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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

Charles Clarke RIP

LADY CHAPEL

Ethan Woodworth

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Mei – sick

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

FIND US ONLINE

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 – 13TH DECEMBER 2020

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

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 13TH

✠ 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

9.30 am Mass *Ps Week 3*
11.30 am Sung Mass in Latin *Pro Populo*
5.00 pm Holy Hour *Wolfgang Nastainczyk RIP – Anniv.*

MONDAY 14TH

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST & DOCTOR

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass *Mary McDade – Anniv.*
5.00 pm Holy Hour
6.30 pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

TUESDAY 15TH

ADVENT FERIA

8.00 am Mass – Extraordinary Form *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

WEDNESDAY 16TH

ADVENT FERIA

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass *Joseph Bell – Anniv.*
5.00 pm Holy Hour

THURSDAY 17TH

ADVENT FERIA

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass *Fernandes Family – Ints.*
5.00 pm Holy Hour

FRIDAY 18TH

ADVENT FERIA

12noon Adoration
1.05 pm Mass *(Friday Abstinence)*
5.00 pm Holy Hour *Adrian O'Callaghan RIP*

SATURDAY 19TH

ADVENT FERIA

5.00 pm Adoration
6.00 pm Vigil Mass *Bill Jones RIP – Anniv.*

SUNDAY 20TH

✠ 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am Mass *Ps Week 4*
11.30 am Sung Mass in Latin *Sheila Gaeton RIP*
5.00 pm Holy Hour *Pro Populo*

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

The liturgical texts for this Season of Advent renew the invitation to us to live in expectation of Jesus and not to stop looking forward to his coming so as to keep ourselves open and ready to encounter him. Heartfelt watchfulness, which Christians are always called to practise in their daily life, characterizes in particular this season in which we prepare joyfully for the mystery of Christmas.

The external environment proposes the usual commercial messages, although perhaps to a lesser degree because of the current crisis. Christians are asked to live Advent without allowing themselves be distracted by the bright lights but knowing how to give things their proper value and how to fix their inner gaze on Christ. Indeed if we persevere in “watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise”, our eyes will be able to recognize in him the true light of the world that comes to dispel our gloom.

The liturgy of this Sunday, known as “Gaudete” Sunday, is a special invitation to us to joyfulness, to a vigilance that is not sad but happy. “Gaudete in Domino semper”, St Paul wrote: “Rejoice in the Lord always”. True joy is not a fruit of “*divertirs*” [having a good time] understood in the etymological sense of the word *di-vertere* (di-version), that is, shirking the commitments of life and one’s responsibilities.

True joy is linked to something deeper. Of course, in the all too often frenetic pace of daily life it is important to find time for rest and relaxation, but true joy is linked to our relationship with God. Those who have encountered Christ in their own lives feel a serenity and joy in their hearts that no one and no situation can take from them. St Augustine understood this very well; in his quest for truth, peace and joy, after seeking them in vain in many things he concluded with his famous words: “and our heart is restless until it rests in God”.

True joy is not merely a passing state of mind or something that can be achieved with the person’s own effort; rather it is a gift, born from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus and, making room within ourselves, from welcoming the Holy Spirit who guides our lives. It is the invitation of the Apostle Paul who says: “May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this Season of Advent let us reinforce our conviction that the Lord has come among us and ceaselessly renews his comforting, loving and joyful presence. We should trust in him; as St Augustine says further, in the light of his own experience: the Lord is closer to us than we are to ourselves: “*interior intimo meo et superior summo meo*” (“higher than my highest and more inward than my innermost self”).

Let us entrust our journey to the Immaculate Virgin whose spirit is exulted in God our Saviour.

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!

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).

Please note that there is no Vigil Mass on Sunday 26th / Boxing Day. Mass will only be at 10am for St Stephen.

In the week days following Christmas, Mass will be at 10am, with Mass on New Year’s Day being at 12 noon.

For full Mass times over the Christmas / New Year period, as well as Epiphany etc., visit maidenlane.org.uk/Christmas

THANK YOU!

To all those who came yesterday to sweep, dust and decorate the church ahead of Christmas. I am exceedingly grateful for your help.

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.

KEEPING THE SHRINE OPEN

Many of you know by now, the Shrine is completely and totally funded by your donations. 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