



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

Paul Matarewicz
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Chorleywood

Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
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Mill End

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@ChessValleyRC

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

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Mill End Parish

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Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337
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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 rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) - 18TH DECEMBER 2022

Come home for Christmas!

Each Christmas our churches are filled with people who come to pray before the Manger, join in the singing of carols and feel the warmth of the Saviour's love. Some of these are not Catholic; others do not practice the Faith regularly. Some are estranged from the Church, angry at her teachings, hurt by her representatives; a larger number simply live their lives as if the Church has no place in their world, no bearing on their lifestyles, careers and choices, except at Christmas.

Many are our loved ones, members of our families, young and old. Parents and grandparents often have a lump in their throats as they sing the Christmas carols, happy to have their adult children and grandchildren with them for Christmas Mass, but knowing that it is probably the only Mass they will attend during the year. There are probably more prayers offered for the success of the sermon than at any other time during the year; as people pray that Father will say exactly the right things to get loved ones back to church and not say anything that will push people's buttons.

Parishes across the country are reporting that numbers attending Mass each Sunday have fallen by a third since the Covid pandemic. This is a staggering figure. But though we are shocked by the numbers, what really weighs on our hearts are those in our own family who have fallen away, joined another religion, or simply won't hear anything about God or the Church. They are a constant object of our prayers, our worries, and our tears. Some left because they were bored, others were rebelling against their families and all they represented, including the Faith; some have made lifestyle choices about marriage and sexuality opposed to the Church's teachings; others claimed they were not being spiritually fed and so began to look elsewhere. There are those who have fallen away because the Church changed so much; others have gone because she hasn't changed enough.

Whatever their reasons, we can be sure that God wants us to know that He loves our loved ones even more than we do. His Son was born for this; His Son has died for this. Jesus, born of Mary, will bring us comfort, understanding, and the strength to go on. Christ the Saviour wants to bring them home, home to His Heart, His Church, His Kingdom. To do this, He seeks our willingness, our prayer, our conversion of heart. It is time now, in this week before Christmas to pray in a special way for all those "strangers" who will come to our churches for Christmas Mass, for those who have fallen away but still hear the Voice of the Divine Shepherd calling them through the words of carols and the sound of church bells. In this week, let us pray for the courage to personally invite those known to us, who may not come to Church regularly, to join us at Mass at Christmas.

But we must also pray for each other, that we be ready for Christmas. We must ask for so much grace that we are radiant with it; that our words be filled with truth and kindness, our hearts with love and divine life. We must pray that everyone who comes into our church may see Jesus reflected in every face, every gesture, everyone that they see. Then they will know that He is alive and true and loving. . . and that there is no one who can compare with Him. And so the journey home will begin.

Adapted from article by Rev. John Horgan, 'Bringing our fallen-away relations back to Church during Advent' (www.catholiceducation.org)

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

SAT 17TH DECEMBER	10.00am - 11.00am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Advent Holy Hour and Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SUN 18TH DECEMBER	5.00pm - 5.45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians
MON 19TH DECEMBER	10.00am - 11.00am 7.30pm - 8.30pm	Advent Holy Hour and Confessions Advent Holy Hour and Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 20TH DECEMBER	10.00am - 11.00am 4.30pm - 5.45pm	Advent Holy Hour and Confessions Youth Choir Practice	St John Fisher St John the Evangelist
THU 22ND 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 17 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Eithne Hollingsworth RIP	6.00pm For the People of the Parishes	
SUNDAY 18 TH DECEMBER <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Mary & Patrick McCullagh 11am Patrick Mantle RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Jad Damouni RIP	10.30am Pascal Rock RIP (Anniv.)	9am For the People of the Parishes
MONDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Peter Moss RIP (Anniv.)		
TUESDAY 20 TH DECEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		12.30pm Funeral - Richard Hale RIP
WEDNESDAY 21 ST DECEMBER	9.30am Fr Jeremy Davies RIP	9.30am Eve Clark RIP	
THURSDAY 22 ND DECEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		11.00am Funeral - Pat Finucane RIP
FRIDAY 23 RD DECEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes		
SATURDAY 24 TH DECEMBER <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	NO MORNING MASS 6pm J.J. Crossan RIP (Anniv.) 11pm For the People of the Parishes	5.30pm For the People of the Parishes	8pm For the People of the Parishes
SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER <i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</i>	8.30am In thanksgiving 11am Peggy & Roy Langdale RIP NO EVENING MASS	10.30am For the People of the Parishes	9am Pat Finucane RIP
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamps burn for Ernest & Joan Townend RIP (Our Lady's) and Viktor Boehler RIP (Blessed Sacrament)		

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, Colin Dowling, Kitty Finucane, Anne Trenchard, Paul Kennett, Ann Penn, Pam Fitzpatrick and Julian Harris

NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

RICHARD HALE RIP

The funeral of Richard Hale will take place at St John Fisher at 12.30pm on Tuesday 20th December, followed by committal at Chiltern Crematorium. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time. *Please note that the parking restriction on Shire Lane (single yellow line) has been lifted for the day.*

CHORLEYWOOD ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Will remain at 10am on Tuesday 20th December. There will be no 9.30am Mass due to the funeral.

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

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 Matteo. 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. There are also one-off gift aid envelopes available. Thank you

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.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FLORENCE, SIENA & ASSISI LED BY FR ANDREW GALLAGHER, 22ND - 27TH OCTOBER 2023

£795 pp. plus flights (Easyjet from London Luton) as advised once prices are available, but you are advised to book early to avoid higher flight costs. Accommodation will be 2 nights near Florence, 3 nights in the centre of Assisi on a Half Board basis. Also includes half day guided tours in Florence, Siena and Assisi and an English speaking courier for the whole tour. Further information and booking forms can be obtained from the Parish Office rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk or from Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666.

YOUTH GROUP

Calling our young people (all those in secondary school). New Year, new beginnings, come to our next youth event Tuesday January 10th, Our Lady's Hall, 6.30-8pm. Join us for fun, games, snacks, meet new or old friends, bring a friend. Parents please message names and numbers attending to 07788 721222. We look forward to seeing you

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, 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!

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 and 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 NatWest **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 46088237**. Thank you so much for your support.

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.**

SPONSORED SANCTUARY LAMPS.

In each of our churches 2 sanctuary lamp candles burn throughout the week – one by the tabernacle indicating the Lord's presence, and the other by the statue of Our Lady. Would you like one of these to burn in memory of a loved one, or for a particular intention? If so, we are asking for a donation of £10 per week, for your intention to be remembered and recorded in the weekly newsletter. Please hand your donation into the Parish Office or to one of the priests marked 'Sanctuary Lamp Donation', together with a note stating your particular intention, and the Church and the location of the lamp that you would like to burn for that intention.

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.

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir (aged 8-13) 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.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

CALVARY CROSS UPDATE

We are nearly there! The new cross is now on site and has been prepared, the statue is nearly restored and now we are just waiting for confirmation when the scaffold can be put up. We hope that the Cross will be back at the heart of our parish grounds by the end of January. Thank you for your patience.

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.

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.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to Peter Waters £29, Sean Godfrey £21.75, John Steele £14.50 and Theresa Jubber £7.25

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS EVE 5.30PM MASS CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

Children wishing to take part in the presentation of the Nativity story should come to the hall at 5.00pm for a rehearsal.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

A very big thank you to everyone involved in organising the Fair and running the stalls on the day. A great time was had by everyone who attended. Thank you to Father Christmas for finding time to attend our Fair. Congratulations to all our prize winners.

RED MISSIO BOXES

If you have a box could you please bring it to church or contact me and I can collect from you. Many thanks for your continued support. Geraldine

ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

I am very happy to let you know that our dwindling band of donors raised £117 in the December quarter and £530 for the year. With Gift Aid of £70 our total for the year is £600 for our hard working missionary priests, nuns and lay people. Very many thanks. Please contact me if you would like to join us, thanks and love, Mary 284975 xx

THE REPOSITORY

After Mass on Sunday there will be a selection of cards for different occasions including Christmas cards.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

The All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT) is currently seeking to appoint up to 4 additional Foundation Directors to the Trust board as part of the ongoing expansion of the Trust in line with the Diocese of Westminster's Academy Strategy. Foundation Directors are key strategic decision-makers in a Catholic Academy Trust (CAT). The legal responsibility for the performance of each academy rests with them. Their role is strategic rather than operational much in the same way that the role of a Foundation Governor is within a single non-academy Catholic school.

The Trust Board is keen to ensure that there is a wide range of complementary skills and areas of expertise reflected on the Trust Board. For more information please visit our Foundation Director Recruitment page on the ASCAT website www.ascatonline.co.uk/Become-a-Foundation-Director/ or contact Christina Reffold, Clerk to the Trust Board at clerk@ascat.co.uk

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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