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THE ACTORS' CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors

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PARISH WEBSITE

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

DONATIONS

Please help us by donating online!

Visit maidenlane.org.uk/support

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR:

SANCTUARY LAMPS

Anne Hoban

LADY CHAPEL

Ethan Woodworth

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Thomas Lally

*To have the lamps burning for your intentions,
visit maidenlane.org.uk/lamps*

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CORPUS CHRISTI

THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

NOVEMBER – MONTH DEDICATED TO
THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 29TH NOVEMBER 2020 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Until Wednesday 2nd December, Mass will continue to be **live streamed only** at the times below at maidenlane.org.uk/live. We will then open the church for **private prayer** only at the usual lunch time – i.e. 12noon – 1:30pm, and again between 5pm and 6pm. The usual schedule resumes on Wednesday, with the return of public Mass.

Confessions may be heard whilst the church is open for private prayer, or by making an appointment with Fr Alan. From Wednesday onwards, public Mass resumes as normal.

SUNDAY 29TH

✠ 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am Mass *Ephrem Giann, Lucio, Rosa Adlao Marie Jay Manligas*
11.30 am Mass in Latin *Pro Populo*
5.00 – 6.00 pm Church open for private prayer

Ps Week 1

MONDAY 30TH

ST ANDREW, APOSTLE, PATRON OF SCOTLAND

8.00 am Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*
12noon – 1.30 pm Church open for private prayer
5.00 – 6.00 pm Church open for private prayer
6.30 pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER

ADVENT FERIA

8.00 am Mass *Foundation Mass*

WEDNESDAY 2ND – RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASS

ADVENT FERIA

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass *Thanksgiving*
5.00 pm Holy Hour

THURSDAY 3RD

ST FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass *Anna Sophie Bodian – sick*
6.30 pm Sodality of the Blessed Sacrament Mass *Sodality Members*

FRIDAY 4TH

ST JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST & DOCTOR

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass *Annabel Naobine RIP*
5.00 pm Holy Hour

(Friday Abstinence)

SATURDAY 5TH

ADVENT FERIA

5.00 pm Adoration
6.00 pm Vigil Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY 6TH

✠ 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am Mass *Ps Week 2*
11.30 am Mass in Latin *Maureen Goodey RIP*
5.00 pm Holy Hour *Unborn Child*

A LAMP TO LIGHT THEM ON THEIR WAY

Today, together with the Church, we are beginning the new liturgical year: a new journey of faith to experience together in Christian communities but, as always, also to be taken within world history so as to open it to God's mystery, to the salvation that comes from his love. The liturgical year begins with the Season of Advent. It is a marvellous period in which the expectation of Christ's return and the memory of his first Coming — when he emptied himself of his divine glory to take on our mortal flesh — reawakens in hearts.

"Watch!" This is Jesus' call in today's Gospel. He does not only address it to his disciples but to everyone: "Watch!". It is a salutary reminder to us that life does not only have an earthly dimension but reaches towards a "beyond", like a plantlet that sprouts from the ground and opens towards the sky. A thinking plantlet, man, endowed with freedom and responsibility, which is why each one of us will be called to account for how he/she has lived, how each one has used the talents with which each is endowed: whether one has kept them to oneself or has made them productive for the good of one's brethren too.

Today, Isaiah, too, the prophet of Advent, with a heartfelt entreaty addressed to God on behalf of the people, gives us food for thought. He recognized the shortcomings of his people and said at a certain point: "There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our iniquities".

How can we fail to find this description striking? It seems to reflect certain panoramas of the post-modern world: cities where life becomes anonymous and horizontal, where God seems absent and man the only master, as if he were the architect and director of all things: construction, work, the economy, transport, the branches of knowledge, technology, everything seems to depend on man alone. And in this world that appears almost perfect at times disturbing things happen, either in nature or in society, which is why we think that God has, as it were, withdrawn and has, so to speak, left us to ourselves.

In fact, the true "master" of the world is not the human being but God. The Gospel says: "Watch therefore — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning — lest he come suddenly and find you asleep".

The Season of Advent returns every year to remind us of this in order that our life may find its proper orientation, turned to the face of God. The face is not that of a "master" but of a Father and a Friend. Let us make the Prophet's words our own, together with the Virgin Mary who guides us on our Advent journey. "O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay and you are our potter: we are all the work of your hand"

SEVEN DAY LAMPS

Are available at the back of the church for £5, or online at maidenlane.org.uk/lamps

MASS INTENTIONS

Are filling up. If you have any specific dates you would like, please get them in fast to avoid disappointment!

SODALITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The next Sodality of the Blessed Sacrament Mass with Adoration and Benediction is this coming **Thursday 3rd December at 6.30pm**. This will be a sung Mass and our guest preacher will be **Fr Dominic Robinson, SJ**, Parish Priest of Farm Street Church. To find out more about the Sodality, visit sodality.co.uk

A FRESH START

This Sunday, the First of Advent, we begin a new church year. Just a few days after this, on the 2nd December, our churches will be open again for Mass. And so I'm suggesting that next Sunday would be a great day for all of us to have the intention to get right back on track with our Catholic faith. It's time to say NO to hiding away "just in case" — it's time to embrace the word COURAGE, to put our trust and hope in God, and to fully live our Catholic life. With the help of God, we can do this. The 'worst' that can happen is that we die, and then get to spend eternity in Heaven!

SOCIALLY DISTANT CLEANING

On **Saturday 12th December at 10am**, we'd like you to help us clean the church. Every day, after the church has been open, the pews are cleaned with disinfectant, to keep Corpus Christi as safe as possible. But I'm talking about the normal sort of cleaning we do in our homes: polishing, washing and sweeping floors. If a number of us get together — well, 2 metres apart — we'll soon make a difference. Please do come and help us.

A BIG THANK YOU!

Your contributions to our St Anthony's Poor Box at the back of the church and online have been building up and last week we were able to send two cheques for **£1,000 each** to the **Companions of the Order of Malta and Caritas Westminster** to support the fantastic work they have been doing during the pandemic to help and support the homeless and those who have been struggling through poverty and hardship this year. This is money that will be used locally here in Westminster and both charities are very grateful for your support. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Assuming the rules don't change before then, Mass over Christmas will be: Christmas Eve: 9pm (sung); Christmas Day: 9:30am (said) and 11:30am (sung). For full Mass times over the Christmas / New Year period, as well as Epiphany etc., visit maidenlane.org.uk/Christmas

KEEPING THE SHRINE OPEN

Many of you know by now, the Shrine is completely and totally funded by your donations. Some larger parishes in London have large investments and property from which they can draw rent. We are completely hand to mouth here and rely on your donations to keep the church heated and lit. I know it is difficult at the moment, and many of you are uncertain about your jobs and income, but if I could please ask you to pop something in the bucket when you come to Mass, or use the card machine? Alternatively, you can give online on our website at maidenlane.org.uk/support If you are able to Gift Aid your donations as well, that will help us to claim money from the Government at no extra cost to you. **Thank you** to all of you who have already been so generous this lockdown.

Our sick parishioners and friends: Adam Serdiuchenko, Sue Wingfield, Marilyn Bruce-Mitford, Peter Noakes, Tony Pearce, David Jordan, Christopher Browne, Margaret Griffith, Pascal James, Jean Bernard, Brian Keenan, Sid Shepherd, Terry Miles, John Hughes, Warren Peterson, Nicholas Pollock, Fr Patrick Hayward, Traute Pollock, Noël Tobin, Geoff Smale, David Michael Barrett, Christopher Browne, John Lynch, Ann Gorman, Janet Seeley

Of your charity — please pray for those who have died recently: Olive O'Grady, Fr John Miller, Jack Ward, Mary Quinlan, Fr Frederick Jackson, Beatrice Marti, Stephen Rose, Christopher Canon Tuckwell, Larinka Wright, Claus Tenzler, Eva Wiesinger, Revd. Dr. Cadoc Douglas Auld Leighton, Mgr Anthony Conlon, Fr John Seabrook, Mgr John Coghlan, Mgr Frederick Canon Miles, Rita Lobo, Bill Tomlinson, Mgr John Klyberg, Mgr. Wolfgang Nastainczyk, Christiane Brown