

RECTORY

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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

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Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR:

SANCTUARY LAMPS

Jadwiga Czesław Brzostek RIP

LADY CHAPEL

Abraham L. Ruizo

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Lorielin Sidney Robinson

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

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maidenlane.org.uk/live



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CORPUS CHRISTI THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

DECEMBER – MONTH DEDICATED TO
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 20TH DECEMBER 2020 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Please note that social distancing is still in force in the church. Please keep a safe distance from those outside your household. There is no need to book. Please wear a face covering. The church will open just before the times listed below, and will close soon after Mass to allow for cleaning. An NHS Track & Trace QR Code is by the entrance.

Confessions may be heard before Masses, or upon appointment, but will be heard with social distancing in place. Live stream continues at maidenlane.org.uk/live

SUNDAY 20TH

✠ 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am Mass
11.30 am Sung Mass in Latin
No Holy Hour

*Ps Week 4
Sheila Gaeton RIP
Pro Populo*

MONDAY 21ST

ADVENT FERIA (ST JOHN CANISIUS, PRIEST & DOCTOR)

No lunchtime Mass
6.30 pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

TUESDAY 22ND

ADVENT FERIA

Church closed today. Apologies.

WEDNESDAY 23RD

ADVENT FERIA (ST JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST)

Church closed today. Apologies.

THURSDAY 24TH

ADVENT FERIA

CHRISTMAS EVE

9.00pm Sung Mass

Cath & Charles Hodges RIP

FRIDAY 25TH – CHRISTMAS DAY

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9.30 am Said Mass
11.30am Sung Mass

(No Friday Abstinence)

*Pro Populo
Foundation Mass*

SATURDAY 26TH – BOXING DAY

ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

Church closed today. Apologies.

SUNDAY 27TH

✠ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

N.B. Please check the website before travelling.
We will announce there if a Mass is going to happen.

A GIFT OF GRACE

On this fourth and last Sunday of Advent, this year the liturgy presents the narrative of the Angel's announcement to Mary. Contemplating the amazing icon of the Blessed Virgin at the moment when she receives the divine message and gives her answer, we are enlightened within by the light of truth that shines from that mystery ever new. In particular I would like to reflect briefly on the importance of Mary's virginity, namely that she conceived Jesus while remaining a virgin

Against the background of the event of Nazareth is the prophecy of Isaiah. "Behold, a young virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel". This ancient promise found superabundant fulfilment in the Incarnation of the Son of God. Indeed, not only did the Virgin Mary conceive, but she did so through the work of the Holy Spirit, that is, God himself.

The human being who came to life in her womb took Mary's flesh, but his existence derived totally from God. He is fully man, made of clay — to use the biblical symbol — but comes from on high, from Heaven. The fact that Mary conceived while remaining a virgin is thus essential to the knowledge of Jesus and to our faith, because it testifies that it was God's initiative and, above all, it reveals who the conceived being was.

As the Gospel says: "the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God". In this sense, the virginity of Mary and the divinity of Jesus guarantees each other. This is what makes that single question so important that Mary, "greatly troubled", asks the Angel: "How can this be, since I have no husband?". Mary was very wise in her simplicity. She did not doubt God's power, but she wanted to better understand his will, in order to conform herself completely to this will. Mary was infinitely overcome by the Mystery, yet she occupied perfectly the place which, in its centre had been assigned to her. Her heart and her mind are fully humble and precisely because of her unique humility, God awaits this young woman's "yes" in order to carry out his plan. He respects her dignity and her freedom. Mary's "yes" entailed motherhood and virginity as a whole. She wanted everything in her to glorify God and he wanted the Son, born of her, to be totally a gift of grace.

Dear friends, Mary's virginity is unique and unrepeatable; but its spiritual meaning concerns every Christian, who is essentially linked to faith. In fact, those who put deep trust in God's love welcome Jesus and his divine life within them through the action of the Holy Spirit. This is the mystery of Christmas! I hope that you will all experience it with deep joy.

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!

FR ALAN UNWELL

I'm sorry to say that Fr Alan has been taken unwell. He's making a good recovery and is feeling better with each day that passes, however it does mean that we will have to cancel the daily Masses until further notice.

The Christmas Masses will take place as scheduled – ie. Christmas Eve, 9pm; Christmas Day 9:30am and 11:30am. However, there will be no other Masses during the week until otherwise announced. Please keep an eye on the website for arrangements for next weekend, but unless we say otherwise, please assume there will be no Mass.

Please keep Fr Alan in your prayers. He's really very sorry about the disruption to the Christmas schedule, but hopefully he'll be up and on his feet again in no time!

EX VOTO OFFERINGS

I'm sure many of you will have seen on your travels in Europe, representations of people or various body parts in shrines and churches. These are *ex voto offerings*; left as prayers of thanksgiving for healing or deliverance, or intercession for the sick, dying or dead. Lourdes is a good place to see these things, left as offerings by pilgrims.

You can see on the grilles in our Lady Chapel some such offerings. These represent my mother, father and sister, who are all dead. They have been placed here, asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady for their eternal happiness, as She accompanies them on their journey towards heaven.

It is possible for us to obtain these for you, if you would like to leave such offerings. It's rather like leaving a perpetual votive candle burning in the chapel. They can be in the shape of people or affected body parts and they are not expensive; around £25 each. Please contact us if you are interested and we can let you know the cost and arrange this for you.

USE OF VACCINES BY CATHOLIC

At present, debate concerns the use of the vaccines developed by Pfizer & BioNTech, Moderna, and Astra Zeneca. Some have questioned the use of the Astra Zeneca vaccine since it has been developed from cell-lines originating from the cells of an aborted foetus in 1983. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy of Life have expressed the view that one may in good conscience and for a grave reason receive a vaccine sourced in this way, provided that there is a sufficient moral distance between the present administration of the vaccine and the original wrongful action. In the COVID-19 pandemic, we judge that this grave reason exists and that one does not sin by receiving the vaccine.

THE PORCH

You may remember that we were going to have some decorative mosaic work done in the church porch, kindly fully funded and donated by one of our generous sponsors. This work had to be put on hold because of the pandemic. The good news is that we now plan to commence this work in early January 2021 and hopefully this will be completed by Easter. A bright and exciting start to the New Year! This does mean that the entrance and exit to the church will *only* be via the glass doors.

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