

RECTORY

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THE ACTORS' CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors

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PARISH WEBSITE

www.maidenlane.org.uk

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

DONATIONS

[maidenlane.org.uk/
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or scan the QR Code



*Thank you for your
kindness and generosity.*

THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR: SANCTUARY LAMPS

Friends & Relatives of Leadbeater
Family

LADY CHAPEL

Private Intention

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Private Intention

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

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maidenlane.org.uk/live



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maidenlane.org.uk



CORPUS CHRISTI

THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

DECEMBER – MONTH DEDICATED TO
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 19TH DECEMBER 2021 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 19TH

✠ 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

*Ps. Week 4
Sheila Gaeton RIP
Bill Jones RIP – Anniversary*

MONDAY 20TH

ADVENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
6.30 pm Sung Mass – 1962 Missal

Mary Jacqueline – Intentions

TUESDAY 21ST

ADVENT FERIA (ST PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST & DOCTOR)

No Public Mass today. Church open as usual for private prayer. *Felimon Lisboa RIP*

WEDNESDAY 22ND

ADVENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

Ted Pearce RIP – Anniversary

THURSDAY 23RD

ADVENT FERIA (ST JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST)

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

Leonida Clarete RIP

FRIDAY 24TH – CHRISTMAS EVE

ADVENT FERIA

No lunchtime Mass today.

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS

9.00 pm Sung Mass

John Stacey RIP

SATURDAY 25TH – CHRISTMAS DAY

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9.30 am Mass
11.30 am Sung Mass in Latin

N.B. No evening Mass today. The church will close after the 11:30am Mass

*Pro Populo
Private Intention – BK*

SUNDAY 26TH – BOXING DAY

✠ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

9.30 am Mass
11.30 am Mass in Latin

*Ps. Week 1
James Young RIP
Pro Populo*

N.B. No Holy Hour.

Confessions: Confessions are heard for half an hour before all Masses, or by making an appointment with the Rector.

Exposition & Benediction: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each weekday, except Tuesdays from 12noon – 1pm, and every day, except Tuesdays, from 5pm – 6pm.

GOD WILL JUDGE US ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent that comes just before the Nativity of the Lord, the Gospel speaks of Mary's visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth. This event is not merely a courteous gesture but portrays with great simplicity the encounter of the Old Testament with the New. Indeed the two women, both of them then pregnant, embody expectation and the Expected One. The elderly Elizabeth symbolizes Israel which is awaiting the Messiah, whereas the young Mary bears within her the fulfilment of this expectation for the benefit of the whole of humanity.

First of all in the two women the fruit of their wombs, John and Christ, meet and recognize each other. The Christian poet Prudentius comments: "the child imprisoned in the aged womb greets by his mother's lips his Lord, the maiden's son". John's exultation in Elizabeth's womb is a sign of the fulfilment of the expectation: God is about to visit his People. In the Annunciation the Archangel Gabriel spoke to Mary of Elizabeth's pregnancy as proof of God's power; in spite of her old age her barren state was made fecund.

In her greeting to Mary, Elizabeth recognizes that God's promise to humanity is being fulfilled and exclaims: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?". In the Old Testament, the phrase "blessed are you among women" refers both to Jael, and to Judith, two women warriors who do their utmost to save Israel.

Instead it is used here to describe Mary, a peaceful young woman who is about to bring the Saviour into the world. Thus John's leap of joy also calls to mind King David's dancing when he accompanied the entry of the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. The Ark that contained the Tablets of the Law, the manna and Aaron's rod was the sign of God's presence among his People. The unborn John exults with joy before Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant, who in her womb is carrying Jesus, the Son of God made man.

The scene of the Visitation also expresses the beauty of the greeting. Wherever there is reciprocal acceptance, listening, making room for another, God is there, as well as the joy that comes from him. At Christmas time let us emulate Mary, visiting all those who are living in hardship, especially the sick, prisoners, the elderly and children. And let us also imitate Elizabeth who welcomes the guest as God himself: without wishing it, we shall never know the Lord, without expecting him we shall not meet him, without looking for him we shall not find him. Let us too go to meet the Lord who comes with the same joy as Mary, who went with haste to Elizabeth.

Let us pray that all men and women may seek God, discovering that it is God himself who comes to visit us first. Let us entrust our heart to Mary, Ark of the New and Eternal Covenant, so that she may make it worthy to receive God's visit in the mystery of his Birth.

SEVEN DAY LAMPS

Are available at the back of the church for £5, or online at maidenlane.org.uk/lamps If you would like to donate towards the Sanctuary lamps, you can do so online too.

THANK YOU

A very big thank you to everyone who came to help clean and decorate the church yesterday. I am very grateful to you all for your help. The Shrine looks wonderful and ready for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Mass times can all be found on our website at maidenlane.org.uk/Christmas or on the printed leaflets, available from the back of the church. Please note that there is no Vigil Mass next Saturday evening, and that the Mass times in the week following Christmas are earlier in the day.

EPIPHANY WITH THE NUNCIO

We are delighted to be welcoming **His Excellency, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti**, the Apostolic Nuncio (ie Ambassador) to Great Britain here at the Shrine on **Thursday 6th January 2022 at 6:30pm**. He will be celebrating a Solemn Pontifical Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany, and it will be his 20th Anniversary of Episcopal Consecration – so a day of great celebrations indeed. Please do come along and pray for the Nuncio; it will be a most beautiful Mass

WESTMINSTER SYNODAL PATHWAY

As part of the worldwide consultation ahead of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, to be held in October 2023, the Diocese of Westminster has launched the first stages of its Synodal Pathway. Parishes are asked to make contributions by 21st January 2022. It's important that voices from the Shrine are heard in this process. We are therefore asking our parishioners and regular worshippers to send us their thoughts. Visit maidenlane.org.uk/synod for more info.

DONATIONS

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has supported the work of the Shrine over the last few weeks and months – and particularly since lockdown. Through your generosity, we have been able to keep our doors open and the lights on... for now! We will now need to make sure that we can keep the church warm and pay the bills – to keep the church open. The only money we have to survive on is the money that you give us each week. Unlike many other parishes, we have no alternative sources of income. **Please could I ask you to be as generous as you are able?** Just think what you spend in the various events of your lives – going for coffee or cocktails with friends, or the cost of a ticket to a show – and then consider what you give to the Church, i.e. to God. Is it appropriate? Donations can be made at Mass in real money, via our card machines, via our website at maidenlane.org.uk/support or by **scanning the QR Code on the front of this newsletter**. And remember, if you are able to **Gift Aid** your donations, please do so. This allows us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate from the Government. A simple £10 donation very quickly becomes a £12.50 donation, with no extra cost to you. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass book is full now until **February 2022**. If you have any dates that you would particularly like to book for next year, please get them in as early as possible to avoid disappointment. maidenlane.org.uk/intentions

Our sick parishioners and friends: Brona Lynch, Sheena Colman, Christos Hana, Philip Barney, Donna Webb, Christopher Bronne, Sandra Jones, Velrich Fernandes, Kee Ow Peng, Maria Jessiman, 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: Sr Jolanta, OCarm., Heather Bashford, Fr David Irwin, Jose Antonio & Bertha, Sir David Amess, Richard Canon Hearn, Amarilde Pellegrini, Concetta Wager, Nellie Goodwin, Marlis Okeke, Paul Colman, Nancy McWilliams, Virginia Maria Vaz, Fr Kidane Lebasi, Mgr Mark Langham, Mary Quinlan, Larinka Wright, Claus Tenzler, Mgr Frederick Canon Miles, Bill Tomlinson, Mgr John Klyberg, Christiane Brown