

### RECTORY

1 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden,  
LONDON, WC2E 7NB  
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### THE ACTORS' CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors

### RECTOR

Fr Alan I P Robinson  
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### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

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### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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### PARISH WEBSITE

www.maidenlane.org.uk

*This parish is part of the WRCDT  
Registered Charity Number 233699*



## CORPUS CHRISTI THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

DECEMBER – MONTH DEDICATED TO  
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### ✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2019 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

#### ✠ 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30am Mass  
11.30am Solemn Latin Mass

*(Ps Week 4)  
Pro Populo  
Christiane Brown RIP*

#### MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>

#### ADVENT FERIA

1.05pm Mass  
6.30pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

*Maria Aparecida Leal Penna Gomide – Intentions*

#### TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> – CHRISTMAS EVE

#### ADVENT FERIA

1.05pm Mass

*Private Intention*

#### A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU

#### ✠ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – MASS DURING THE NIGHT

9.00pm Solemn Sung Mass

*David Hutchings RIP*

#### WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> – CHRISTMAS DAY

#### ✠ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9.30am Mass  
11.30am Solemn Sung Mass

*Pro Populo  
Cath & Charles Hodges RIP*

#### THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> – BOXING DAY

#### ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

10.00am Mass  
*Kearns, Howdle, Lake, Webster Families – Intentions*

#### FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>

#### ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

10.00am Mass  
*Downey, Newbold, Rees, Stedman Families RIP*

*(No Friday Abstinence)*

#### SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup>

#### THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

6.00pm Vigil Mass

*Anthony Brown RIP – Anniversary*

#### SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>

#### ✠ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

9.30am Mass  
11.30am Solemn Latin Mass

*(Ps Week 1)  
Pro Populo  
Foundation Mass*

#### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT\*:

will resume in the week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> January

#### SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

30 mins before Mass\*

\* except Tuesdays

### WEEKLY GIVING

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
Loose £787.16  
Envelopes £50.00

*Thank you for your continued  
generous support*

### THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR:

#### SANCTUARY LAMPS

Gerry & Dymna – Thanksgiving

#### LADY CHAPEL

Actors Living and Dead

#### SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Euan Woodworth

#### SACRED HEART PORCH

Emma Woodworth

*To have the lamps burning for your intentions,  
use an envelope at the back of the church or  
visit the website.*

### REGULAR PARISH GROUPS:

**Sodality of the Blessed Sacrament:** First Thursday of the Month, 6:30pm, Mass, Adoration and Benediction with a different guest preacher each month. All welcome!

**Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Missal of 1962):** 6:30pm Mondays & Bank Holidays; 6:30pm Second Friday of the month (Contact Latin Mass Society Tel: 020 7404 7284)

**Eucharistic Prayer Group:** Young Adults Prayer Group each Wednesday 7pm in Church with Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary - Mass first Wednesday of the Month. Contact Annette: ccpguk@gmail.com

**CaAPA** (The Catholic Association for Performing Arts) 020 7240 1221

**St. John Paul II Prayer Group (Fraternity of St. Genesius)** 7.00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month – Mass, Benediction and Blessing with First Class Relic of Pope St. John Paul II.

**Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour** Saturday evening after the Vigil Mass.

## ST JOSEPH – PRAY FOR US

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent the Gospel according to St Matthew recounts the birth of Jesus from St Joseph's viewpoint. He was betrothed to Mary who, "before they came together... was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit". The Son of God, fulfilling an ancient prophecy, became man in the womb of a virgin and this mystery at the same time expressed the love, wisdom and power of God for mankind, wounded by sin. St Joseph is presented as "a just man", faithful to God's law and ready to do his will. For this reason he enters the mystery of the Incarnation after an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, announcing: "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins". Having given up the idea of divorcing Mary secretly, Joseph took her to himself because he then saw God's work in her with his own eyes.

St Ambrose comments that "Joseph had the amiability and stature of a just man, to make his capacity as a witness worthier". St Ambrose continues: "He could not have contaminated the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Mother of the Lord, the womb rendered fertile by the mystery". Although he had felt distressed, Joseph "did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him", certain that he was doing the right thing. And in giving the name of "Jesus" to the Child who rules the entire universe, he placed himself among the throng of humble and faithful servants, similar to the Angels and Prophets, similar to the Martyrs and to the Apostles — as the ancient Eastern hymns sing. In witnessing to Mary's virginity, to God's gratuitous action and in safeguarding the Messiah's earthly life St Joseph announces the miracle of the Lord. Therefore let us venerate the legal father of Jesus, because the new man is outlined in him, who looks with trust and courage to the future. He does not follow his own plans but entrusts himself without reserve to the infinite mercy of the One who will fulfil the prophecies and open the time of salvation.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** This is your last opportunity to help with the cost of the flowers to decorate the church for Christmas: I'd be so grateful if you could help us but putting something in the retiring collection today.

### CONFESSIONS

Confessions are heard for half an hour before all Masses — but if you can't make it then, please ring the doorbell of the Rectory to see if a priest is available. And remember, to be able to receive Absolution, you need to have, at the moment of making your Confession, a **firm purpose of amendment**. If not, the priest is not permitted to give you Absolution.

### SEVEN DAY LAMPS

Seven Day Lamps are available from the Presbytery for £5 or after Sunday Masses. You can also have the Sanctuary Lamps burning for a particular intention of yours.

## LET ME HELP YOU

Corpus Christi is a place where there is a good deal of 1-2-1 contact with people: in the Confessional and in Spiritual Direction. Over time, it has become increasingly clear that many people, lay and ordained, are presently having a bit of a struggle with their Catholic life and feel somewhat lost and at sea.

The first thing to say is **KEEP AT IT – DON'T GIVE IN**. That is just what the devil wants. He is absolutely overjoyed with every single person who throws in the towel and abandons the Faith and loses the hope of Heaven. I know it can be tough, but Jesus never promised us an easy ride in this life: just eternal happiness if we are faithful to Him. So be courageous, and let's just crack on with it. Mass, Confession and Daily Prayer; and we're well on course to our True Home in Heaven.

But I'm also offering to help you. Not because I think I'm an expert or better at these things than anyone else. But for many decades now, I've always had two black books. One is my Breviary, from which I pray the Divine Office, and the other my Intercession Book. For around 40 years I've always had a black book, into which I've put the names of those, for whatever reason, I wish to pray. Some names are there at the request of those concerned: but many do not know their names are recited before the Blessed Sacrament. The sick and suffering, living and the dead, married couples, Priests and Bishops, those testing their Vocations, people just going about their daily lives: they are all part of my daily life of Intercession. Some on the "hot list" who are prayed for each day, and others on the same day once a week.

What I am saying to you, is that I would be delighted to help you, if you would like me to pray for you before the Lord. All you have to do is to let me know — either by dropping a line or emailing me. I would be delighted to help you; praying for others is very much part of my spirituality. And perhaps, you might be kind enough to mention me before the Lord in your daily prayers. *Fr Alan Robinson*

### SODALITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The next Sodality Mass is at **6.30pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January** and our guest preacher will be **Fr Michael Halsall**, Priest of the Ordinariate and Lecturer in Philosophy at Allen Hall Seminary. The Sodality meets on a monthly basis for Mass, Adoration and Benediction, adoring Jesus truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Mass is offered for the intentions of members. Leaflets containing application forms are in the church, or visit [sodality.co.uk](http://sodality.co.uk)

### MASS INTENTIONS

Envelopes are at the back of the Church. The Mass book gets quite full these days, so I suggest getting them in quick if you want a specific date...

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** Please do get in touch if you would like to speak to Father about some aspect of your spiritual life — as a one-off or on a regular basis.

### MASS CARDS

Hand printed cards by the monks at Farnborough Abbey: they cost £2 each, and are available from the Presbytery.

### Our sick parishioners and friends

Mgr John Klyberg, Sean Brennan, Collette Nevens, Peter Noakes, Tony Pearce, Mgr Frederik Miles, David Jordan, Bill Tomlinson, Christopher Browne, Margaret Griffith, Pascal James, Jean Bernard, Brian Keenan, Sid Shepherd, Terry Miles, John Hughes, Warren Peterson, Nicholas Pollock, Fr Patrick Hayward, Jack Ward, Traute Pollock, Noël Tobin, Geoff Smale, David Michael Barrett, Christopher Browne, John Lynch, Colin Folan, Ann Gorman, Janet Seeley,

**Of your charity – please pray for those who have died recently:** Fr Peter Stevens, Susan Elliott-Smith, Jim Ryan, Archbishop Michael Bowen, Fr Barry Ffrench, Bernard (Bunny) France KC\*HS, Fr Tom Quinn, Essi Tamaddom, Ruth Nicol, Christiane Brown, Fr Denis Patrick Watters, Mrs Anne Mary Youde DHS, Martin King, Mary Muir, Gedeon Egbert Woodworth, Anthony Pearce, Anthony Shanagher, Mgr Edwin Barnes, Fr Adrian Walker, Sheila Gaeton, Jean Teresa Wadsworth, Sebastian Jeans, Maureen Goodey, Mark Gregory Kay, Maria-Stella Ngombe, Bishop Friedrich Ostermann,