fr Des Baker who was a parish priest of St John the Evangelist, Mill End from 2005 to 2008. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

RUTH GILLESPIE RIP

The body of Ruth Gillespie will be received at St John the Evangelist, Mill End at 6.00pm on Tuesday 4th January and the funeral will be celebrated there at 11.00am on Wednesday 5th January, followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

JOSEPH JOBLING RIP

The funeral of Joseph Jobling will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Monday 10th January, followed by committal at Woodcock Hill Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

PASCAL ROCK RIP

The funeral of Pascal Rock will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians at 11.00am on Friday 14th January, followed by committal at Chorleywood Road Cemetery. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Thursday 6th January is The Epiphany of the Lord. Masses across the three parishes will be as follows: St John Fisher - 7.30pm Vigil (Wednesday 5th January), Our Lady Help of Christians - 9.30am; St John the Evangelist - 7.30pm.

NEWSLETTER

Please note that there will be no Newsletter next weekend.

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

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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

THE CALVARY CROSS

The Calvary Cross has been taken down over the last few days due to health and safety concerns as a result of the wood rotting throughout the cross. 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 focus of prayer in our grounds.

CATHOLIC WORKER FARM

Thank you so much for your donation of £1058.20 which was raised from the Advent Fair. This will help towards our new mother and baby house. God bless, *Scott*

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*

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. 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
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.

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.