

### RECTORY

1 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden,  
LONDON, WC2E 7NB  
020 7836 4700

### THE ACTORS' CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors

### RECTOR

Fr Alan I P Robinson  
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### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Alex Dimminger  
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### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Edward Kay

### SAFEGUARDING

Sabina Leigh  
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### PARISH WEBSITE

www.maidenlane.org.uk

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

### WEEKLY GIVING

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

Loose £617.65  
Envelopes £103.00

Christmas  
Loose £828.98  
Envelopes £120.00

*Thank you for your continued generosity*

### THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR:

#### SANCTUARY LAMPS

Emma, Euan & Ethan Woodworth

#### LADY CHAPEL

Actors Living and Dead

#### SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Della Frances Murphy – RIP

#### SACRED HEART PORCH

Pauline Mary Maffrett – RIP

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



## CORPUS CHRISTI

### THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

DECEMBER – MONTH DEDICATED TO  
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### ✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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

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

*(Ps Week 1)*

9.30am Mass

*Pro Populo*

11.30am Solemn Latin Mass

*Foundation Mass*

#### MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup>

#### 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

10.00am Mass

*Baker, Blackwood, Sheridan, Walsb Families RIP*

6.30pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

#### TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup>

#### 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

1.05pm Mass

*Christiane England – Intentions*

#### WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2010

#### ✠ SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

12.00noon Mass

*Foundation Mass*

#### THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

#### Ss BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS

1.05pm Mass

*Ronnie England – Intentions*

#### FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

#### CHRISTMAS FERIA

1.05pm Mass

*(Friday Abstinence)*

*Kathleen Flint RIP*

#### SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

#### CHRISTMAS FERIA

6.00pm Vigil Mass

*Pro Populo*

#### SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

#### ✠ THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*(Ps Week 2)*

9.30am Mass

*Ellen McCarthy & Maggie Everett*

11.30am Solemn Latin Mass

*Georgina Bell RIP – Anniversary*

#### 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

### 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.

## THE HOLY FAMILY – MODEL FOR US ALL

The Gospel according to Luke recounts that when the shepherds of Bethlehem had received the Angel's announcement of the Messiah's birth "they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger". The first eyewitnesses of Jesus' birth therefore beheld a family scene: a mother, a father and a newborn son. For this reason the Liturgy has us celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the First Sunday after Christmas and it invites us to contemplate this "icon" in which the little Jesus appears at the centre of his parents' affection and care.

In the poor grotto of Bethlehem — the Fathers of the Church wrote — shines a very bright light, a reflection of the profound mystery which envelopes that Child, which Mary and Joseph cherish in their hearts and which can be seen in their expression, in their actions, and especially in their silence. Indeed, they preserve in their inmost depths the words of the Angel's Annunciation to Mary: "the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God".

Yet every child's birth brings something of this mystery with it! Parents who receive a child as a gift know this well and often speak of it in this way. We have all heard people say to a father and a mother: "this child is a gift, a miracle!" Indeed, human beings do not experience procreation merely as a reproductive act but perceive its richness and intuit that every human creature who is born on earth is the "sign" par excellence of the Creator and Father who is in Heaven.

How important it is, therefore, that every child coming into the world be welcomed by the warmth of a family! External comforts do not matter: Jesus was born in a stable and had a manger as his first cradle, but the love of Mary and of Joseph made him feel the tenderness and beauty of being loved. Children need this: the love of their father and mother. It is this that gives them security and, as they grow, enables them to discover the meaning of life. The Holy Family of Nazareth went through many trials, such as the "massacre of the innocents" — as recounted in the Gospel according to Matthew — which obliged Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt. Yet, trusting in divine Providence, they found their stability and guaranteed Jesus a serene childhood and a sound upbringing.

Dear friends, the Holy Family is of course unique and unrepeatable, but at the same time it is a "model of life" for every family because Jesus, true man, chose to be born into a human family and thereby blessed and consecrated it. Let us therefore entrust all families to Our Lady and to St Joseph, so that they do not lose heart in the face of trials and difficulties but always cultivate conjugal love and devote themselves with trust to the service of life and education.

### 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)

### 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.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Envelopes are at the back of the Church. Get them in quick if you want a specific date as the book fills up fast...!

### 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,