



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

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Chorleywood

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Mill End

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@ChessValleyRC

SAFEGUARDING REPS.

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Mill End Parish

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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:
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) - 11TH DECEMBER 2022

A Sunday of Joy

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, which is called Gaudete Sunday; that is, the Sunday of joy. In the Liturgy the invitation rings out several times to rejoice, why? Because the Lord is near. Christmas is near. The Christian message is called the 'Gospel'; i.e. 'good news', an announcement of joy for all people; the Church is not a haven for sad people, the Church is a joyful home! And those who are sad find joy in her, they find in her true joy!

However, the joy of the Gospel is not just any joy. It consists in knowing one is welcomed and loved by God. As the Prophet Isaiah reminds us today, God is he who comes to save us and who seeks to help, especially those who are fearful of heart. His coming among us strengthens us, makes us steadfast, gives us courage, makes the desert rejoice and blossom; that is, when our lives becomes arid. And when do our lives become arid? When they lack the water of God's Word and his Spirit of love. However great our limitations and dismay, we are not allowed to be sluggish and vacillating when faced with difficulty and our own weakness. On the contrary, we are invited to strengthen the weak hands, to make firm the feeble knees, to be strong and to fear not, because our God always shows us the greatness of his mercy. He is a God who loves us so very much, he loves us and that is why he is with us, to help us, to strengthen us, help us go forward. Courage! Thanks to his help, we can always begin again. Someone might say to me: "No, Father, I did so many reprehensible things ... I am a great sinner.... I cannot begin from scratch!". You are wrong! You can begin from scratch! Why? Because he is waiting for you, he is close to you, he loves you, he is merciful, he forgives you, he gives you the strength to begin again! And so, we are able to open our eyes again, to overcome sadness and mourning to strike up a new song. And this true joy remains even amid trial and suffering, for it is not a superficial joy; because it permeates the depths of the person who entrusts himself to the Lord and confides in him.

Christian joy, like hope, is founded on God's fidelity, on the certainty that he always keeps his promises. The Prophet Isaiah exhorts those who have lost their way and have lost heart to entrust themselves to the faithfulness of the Lord, for his salvation will not delay in bursting into their lives. All those who have encountered Jesus along the way experience a serenity and joy in their hearts which nothing and no one can take away. Our joy is Jesus Christ, his faithful love is inexhaustible! Therefore, when a Christian becomes sad, it means that he has distanced himself from Jesus. But then we must not leave him alone! We should pray for him, and make him feel the warmth of the community.

May the Virgin Mary help us to hasten our steps to Bethlehem, to encounter the Child who is born for us, for the salvation and joy of all people. To her the angel said: "*Hail, full of grace: the Lord is with you*" (Lk 1:28). May she obtain for us the grace to live the joy of the Gospel in our families, at work, in the parish and everywhere. An intimate joy, fashioned of wonder and tenderness. The joy a mother experiences when she looks at her newborn baby and feels that he or she is a gift from God, a miracle for which she can only give thanks!

Extract from Angelus Address of Pope Francis, 3rd Sunday of Advent 2013

FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

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
MON 12TH DECEMBER	7.00pm	Prayer Workshop - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
TUE 13TH DECEMBER	4.30pm - 5.45pm	Youth Choir Practice	St John the Evangelist
WED 14TH DECEMBER	10.00am - 11.00am	Advent Holy Hour and Confessions	St John the Evangelist
THU 15TH DECEMBER	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
FRI 16TH DECEMBER	7.00pm	Christmas Carol Service	Our Lady Help of Christians
SAT 17TH DECEMBER	9.30am 10.00am - 11.00am 5.00pm - 5.45pm	GIFT Family Day - Hall Advent Holy Hour and Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	Our Lady Help of Christians 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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
SATURDAY 10 TH DECEMBER	9.30am For the sick and housebound of the parishes	6.00pm Margaret Hughes RIP (Anniv.)	
SUNDAY 11 TH 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
MONDAY 12 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Adam & Ola Budzynski RIP		
TUES 13TH DECEMBER <i>ST LUCY, VIRGIN</i>	9.30am Tommy Mantle (Ints.)		9.30am Philip Smyth RIP
WED 14TH DECEMBER <i>ST JOHN OF THE CROSS</i>	9.30am Catherine O'Neill & Family (Ints.)	9.30am George & Nada Kasparian RIP	
THURSDAY 15 TH DECEMBER	NO MASS TODAY		11.00am Funeral - Pat Finucane RIP
FRIDAY 16 TH DECEMBER	9.30am Peggy & Roy Langdale RIP		
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
SANCTUARY LAMPS	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Our Lady's) burns for Philomena Roche 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. *Please note that the parking restriction on Shire Lane (single yellow line) has been lifted for the day.*

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.*

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, and details of our joint parishes Christmas Carol Service at 7.00pm on Friday 16th December.

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.

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).

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.

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

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.

MISSIO PROMOTERS

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

CAR PARK REMINDER

Please be careful to follow the one way system and to drive slowly around the car park to ensure all our parishioners are safe when coming to Church. Please also remember to register your vehicle if you are using the site out of our regular Mass times.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR 11TH DECEMBER (after the 10.30am 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

The final total for our Charity Christmas Fair is **£2,568**. This will be split between **The Cardinal Hume Centre for the Homeless** in Westminster and the **Franciscan Missionary Nuns** working with the poor and disabled in Africa. Very many thanks to every one of our parishioners, our families, friends, other neighbouring Church members and all the Chorleywoodians who helped us and supported us in so many ways. Blessings to all and also the unknown people we have been able to help. See you next year, love from Mary.

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