



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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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) - 12TH DECEMBER 2021

Making Advent One's Own

The word *visitatio* is closely connected to the meaning of the word "Advent". This means "visit", but our ecclesiastical language has long been accustomed to translate it as "visitation". And a strange shift in our thinking has occurred here: the word "visitation" has almost completely lost the joyful contents of the word "visit". We no longer think of its original meaning; rather, we think of "visitations" as burdens that we interpret as a punishment "visited upon us" by God. But the opposite ought in fact to be the case!

Just like a great joy, so too illness and suffering can be a very personal Advent of one's own – a visit by the God who enters my life and wants to encounter me personally. Even when it is difficult for us, we should at least try to understand the days of our illness in this way: The Lord has interrupted my activity for a time in order to let me be still.

In my daily living, I have little time for him and little time for myself. I am completely involved from morning to evening in all the things I have to do, and I even succeed in eluding my own grasp, because I do not know how to be alone with myself. My job possesses me; the society in which I live possesses me; entertainment of various kinds possesses me; but I do not possess myself. And this means that I gradually go to seed like an overgrown garden, first in my external activities and, then, in my inner life, too. I am propelled along by my activities, for I am merely a cog in their great machinery.

But now God has drawn me out of all this. I am obliged to be still. I am obliged to wait. I am obliged to reflect on myself; I am obliged to bear being alone. I am obliged to bear pain, and I am obliged to accept the burden of my own self. All this is hard.

But may it not be the case that God is waiting for me in this stillness? May it not be the case that he is doing here what Jesus says in the parable of the vine: "Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (Jn 15:2)?

A visit by the Lord – perhaps illness can present itself in a new light when we see it as a part of Advent. For when we rebel against it, this is not only because it is painful or because it is hard to be still and alone: we rebel against it because there are so many important things we ought to be doing and because illness seems meaningless. But it is not in the least meaningless! In the structure of human life as a whole, it is profoundly meaningful. It can be a moment in our life that belongs to God, a time when we are open to him and thus learn to rediscover our own selves.

Perhaps we should try an experiment. Let us understand the individual events of the day as little signs God sends us. Let us not take note only of the annoying and unpleasant things; we should endeavour to see how often God lets us feel something of his love. To keep a kind of inner diary of good things would be a beautiful and healing task.

The Lord is here. This Christian certainty is meant to help us look at the world with new eyes and to understand the "visitation" as a visit, as one way in which he can come to us and be close to us.

Extract from "The Blessings of Christmas," Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572
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Carol Bartlett 01923 773841
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Mill End Parish

Matt McKiernan 01923 493747
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Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337
chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

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

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

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
TUES 14TH DECEMBER	7.30pm 7.30pm	Advent Holy Hour and the Sacrament of Reconciliation - Fr Alexander Balzanella Kairos	Our Lady Help of Christians <i>Via Zoom</i>
THU 16TH DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 17TH DECEMBER	7.30pm	Candlelit Christmas Carol Service	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 18TH DECEMBER	10am - 11am 10am	Advent Holy Hour and the Sacrament of Reconciliation Decorating the Christmas Tree	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SUN 19TH DECEMBER	11.30am	Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall	St John the Evangelist

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
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 Italice Tat RIP 11am Ina Murphy RIP (Anniv.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Eve Clark RIP	9am Private Intention
MON 13TH DECEMBER <i>ST LUCY, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Belinda M ^c Aleavy RIP		
TUE 14TH DECEMBER <i>ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST</i>	9.30am Ola & Adam Budzynski RIP		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WEDNESDAY 15 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Fr David Irwin RIP	9.30am John O'Driscoll RIP	
THURSDAY 16 TH DECEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
FRIDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Eithne Jackson RIP		
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



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 CAROL SERVICE

There will be a joint parishes Christmas Carol Service at Our Lady's Church at 7.30pm on **Friday 17th December**. Please do make this part of your advent preparation either in person or via the live-stream.

VISITING CONFESSOR

Fr Alexander Balzanella from Holy Rood Church, Watford, will be hearing confessions at Our Lady's Church from 7.30-8.30pm on **Tuesday 14th December**. There are also a number of other extra opportunities for us to receive this beautiful sacrament in the coming weeks. These are advertised in our parishes Advent & Christmas Services Information booklet available in the Church or on the website.

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/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.

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@caplifekills.org

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

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. £1058.20 was raised from the fair which will go towards the work of the Catholic Workers Farm.

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*

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Mary Quinn £31, Clare Loose £23.25, Anne Dodson £15.50 and Martin Brady £7.75.

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. 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 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
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.

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.