



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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Parish Administrator:

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Rickmansworth

Paul Matarewicz
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Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

Geraldine Page
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 @ChessValleyRC

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Mill End Parish

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Chorleywood Parish

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry
Leadership Team:
rickmansworthyouth@rcdow.org.uk

Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir
Director rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) - 27th NOVEMBER 2022

Waiting in Hope

God's promises are accomplished within the boundaries of time. The promise of a Saviour was made in the Garden of Eden, but it was fulfilled slowly, and many centuries were to pass before the coming of Jesus.

The scripture readings of Advent invite us to recall our faith history, to assume the posture of the expectant people of Israel, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Messiah. Seeing what is happening in our world today, we realise, like our ancestors in the faith, that we have a very real need of a Saviour. So, words like waiting, yearning, hoping, longing, listening, praying, and staying awake are Advent words, Advent concepts. Through them, we enter into the wistful atmosphere of the Advent season.

On the First Sunday of Advent, Jesus tells us, *Stay awake!* When we're waiting, we're "awake", we're on the alert for something or someone: news, a bus or a train, a dear friend, a family member, a letter, an email, a phone call, a Skype or text message, a sign or a sound, some information that is important to us. While we wait, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, we will experience God's presence in what is happening around us.

Waiting can give us the opportunity to see and hear and feel things we're often too busy to notice. And while we wait, we may see other waiting people, pensioners, parents, disabled people, teenagers, young children, and notice the look in their eyes, the joy, the pain, the hope, the despair; we may see beautiful things, ugly things; we may hear a kind word, a cruel word, a baby's cry, a shout of rage, a snatch of music... Such experiences are all part of the Advent journey.

"Waiting in hope" is the signature tune of Advent, and this year, perhaps more than ever because of the pandemic, we long to hear the melody of hope in our lives.

In his book, *Dynamics of Faith*, Paul Tillich says that often it is in moments of helplessness that we experience the transforming power of grace: "*Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness... It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage.*"

When grace "strikes" us in this way, things may not be outwardly better than before, but we know in the depths of our being that God has touched us, and that our time of waiting in hope has not been in vain.

Extract from meditation by Advent meditation Sr Teresa White fcfj

An Advent Prayer

Come Lord, your wounded world is yearning
for you to come again.

Come Lord, your weary world is crying out
for you to lift us up

out of our despair, our hunger,
our thirst for something better,
our need for the food that will last.

Come Lord, come again,
we need to begin again.

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SUN 27TH NOVEMBER	9.00am - 1.00pm 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Christmas Fair - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 28TH NOVEMBER	7.00pm	Prayer Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 29TH NOVEMBER	4.30pm - 5.45pm	Youth Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist
THU 1ST DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 3RD DECEMBER	10.00am - 12.30pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Christmas Fair Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
SUN 4TH DECEMBER	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Coffee Morning - Hall Tea and Coffee after Mass - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians 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 26 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Mark Antony Xavier RIP & Annaci Juati Pillai RIP	6.00pm Patrick Vaughan RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 27 TH NOVEMBER <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Peggy & Roy Langdale RIP 11am Maura Malone (Ints.) 6pm For the People of the Parishes	10.30am Catherine Ryan RIP (Anniv.)	9am Malcolm Stacey RIP
MONDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Patrick Carson RIP (Anniv.)		
TUESDAY 29 TH NOVEMBER	9.30am Mary Behan RIP		NO MASS TODAY
WED 30TH NOVEMBER <i>ST ANDREW, APOSTLE</i>	9.30am Liz Dakin RIP	NO MASS TODAY	
THURSDAY 1 ST DECEMBER	9.30am Verna Kendrick RIP (Anniv.)		
FRIDAY 2 ND DECEMBER	9.30am Kevin Smyth RIP		
SAT 3RD DECEMBER <i>ST FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</i>	9.30am Mary Hartnett (Ints.)	6.00pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 4 TH DECEMBER <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Martin Gallagher RIP 11am Dot Howlett RIP 6pm Anne Hayes RIP	10.30am Kay Sheehan RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for the intentions of the Nolan Family		



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, Neville Mathews, Agnes Harper, Ginny Goodgol, Maria Wallis, Heather Kean, John Caneparo, Henry Cutting, Nalene Nixon, Maureen Douglas, Michael Gaukroger, Molly Gray, Leslie Edwards, Pauline Williams, Gloria Warmington and Patrick Purtill

St John the Evangelist: Rita Murray, Alfredo Rock, Paul O'Connor and Antoinette Moss.

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, Pam Fitzpatrick and Julian Harris

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Advent & Christmas Leaflets are now available to take away and to share with others who may wish to join us. Within these are the Mass times over Christmas, plus details of extra confessions during Advent, and details of our joint parishes Christmas Carol Service at 7pm on Friday 16th December.

CONFIRMATION

For those in Year 9 and above attending Mass who wish to register to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2023, please speak to Fr Andrew or Fr Matteo after Mass. Application forms will only be handed to prospective candidates after Mass and will not be available for collection from the Parish Office.

YOUTH CHOIR

We welcome to the parish Jaison Jeyaventhana as our new Youth Choir Director who will work with our young people aged 8-13. The Youth Choir will sing on a Sunday once a month at Our Lady's and once a month at St John's, Mill End. There will be a rehearsal for the choir on a Tuesday evening each week from 4.30-5.45pm. If your child is interested in joining the choir please could you contact the parish office. If there are any adults willing to assist Jaison in supervising the children during the rehearsals then please also contact the parish office for more details.

FRIENDSHIP AND FAITH GROUP

The Friendship and Faith Group will be meeting in Our Lady's hall on Wednesday 7th December from 2.15-4.00pm. **Everyone welcome.**

WARM WINTER COAT APPEAL

A big Thank You to those of you who sent coats in to this appeal. Through the generosity of our parishioners, St Peter's parish and the Royal Masonic school we were able to send 239 warm winter coats to "Calling London" and they will make a big difference to the needy as the cold winter weather approaches. Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause,

ALPHA

Alpha face to face begins again on Tuesday 17th January from 7.30-9.15pm and runs every week until 28th March at Our Lady's hall. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life's big questions and the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment. Each session includes snacks and hot/cold drinks, an engaging video designed to generate conversation, and a discussion time where you can say whatever you like or nothing at all. Sessions include topics such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why did Jesus die?' and 'How can I have Faith?' Registrations are now open so please do contact us using the following email address; chessvalleyalpha@rcdow.org.uk to register your interest or you are welcome to phone Deidre Gilmore on 07941 931319. As before, places are being prioritised for those who have not previously tried Alpha, so please share the details and invite others to attend. If you are interested in attending Alpha but this isn't the right timing for you please do contact us as Alpha is an ongoing ministry within the Chess Valley Group of Parishes and we can hold your details for forthcoming Alphas. Please pass this invitation on to someone you know who might like to explore the meaning of life and have fun whilst doing so!

ADVENT WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS are now available (£1 per booklet).

CHRISTMAS DINNER ON CHRISTMAS DAY AT 12 NOON

Mill End Community Centre would like to invite anyone who is alone for Christmas Day to come and join us for Christmas Dinner and a glass of sherry or wine, with the RVS Volunteers. £10 per person. First come first served due to limited places. To book please call Theresa O'Brien on 01923 463031 or 07939 278787 (closing date 21st December).

VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

CHESS VALLEY SVP

Chess Valley SVP will be providing a Warm Winter Space in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End, every Thursday afternoon between 2 to 4pm, for the duration of the winter months. Hot drinks, cakes and biscuits will be provided. Please let those you feel would benefit from this know. For further information, please email chessvalleysvp@gmail.com

MILL END FOOD BANK

Chess Valley SVP will be collecting specific items needed by the food bank to supplement their food boxes. There are now collection boxes in each of the Church porches for these items. We will be monitoring what is needed by the Food Bank regularly and update this list accordingly both in the Parish newsletter and on the boxes. Items needed at present are; **dog food, deodorant, toilet rolls, washing up liquid, washing powder, shower gel, long life juice/squash, long life milk, tinned vegetables and children's toothbrushes.**

GIFT AID - ONE-OFF ENVELOPES / BANK TRANSFERS

If you do pay tax, would you please consider using the 'one-off' envelopes when requesting a Mass, towards baptism etc, or even for a donation towards a specific purpose. Completing the form attached to the envelope is vitally important to enable us to claim the tax. If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration in the past, we are currently only able to claim gift aid on your offertory donations (standing orders / offertory envelopes).

If you'd like to Gift Aid your bank transfer donations, please email giftaid@rcdow.org.uk with the following details:

- Your parish name
- Your title, first name and surname
- Your address and postcode
- The date of your gift
- The amount and what it is for (eg, Mass Intention, Baptism etc).
- Please add the line: 'Please Gift Aid my donations'

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)

Our new family catechesis for all those with children aged 5-11 has now begun. The sessions are engaging, spirit-filled and fun, and they are for all the family. We celebrate Mass, enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshment before sharing catechesis and activities. As part of GIFT we will also hold Faith Formation for parents on one evening each month online (Zoom). These sessions are designed to help parents grow in their own faith, enabling them to lead their family on their journey of faith. We pray that GIFT will be a new way of approaching family catechesis across our parishes that will give all our families encouragement and strength in journeying together in faith. If your family would like to sign up for GIFT then please email the parish office (rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk) with the names of each of your family, the children's ages and a contact phone number. Further details will then be sent to you.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Boutique Christmas Fair is this Sunday 27th November from 9am to 1pm. Please do come and support our parish.

MEMORIAL BOOK

The memorial book has not been updated for the last couple of years. If you would like to add a family member, or a parishioner to this book, please let Kerry know their name and date of death as soon as possible.

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

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

COFFEE MORNING

There will be a coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 4th December. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

WARM WINTER COATS WANTED

This November we are hoping to collect warm winter coats for the charity "Calling London" as we so successfully did last year. They distribute the coats to various charities helping the homeless, refugees, the elderly, and those in low income households. Any coats are welcome as long as they are clean and warm, but they particularly need children's and large adult sizes. This year the need is likely to be particularly acute so please help if you can. Donations should be left in the Church porch during November and they will be collected and sent to the charity. Last date for donations is Sunday 20th November.

For more information, or if you would like to be involved please email coatdrivewd3@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS FAIR 11TH DECEMBER (after the 10.30am Mass)

Could we please ask for donations of **bottles** and **sweets** for the tombolas. These can be brought in from now and left in the box at the back of the church. Raffle tickets are now on sale after every weekend Mass.

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR - SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 10-12.30PM

Trying to make a difference for the Cardinal Centre for the Homeless in Westminster and for the disabled and very poor being cared for by the Franciscan Missionaries in Africa. We have just **one week to go**. Please bring in your last minute gifts and cakes etc during the week, we are open on Tuesday 10am - 12 noon, Thursday 2.30pm - 4pm and Friday 10am - 4pm. After Mass today we will be selling more raffle tickets, placing bids on the Silent Auction and **moving furniture at the back of the church**. We will also need to **reconstruct the furniture after the fair** (12.30pm to about 2pm). Please volunteer to help if you can. So many thanks for all you are doing. Mary 284975

APF/MISSIO/RED BOX HOLDERS

It's time for this quarter's collection. Please could you bring your boxes or envelopes to church or directly to me in the next two weeks. Many thanks, as always Mary

DIOCESAN NOTICES

Friends of Westminster Cathedral

The Friends of Westminster Cathedral are raising funds towards the cost of replacing the sanctuary floodlighting in Westminster Cathedral. The present floodlighting is very old and replacement parts are not available, also it uses a great deal of power generating a huge output of heat. A new system would be easily maintained and save electricity. There is a unique opportunity to do this through The Big Give where donations made online after 12:00 noon, Tuesday 29 November to 12 noon, Tuesday 6 December are matched by generous matched funders. A donation of £100 would contribute £200 or £225 for taxpayers agreeing to gift aid their donation. Please use the link below to give online.

<https://tinyurl.com/FriendsBG22>

WITNESS TO HOPE

The Prayers and Readings of Advent. Talks by Fr John Deehan will be delivered via Zoom on the following dates: 1st & 8th December. Contact Anna, annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk for more information and to register.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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