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THE ACTORS' CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors

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

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THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR:

SANCTUARY LAMPS

Augustine Ngumbu Njururi's Chn.

LADY CHAPEL

Connie Ruizo

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Della Frances Murphy RIP

*To have the lamps burning for your intentions,
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CORPUS CHRISTI

THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

JANUARY – MONTH DEDICATED TO
THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 3RD JANUARY 2021 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

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 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*

MONDAY 4TH

CHRISTMAS FERIA

10.00 am Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour
6.30 pm Mass – Extraordinary Form

Paul Abrams RIP

TUESDAY 5TH

CHRISTMAS FERIA

10.00 am Mass

Georgina Bell RIP – Anniv.

WEDNESDAY 6TH

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8.00 am Mass – Extraordinary Form
12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour
6.30 pm Sung Mass

Johannes Tenzler RIP – Anniv.

Thomas Patrick Glennon RIP – Anniv.

Pro Populo

THURSDAY 7TH

CHRISTMAS FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

Philomena Kalure RIP

FRIDAY 8TH

CHRISTMAS FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

(Friday Abstinence)

Juscelino Fernandez RIP

SATURDAY 9TH

CHRISTMAS FERIA

5.00 pm Exposition
6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Maria Teresa Guerra de Foyo - Thanksgiving

SUNDAY 10TH

✠ THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

*Ps Week 1
Pro Populo
Thanksgiving*

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US

Today the liturgy proposes anew for our meditation the same Gospel as that proclaimed on Christmas Day: the Prologue of St John. After the commotion of the recent days with the race to purchase gifts, the Church invites us once again to contemplate the mystery of Christ's Nativity, to understand even better its profound meaning and importance to our lives. This is a wonderful text that offers an impressive synthesis of the whole of the Christian faith. It starts from on high: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God"; and this is the unheard of and humanly inconceivable news: "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". It is not a rhetorical figure but a lived experience! And it is John, an eyewitness, who tells of it. "We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father... full of grace and truth". These are not the learned words of a rabbi or doctor of law but rather the passionate witness of a humble fisherman. Attracted in his youth by Jesus of Nazareth, in the three years he spent living with him and with the other Apostles, John experienced his love, to the extent that he called himself "the disciple Jesus loved" saw him die on the Cross and appear Risen, and then with the others received his Spirit. From his heart's meditation on the whole of this experience, John drew a deep conviction: Jesus is the Wisdom of God incarnate, he is his eternal Word who became a mortal man.

For a true Israelite who knows the Sacred Scriptures, this is not a contradiction; on the contrary, it is the fulfilment of the whole of the old Covenant. The mystery of a God who speaks to men and women as his friends, who reveals himself to Moses in the Law, to the wise and the prophets, reaches fulfilment in Christ. In knowing Jesus, in being with him, hearing his preaching and seeing the signs he performed, the disciples recognized that all the Scriptures were fulfilled in him. As a Christian author was later to affirm: "The whole of divine Scripture constitutes one book and this one book is Christ, it speaks of Christ and finds its fulfilment in Christ". Every man and every woman needs to find a profound meaning for their life. And this is why books do not suffice, not even the Sacred Scriptures. The Child of Bethlehem reveals and communicates to us the true "Face" of a good and faithful God, who loves us and even in death does not abandon us. "No one has ever seen God," concludes John's Prologue; "the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known".

The first to open her heart and to contemplate "the Word who became flesh" was Mary, Mother of Jesus. A humble girl from Galilee, she thus became the "Seat of Wisdom"! Like the Apostle John, each one of us is invited to "[take] her to his own home", to know Jesus deeply and to experience his faithful and inexhaustible love. And this is my wish for each one of you, dear brothers and sisters, at the beginning of this new year.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The triple biblical blessing rings out in the liturgy on the first day of the year. "The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace". We can contemplate the Face of God he himself made visible, he revealed himself in Jesus; he is the visible image of the invisible God. And this is also thanks to the Virgin Mary, whose greatest title we celebrated on the 1st January; the title with which she plays a unique role in the history of salvation, as Mother of God. In her womb the Son of the Most High took our flesh & we can contemplate his glory, and feel his presence as God-with-us. Thus we begin the New Year 2021 by fixing our gaze on the Face of God, who is revealed in the Child of Bethlehem, and on his Mother Mary who accepted the divine plan with humble abandonment. Thanks to her generous "yes", the true light that enlightens every man appeared in the world and the way of peace was reopened to us.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Thankfully the Solemnity of the Epiphany is being kept on its proper day once again: 6th January! There will be three Masses here on that day: **8am (EF), 1:05pm (said) and 6:30pm (solemn sung)**. There will be blessed chalk and instructions at the back of the church for you to take home with you, to do the traditional blessing of your homes.

SODALITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

A reminder that our next **Sodality Mass** will be on the second Thursday in January – i.e., **6.30pm on Thursday 14th January**. This month's guest preacher is **Fr Jan Nowotnik**, who is the National Ecumenical Officer for the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales. Those of you who can't be here in person can join us online via the live stream.

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 this work is now underway and hopefully this will be completed by Easter. A bright and exciting start to the New Year! The entrance and exit to the church is by the glass doors only.

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.

SEVEN DAY LAMPS

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

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