

RECTORY

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THE ACTORS' CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors

RECTOR

Fr Alan I P Robinson
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PARISH WEBSITE

www.maidenlane.org.uk

*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

OSCE Exams

LADY CHAPEL

Ethan Woodworth

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Private Intentions

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

FIND US ONLINE

LIVE STREAM

maidenlane.org.uk/live



FACEBOOK
[corpuschristimaidenlane](https://www.facebook.com/corpuschristimaidenlane)



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WEB
maidenlane.org.uk



CORPUS CHRISTI THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

DECEMBER – MONTH DEDICATED TO
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 6TH DECEMBER 2020 2ND 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 6TH

✠ 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am Mass
11.30 am Mass in Latin
5.00 pm Holy Hour

*Ps Week 2
Maureen Goodey RIP
Unborn Child*

MONDAY 7TH

ST AMBROSE, BISHOP & DOCTOR

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour
6.30 pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

Vincent Hoban – Anniv.

TUESDAY 8TH

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PATRONESS OF THE DIOCESE

8.00 am Mass – Extraordinary Form

Fr John Francis Hoban RIP

WEDNESDAY 9TH

ST JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

Special Intentions to St Philomena

THURSDAY 10TH

ADVENT FERIA

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

Benefactors of Corpus Christi

FRIDAY 11TH

ST DAMASUS I, POPE

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour
6.30 pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

(Friday Abstinence)

Francois Dimminger RIP – Anniv.

Good Counsel Network

SATURDAY 12TH

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

5.00 pm Adoration
6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Rosaline Emily Joan Walsh RIP – Anniv.

SUNDAY 13TH

✠ 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

9.30 am Mass
11.30 am Mass in Latin
5.00 pm Holy Hour

*Ps Week 3
Pro Populo
Wolfgang Nastainczyk RIP – Anniv.*

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

This Sunday marks the second stage of the Season of Advent. This period of the liturgical year brings into the limelight the two figures who played a preeminent role in the preparation for the historic coming of the Lord Jesus: the Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist. Today's text from Mark's Gospel focuses on the latter. Indeed, it describes the personality and mission of the Precursor of Christ. Starting with his external appearance, John is presented as a very ascetic figure: he was clothed in camel-skin and his food was locusts and wild honey that he found in the Judaeian desert.

Jesus himself once compared him to the people "in kings' houses" who are "clothed in soft raiment". John the Baptist's style must remind all Christians to opt for a lifestyle of moderation, especially in preparation for the celebration of the Christmas festivity, in which the Lord, as St Paul would say, "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich".

With regard to John's mission, it was an extraordinary appeal to conversion: his baptism "is connected with an ardent call to a new way of thinking and acting, but above all with the proclamation of God's judgment" and by the imminent appearance of the Messiah, described as "he who is mightier than I", who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit".

John's appeal therefore goes further and deeper than a lifestyle of moderation: it calls for inner conversion, based on the individual's recognition and confession of his or her sin. While we are preparing for Christmas, it is important that we reenter ourselves and make a sincere examination of our life. Let us permit ourselves to be illuminated by a ray of light that shines from Bethlehem, the light of the One who is "the Mightiest" who made himself lowly, "the Strongest" who made himself weak.

All four Evangelists describe John the Baptist's preaching with reference to a passage from the Prophet Isaiah: "A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God'". Mark also inserted a citation from another prophet, Malachi, who said: "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way".

These references to Old Testament Scriptures "envisage a saving intervention of God, who emerges from his hiddenness to judge and to save; it is for this God that the door is to be opened and the way made ready".

Let us entrust to Mary, the Virgin of expectation, our journey towards the Lord who comes, as we continue on our Advent itinerary in order to prepare our hearts and our lives for the coming of the Emmanuel, God-with-us.

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!

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.

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.

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