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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*

DONATIONS

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Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR:

SANCTUARY LAMPS

Thanksgiving

LADY CHAPEL

Stanley & Josephine Holt

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Holy Souls in Purgatory

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

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LIVE STREAM

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CORPUS CHRISTI

THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FEBRUARY – MONTH DEDICATED TO
THE HOLY FAMILY

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 14TH FEBRUARY 2021 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In spite of the Government Lockdown, the church is open for private prayer and public Mass. 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.

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 14TH

✠ 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

*Ps Week 2
Jessie Stewart RIP
Austin Lloyd RIP – Anniversary*

MONDAY 15TH

FERIA

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

*Thanksgiving (DC)
Holy Souls in Purgatory*

TUESDAY 16TH

FERIA

Private Mass – church closed today.

John Moran RIP

WEDNESDAY 17TH

ASH WEDNESDAY

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

*(Fast & Abstinence) Ps Week 4
Ania – Intentions*

Fernandes Family – Intentions

Nancy McWilliams RIP

THURSDAY 18TH

LENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

Thomas Patrick Glennon RIP

FRIDAY 19TH

LENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour
6.00 pm Stations of the Cross

(Friday Abstinence)

Connie Ruiz – Intentions

SATURDAY 20TH

LENT FERIA

5.00 pm Exposition
6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Margaret Antonio RIP – Anniversary

SUNDAY 21ST

✠ 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

*Ps Week 1
Pro Populo
Andrew Gob RIP*

MAKE ME CLEAN

Last Sunday we saw that in his public life Jesus healed many sick people, revealing that God wants life for human beings, life in its fullness. This Sunday's Gospel shows us Jesus in touch with a form of disease then considered the most serious, so serious as to make the person infected with it "unclean" and to exclude that person from social relations: we are speaking of leprosy. Special legislation allocated to priests the task of declaring a person to be "leprous", that is, unclean; and it was likewise the priest's task to note the person's recovery and to readmit him or her, when restored to health, to normal life.

While Jesus was going about the villages of Galilee preaching, a leper came up and besought him: "If you will, you can make me clean". Jesus did not shun contact with that man; on the contrary, impelled by deep participation in his condition, he stretched out his hand and touched the man — overcoming the legal prohibition — and said to him: "I will; be clean".

That gesture and those words of Christ contain the whole history of salvation, they embody God's will to heal us, to purify us from the illness that disfigures us and ruins our relationships. In that contact between Jesus' hand and the leper, every barrier between God and human impurity, between the Sacred and its opposite, was pulled down. This was not of course in order to deny evil and its negative power, but to demonstrate that God's love is stronger than all illness, even in its most contagious and horrible form. Jesus took upon himself our infirmities, he made himself "a leper" so that we might be cleansed.

A splendid existential comment on this Gospel is the well known experience of St Francis of Assisi, which he sums up at the beginning of his Testament: "This is how the Lord gave me, Brother Francis, the power to do penance. When I was in sin the sight of lepers was too bitter for me. And the Lord himself led me among them, and I pitied and helped them. And when I left them I discovered that what had seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness in my soul and body. And shortly afterward I rose and left the world".

In those lepers whom Francis met when he was still "in sin" — as he says — Jesus was present; and when Francis approached one of them, overcoming his own disgust, he embraced him, Jesus healed him from his "leprosy", namely, from his pride, and converted him to love of God. This is Christ's victory which is our profound healing and our resurrection to new life!

LENT APPROACHES

It is only a few days before Lent begins — that time of prayer, fasting and abstinence ahead of Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection. How will you spend those forty days? I'm sure many of you might be thinking of things to give up — alcohol, chocolate, meat... But what about taking something up instead? Here at Corpus Christi on **Fridays in Lent**, there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary from 5pm, followed by Stations of the Cross at 6pm**. Every day we have two Holy Hours, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed. Why not come and spend some extra time with the Lord, Truly Present in the Most Blessed Sacrament?-

ASH WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday 17th is Ash Wednesday. Mass will be at **8am (EF), 1:05pm and 6:30pm (Sung)**. In accordance with a directive from the Congregation of Divine Worship in Rome, ashes this year will be sprinkled on the top of your heads, in the traditional Roman fashion, rather than 'drawn' on your forehead as in previous years.

FASTING & ABSTINENCE: THE RULES

Fasting is to be observed by all those between the ages of 18 – 60. The Church defines this as one meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity.

The law of Abstinence means refraining from eating meat and is to be observed by all those from the age of 14. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and shellfish are permitted, as are animal derived products such as margarine and gelatine which do not have any meat taste.

Those who are excused from fast or abstinence: Besides those outside the age limits, those of unsound mind, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing women according to need for meat or nourishment, manual labourers according to need, guests at a meal who cannot excuse themselves without giving great offence or causing enmity and other situations of moral or physical impossibility to observe the penitential discipline.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH?

Over the last few weeks, we have been thinking about what the Church teaches — in matters of both faith and morals. In my homilies, I have recommended that people either buy a copy of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**, or look for it freely online. The Catholic Truth Society sells the Catechism, but also has a book entitled *A Year with the Catechism*. This breaks up the text into manageable chunks that you could read each day, offering explanations and reflections to explain the different sections. Perfect to begin in Lent! All these can be bought from the CTS website directly through this link: bit.ly/3awayBb You could also read online *Fidei Depositum*, written by Pope St John Paul II — it's only short but puts the Catechism into context. If you have children, you might like to buy the **YouCat**, which is a version of the Catechism which has been adapted for younger children bit.ly/3cj3NPc as well as for teenagers and young adults bit.ly/2YGPF0P

CONFESSION

Confessions may still be heard before all Masses, or upon appointment, in the Lady Chapel. Please ensure you are wearing a face covering to protect both yourself and the priest.

SEVEN DAY LAMPS

Are available at the back of the church for £5, or online at maidenlane.org.uk/lamps You can also request the Sanctuary lamps to burn for a particular intention in this way.

MASS INTENTIONS

You can still request Masses to be offered for a particular intention. At the moment, the earliest date available is in March. You can make a request either by using the envelopes at the back of the church, or going on the website maidenlane.org.uk/intentions

Our sick parishioners and friends: Kee Ow Peng, Maria Jessiman, 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: Nancy McWilliams, Virginia Maria Vaz, Fr Kidane Lebasi, Giles Canon Goward, Mgr Mark Langham, Olive O'Grady, Fr John Miller, Jack Ward, Mary Quinlan, Fr Frederick Jackson, Christopher Canon Tuckwell, Larinka Wright, Claus Tenzler, Revd. Dr. Cadoc Douglas Auld Leighton, Mgr Frederick Canon Miles, Rita Lobo, Bill Tomlinson, Mgr John Klyberg, Mgr. Wolfgang Nastainczyk, Christiane Brown