



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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@ChessValleyRC

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) - 4TH DECEMBER 2022

Your Lord is Coming

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy we hear a beautiful promise that introduces us to the Season of Advent: "Your Lord is coming" (Mt 24:42). This is the foundation of our hope, it is what supports us even in the most difficult and painful moments of our life: God is coming, God is near and is coming. Let us never forget this! The Lord always comes, the Lord visits us, the Lord makes himself close, and will return at the end of time to welcome us in his embrace. Before this word, we ask ourselves: How will the Lord come? And how will we recognize him and welcome him? Let us dwell briefly on these two questions.

The first question: *how will the Lord come?* Very often we hear it said that the Lord is present on our path, that he accompanies us and speaks to us. But perhaps, distracted as we are by many things, this truth remains merely theoretical for us; yes, we know that the Lord is coming but we do not live according to this truth, or we imagine that the Lord will come in a spectacular way, perhaps through some miraculous sign. Let us bear this in mind: God is hidden in our life, he is always there – he is concealed in the commonest and most ordinary situations in our life. He does not come in extraordinary events, but in everyday things; he manifests himself in everyday things. He is there, in our daily work, in a chance encounter, in the face of someone in need, even when we face days that seem grey and monotonous, it is right there that we find the Lord, who calls to us, speaks to us and inspires our actions.

However, there is a second question: *how can we recognize and welcome the Lord?* We must be awake, alert, vigilant. Jesus warns us: there is the danger of not realizing his coming and being unprepared for his visit. Saint Augustine said: "I fear the Lord who passes by", that is, I fear that he will pass by and I will not recognize him! Indeed, Jesus says that those people in the time of Noah ate and drank "and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away" (v. 39). Pay attention to this! They were absorbed in their own things and did not realize that the flood was about to come. Indeed, Jesus says that, when he will come, "two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left" (v. 40). In what sense? What is the difference? Simply that one was vigilant, he was waiting, capable of discerning God's presence in daily life, whereas the other was distracted, "pulled along", and did not notice anything.

In this Season of Advent, let us be shaken out of our torpor and let us awaken from our slumber! Let's try to ask ourselves: am I aware of what I am living, am I alert, am I awake? Do I try to recognize God's presence in daily situations, or am I distracted and a little overwhelmed by things? If we are unaware of his coming today, we will also be unprepared when he arrives at the end of time. Therefore, let us remain vigilant! Waiting for the Lord to come, waiting for the Lord to come close to us, because he is there, but waiting alert. And may the Holy Virgin, Woman of waiting, who knew how to perceive the passing of God in the humble and hidden life of Nazareth and welcomed him in her womb, help us in this journey of being attentive to wait for the Lord who is among us and passes by.

Pope Francis, Angelus Message, 1st Sunday of Advent 2022

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

Rickmansworth Parish

Caroline Mathie 01895 672572
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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:

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Jaison Jeyaventhana - Youth Choir

Director rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk

Caitlin Scott - Confirmation:

rickmansworthconfirmation@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

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
MON 5TH DECEMBER	7.00pm	Prayer Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 6TH DECEMBER	4.30pm - 5.45pm	Youth Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist
WED 7TH DECEMBER	2.15pm	Friendship and Faith Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
THU 8TH DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 10TH DECEMBER	11.00am 1.00pm 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Baptisms Wedding Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist
SUN 11TH DECEMBER	11.30am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	Christmas Fair - Hall Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	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
SAT 3RD DECEMBER <i>ST FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</i>	9.30am Mary Hartnett (Ints.)	6.00pm Carmel Moran RIP	
SUNDAY 4TH 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
MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER	9.30am Margaret McNerney RIP		
TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER	9.30am Special Intention		9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes
WED 7TH DECEMBER <i>ST AMBROSE, BISHOP</i>	9.30am Nolan Family (Ints.)	9.30am Tom Fox RIP	
THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9.30am John O'Neill (Ints.)		
FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER	9.30am Dot Howlett RIP		
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6.00pm Margaret Hughes RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8.30am Christopher, Margaret & Dora Conway RIP 11am Ina Murphy RIP (Anniv.) 6pm Philomena Roche RIP (Anniv.)	10.30am Ruth Gillespie RIP	9am For the People of the Parishes
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for Ramiro Montesdeoca RIP		

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

PAT FINUCANE RIP

The funeral of Pat Finucane will take place at St John Fisher at 11.00am on Thursday 15th December, followed by committal at Chorleywood Lawn Cemetery. We commend her to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for her family at this sad and difficult time.

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.

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.

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, and details of our joint parishes Christmas Carol Service at 7pm on Friday 16th December.

FRIENDSHIP AND FAITH GROUP

The Friendship and Faith Group will be meeting in Our Lady's hall on Wednesday 7th December from 2.15-4pm. **Everyone welcome.**

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!

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 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).

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN RICKMANSWORTH - CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Please join us for Christmas Carols at 2.00pm on Saturday 10th December at the Mill End Community Centre.

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.**

GDPR COMPLIANCE

If you are a parish volunteer (eg a member of a parish committee, a catechist, a reader, a Minister of Holy Communion, a helper with teas and coffees, a member of the choir, welcomer, cleaner, etc) and have not signed a Confidentiality Agreement, please contact Kerry at the parish office who will send one to you to complete. Thank you.

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.

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

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR - THANK YOU!

Huge thanks to everyone who supported our wonderful Christmas Fair from volunteers to boutique stall holders to everyone who attended. Not only was it a great atmosphere and community event but we raised a fantastic £1,254.06 for the parish building fund.

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.

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.

MISSIO PROMOTERS

Please could promoters collect the calendars in the church porch for distribution and collect money from supporters for year-end. Thank you.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

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

Thank you for your donations of **bottles** and **sweets** for the tombolas. Please keep them coming. These can be left in the box at the back of the church. Raffle tickets are now on sale after every weekend Mass. Please do come and support our Fair. Father Christmas will be making an appearance and we will have hot bacon and sausage rolls. Donations of homemade cakes would be very welcome. Sadly we cannot take card payments so please remember to bring some money with you. See you on the 11th.

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

CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair is finished, except for a couple of tables of goods for late sales available after Mass today in the lounge. Very many thanks to everybody who helped in so many ways particularly Eddie, Rosemary, Juliet, Marguerite, Vivien, Ann, Toni, Fiona, Jo, Jackie, Marion, Helena, Anne, Alan, Carolyn, Yasmin, Fran, Jenny, Lucy, Magda, Maureen, Francis and the Social Committee. Thank you to all the furniture movers, and all who brought such lovely gifts and all of our very kind patrons and customers. Please forgive me if I have omitted anybody. **How much of a difference have we made** for our unknown friends in Westminster and Africa while we were having fun in Chorleywood? We hope to have an interim figure for you today and a final total at Mass next Sunday. Love, thanks and blessings to you all, Mary

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 by next week. Many thanks, as always Mary

THE REPOSITORY

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