



### 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>

## ENCOUNTERING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Andrew Gallagher  
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#### Assistant Priest:

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#### Parish Administrator:

Kerry Van Rensburg  
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Francis Holly (Discipleship)

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#### Livestreaming:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/rickmansworth>

### SAFEGUARDING REPS.

#### Rickmansworth Parish

Carol Bartlett 01923 773841  
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#### Mill End Parish

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[millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:millendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Chorleywood Parish

Peter Mackie 07802 229337  
[chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:chorleywoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

#### Diocesan Safeguarding

Coordinator 0207 798 9356

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Margaret Simon - Youth Ministry

Leadership Team:  
[rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickmansworth@rcdow.org.uk)

Youth Choir Director:

[rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rickyouthchoir@rcdow.org.uk)

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

### 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" (cf. *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 draws near, 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 journey, 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. And instead, Jesus says that it will take place as in "the days of Noah". And what did they do in the days of Noah? Just the normal, everyday things of life, as always: "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage". Let us bear this in mind: God is hidden in our life, he is always there — he is concealed in the most common 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 we may not notice his coming and may be unprepared for his visit. I have recalled on other occasions what Saint Augustine said: "I fear the Lord who passes by" (*Sermons*, 88, 14.13), 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". Let us pay attention to this: they did not realize anything! 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". 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, lived day to day, and did not notice anything.

Brothers and sisters, in this Season of Advent, let us be shaken out of our torpor and let us awaken from our slumber! Let us 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, brothers and sisters, let us remain vigilant! Waiting for the Lord to come, waiting for the Lord to draw near 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 Address  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, 27 November 2022*

## FROM THE PARISH DIARIES

<b>SUN 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	11.30am - 1.00pm 6.00pm	Advent Fair - Hall Youth Mass. Youth Choir sing at Mass.	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>MON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER</b>	7.30pm	Alpha - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>TUE 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER</b>	7.00pm	Advent Evening Mass	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>WED 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER</b>	2.15pm	Faith & Friendship - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>THU 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	2.00pm 8.00pm	SVP Warm Winter Space - Hall Life in the Spirit Prayer Group - Hall	St John the Evangelist Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SAT 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	5.00pm	The Chosen Christmas Special - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>SUN 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	9.30am 11.30am	Coffee Morning - Hall Tea & Coffee - Hall	Our Lady Help of Christians St John the Evangelist

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

	Our Lady Help of Christians	St John the Evangelist	St John Fisher
<b>SATURDAY</b> 29 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls	<b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 30 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Christopher, Margaret, Dora & Michael Conway RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Sheila & Pat Callanan RIP (Anniv.) <b>6pm</b> James 'Jim' Michael O'Mahoney RIP	<b>10.30am</b> Holy Souls	<b>9am</b> Richard Hale RIP
<b>MONDAY</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Verna Kendrick RIP (Anniv.)		
<b>TUESDAY</b> 2 <sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Private Intention <b>7pm</b> For the Sick and Housebound of the Parishes		<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
<b>WED 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER</b> <i>ST FRANCIS XAVIER</i>	<b>11.30am</b> Funeral - Derek Treanor RIP	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Souls	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 4 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Jeni Harrington (Ints.)		
<b>FRIDAY</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Special Intention		
<b>SATURDAY</b> 6 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	<b>9.30am</b> Julia Naughton RIP (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv.)	<b>6pm</b> For the People of the Parishes	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 7 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>8.30am</b> Christopher, Margaret, Dora & Michael Conway RIP (Anniv.) <b>11am</b> Alison McKenna RIP <b>6pm</b> Tim O'Connor RIP (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv.)	<b>10.30am</b> Holy Souls	<b>9am</b> For the People of the Parishes
<b>SANCTUARY LAMPS</b>	This week our Sanctuary Lamp (Blessed Sacrament) burns for a Private Intention		
<b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSION</b>	<b>Sundays 5pm - 5.40pm</b>	<b>Saturdays 5pm - 5.40pm</b>	<b>Confessions on request and by appointment</b>

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### DEREK TREANOR RIP

The body of Derek Treanor will be received at St John Fisher, Chorleywood at 4.30pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. His funeral will take place at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth at 11.30am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. We commend him to the love and mercy of the Lord and pray for his family at this sad and difficult time.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sonny McNicholas who was baptised at Our Lady's on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

### YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR

Are you passionate about music and working with young people? Do you have the vision and energy to lead and develop our choir of boys and girls aged 7 and above. This is a unique opportunity to inspire the next generation through music and worship. The parishes are currently advertising for a new Director of our Youth Choir, to take up the position in the new year. For further information please go to <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

### YOUTH MASS

All are welcome to join our Youth Mass on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth. Please join us afterwards in the hall for food and fun.

### FAITH & FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Faith and Friendship group will meet at 2.15pm in the small hall on the following Wednesdays: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please join us to make new friends in the parish and to follow a DVD about getting to know the Bible.

### IGNITE - POSTPONED

For various reasons, the IGNITE event scheduled for Saturday, 6 December has been postponed. Updated event details will be shared soon.

### THE CHOSEN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

We invite you to join us for a Christmas Special on 6<sup>th</sup> December 5-7pm, where we will be watching two Christmas related videos from The Chosen series and have a discussion afterwards. Please let us know if you would like to join by emailing [santoshialles@yahoo.com](mailto:santoshialles@yahoo.com) or feel free to turn up on the day.

### THE HISTORY OF SALVATION - TALKS

Sometimes life poses challenges which we don't know how to tackle. You may feel crushed or oppressed, and alone in it. But God sees the sufferings of his people, and comes to save them by his powerful Word. Come to a journey through the Bible, and find that it speaks about your life, too! The course will be led by Fr Dom, and it will take place over 11 weeks on Sundays at 7pm, beginning on January 11<sup>th</sup>, in Our Lady's Parish Hall.

### THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Have you, or someone you know, been thinking about becoming a catholic? Are you a baptised catholic but have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would now like to complete your initiation? If the answer to either of these questions is 'yes', please drop an email to Fr Andrew to have a chat about what is involved and how our parishes can help you to take the next step.

### GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)

Our family catechesis for all those with children aged 5-11 takes place once a month. The sessions are engaging, spirit filled and fun, and they are for all the family. We celebrate Mass, enjoy a time of fellowship before sharing catechesis and activities on a different theme each month. **GIFT Parents** As part of GIFT we also hold Faith Formation for parents on one evening each month online (Zoom). These sessions are designed to help all our parents grow in their own faith, enabling them to lead their family on their journey of faith. **In our parishes participation in GIFT is a gateway to discerning with you the readiness of your children to begin preparation for the Sacraments.** One parent has recently fed back "*Participating in GIFT has been the best decision not only for my child but for me as a Catholic*". If your family would like to sign up for GIFT then please register via our parish website under 'Parish Life' or contact the parish office.

### SAFEGUARDING

Being alert to matters of Safeguarding (ensuring the care and welfare of children and vulnerable adults) is something to which are all invited to attend. There are information posters at the back of church - including warning signs to look out for, contact numbers and websites for information and support.

### 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.

## DIOCESAN NOTICES

### ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Reception 2026 intake Open Morning will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please register your interest: [admin@stjohns705.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjohns705.herts.sch.uk) or 01923 774004

### THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ST LUKE'S ADVENT MORNING OF RECOLLECTION ON SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

This year we welcome Clement Harrold, a contributor and partner of the St. Paul Center, USA, who will help us reflect on the deeper meaning of this Christmas season: "The Greatest History Ever Told: Advent Hope for a Hurting World". Talks begin at 11.30am in the church, to conclude at 1.15pm. A light lunch, coffee and tea will be served in the Parish Centre at the break.

### WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JOB VACANCIES

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

## NOTICES FOR ALL THREE PARISHES

### OUR PARISHES' SEA SCOUT GROUP

The Group are always pleased to welcome young people to join in with the variety of activities offered by the various sections. We are also in need of adult volunteers for all age groups to help us continue with this provision within the Parish and wider community. For further information please contact: [info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk](mailto:info@6thRickySeaScouts.org.uk)

### PIANO AVAILABLE

The parishes have a piano that we no longer need. If you are interested in having it then please contact the parish office for further details.

### SVP 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."

### FROM CHESS VALLEY SVP - Helping Sudanese refugees

Because of security and corruption issues the SVP cannot donate directly to Sudan to help deal with their appalling refugee crisis. However the UNHCR is one of the few agencies which can operate there to help with shelter, clean water and food. Please consider donating via this link: <https://donate.unrefugees.org.uk/general/~my-donation>

### DECEMBER SVP COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Chess Valley Community Lunch will take place a week earlier than usual on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We look forward to welcoming our regular guests and parishioners from across the three parishes. We hope you can join us.

### WARM WINTER SPACE

Chess Valley SVP will once again be providing a Warm Winter Space in the church hall at St John the Evangelist, Mill End, every Thursday afternoon between 2 to 4pm. 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](mailto:chessvalleysvp@gmail.com)

### URGENTLY NEEDED – MILL END FOOD BANK

There is a current shortage of tinned soup, tinned vegetables, tinned custard/rice pudding, tinned meat e.g. casseroles/ mince (not corned beef), baked beans, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, snacks e.g. cup of soup/pot noodles/cereal bars, long life juice/squash, tea, coffee. **Please ensure that food items donated are not out of date.** Non food items: shampoo, shower gel, laundry products, deodorant, toothpaste – adult and children's. Items can be placed in the boxes provided at the back of each church.

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - NOTICES

### COFFEE MORNINGS

There will be a Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Please join us in the hall for a catch up and make new parish friends. Donations go to Our Lady's Building Fund

### STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Thank you for saving your stamps for the Missions, the box is in the church porch. Please remember to save your Christmas card and parcel stamps too! Thank you, *Sheila H*

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - NOTICES

### ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S ADVENT FAIR

This year's Fair will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November after the 10.30am Mass from 11.30am-1pm in the church hall. There will be Sunday brunch available along with Christmas stalls and a visit from Father Christmas! Please come along and support the Fair. Raffle tickets are on sale after all weekend Masses so please bring some cash to Mass! A reminder that the fair will also be cash only. Thank you for your support.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's liturgy this term will take place on the following dates: 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> December. 24<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm Christmas Eve Mass, Children are invited to participate in the Story of the Nativity (costumes provided, no speaking parts required).

## ST JOHN FISHER - NOTICES

### Our Autumn Campaign for THE CARDINAL HUME CENTRE FOR THE HOMELESS has come to an end

I am so thrilled to let you know that our final total, including doubling up, is £4,200!!! Very many thanks to all our wonderful helpers; Frs Andrew and Dom, for their encouragement; and our amazing donors and buyers. So much enthusiasm to help our poorer neighbours. Much love and blessings to you all, Mary 07795 276728 xx

### MISSIO/APF/RED BOX HOLDERS

To our small and loyal group of donors may I please have your donations by the first week in December (so I can get the annual return done). Love and thanks from Mary.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 11.30am to 1.00pm - Advent Fair at St John the Evangelist Parish Hall

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6pm - Youth Mass at Our Lady's Church

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 5pm - Chosen Christmas Special at Our Lady's Parish Hall.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 3pm - Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service at St John the Evangelist Church