

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

Clarke Family

LADY CHAPEL

Thanksgiving

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Gerald Redpath RIP

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

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LIVE STREAM

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 – 27TH DECEMBER 2020 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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 27TH

✠ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

9.30 am Mass
11.30am Mass in Latin

*Pro Populo
Emily & Paul Leong*

MONDAY 28TH

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

No lunchtime Mass
6.30 pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

Anthony Brown RIP – Anniv.

TUESDAY 29TH

ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR, PATRON OF THE PARISH CLERGY

No Mass today. Apologies.

WEDNESDAY 30TH

6TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

10.00 am Mass

Anthone D'Souza RIP

THURSDAY 31ST

7TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS (ST SYLVESTER I, POPE)

10.00 am Mass

Francis Xavier Cardozo RIP

FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2021

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

12 noon Mass

(No Friday Abstinence)

Foundation Mass

SATURDAY 2ND

SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS

5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Maria Luisa Cardozo RIP

SUNDAY 3RD

✠ 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

9.30 am Mass
11.30am Sung Mass in Latin

*Ps Week 2
Pro Populo
Anita & Tony Huggett RIP*



IN WISDOM AND IN STATURE

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. In the liturgy the passage from Luke's Gospel presents to us the Virgin Mary and St Joseph. Faithful to the tradition, they go to Jerusalem for the Passover taking the 12-year-old Jesus with them. The first time that Jesus had entered the Temple of the Lord was 40 days after his birth, when his parents had offered on his behalf "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" on his behalf, that is, the sacrifice offered by the poor.

"Luke, whose entire Gospel is shot through with a theology of the poor and a theology of poverty, is once again making it abundantly clear that Jesus' family belongs to the poor of Israel, and that it was among such as them that the promises would be fulfilled".

Today Jesus is once again in the Temple, but this time he has a different role, which involves him in the first person. He makes the pilgrimage, with Mary and Joseph, to Jerusalem as prescribed by the Law even though he was not yet in his thirteenth year: a sign of the Holy Family's deep devotion. Yet, when his parents set out on their return to Nazareth, something unexpected happens. Without saying a word Jesus remains in the city. Mary and Joseph search for him for three days and find him in the Temple, conversing with the teachers of the Law; and when they ask him for an explanation, Jesus answers that they should not be surprised since this is his place, the house of his Father, who is God. "He", Origen writes, "professes to be in the temple of his Father, the Father who has revealed himself to us and whose Son he says he is". Mary and Joseph's anxiety about Jesus is the same as that of every parent who educates a child, introduces him or her to life and to understanding reality. Today, therefore, it is only right to say a special prayer to the Lord for all the families of the world. Emulating the Holy Family of Nazareth, may parents be seriously concerned with the development and upbringing of their children so that they grow up to be responsible and honest citizens, never forgetting that faith is a precious gift to be nurtured in their children by their own example.

At the same time let us pray that every child be welcomed as a gift of God and be supported by the love of both parents in order to increase, like the Lord Jesus "in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man".

May the love, loyalty and dedication of Mary and Joseph be an example to all Christian couples who are not the friends or masters of their children's lives, but rather are custodians of this incomparable gift of God.

The silence of Joseph, a just man, and the example of Mary who kept all these things in her heart, usher us into the mystery of the Holy Family, full of faith and humanity. I hope that all Christian families will live in God's presence with the same love and the same joy as the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

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!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of you who have sent get well wishes, and offered prayers for a speedy recovery. I am getting back on my feet again, though not quite at full speed yet. Thank you also for the many cards and presents that have been left for me at the Presbytery. I've not had a chance to go through them all yet, but I will be playing catch up in the coming days. Thank you so very much – and I hope you won't be too offended if I don't manage to write to each of you personally just yet. *Fr Alan*

TIERS OF UNCERTAINTY

With Government advice and regulations changing at such a rapid rate these days, it is exceedingly hard to make any plans with any certainty. Therefore, for the avoidance of doubt, whether public worship is permitted or not, Masses will be offered at the advertised times and will always be live streamed on the Parish website. Unfortunately, there is not the option to record Masses any more, so the only chance to watch them will be as they are happening live. Keep an eye on the website for any unexpected changes as the Government advice evolves...

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.

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!

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