

RECTORY

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THE ACTORS' & POLICE CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors
& the London Catholic Police Guild

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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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*Thank you for your
kindness and generosity.*



THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR:

SANCTUARY LAMPS

Leadbeater Family Intentions

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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CORPUS CHRISTI

THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

DECEMBER – MONTH DEDICATED TO
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 24TH DECEMBER 2023 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – CHRISTMAS WEEK

SUNDAY 24TH

✠ 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am Said Mass in English

11.30 am Said Mass in Latin

Ps. Week 4

Pro Populo

Gratia – Intentions

CHRISTMAS EVE

9.00 pm Sung Mass in the Holy Night

Mei Wong's Intentions

MONDAY 25TH – CHRISTMAS DAY

✠ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9.30 am Said Mass in English

11.30 am Sung Mass in Latin

Pro Populo

Kath & Charles Hodges RIP

N.B. No 1962 Mass this evening. The church will close after the 11:30am Mass.

TUESDAY 26TH – BOXING DAY

ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

10.00 am Mass

Lily Wong's Intentions

WEDNESDAY 27TH

ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

10.00 am Mass

Refika & Hamdi RIP

THURSDAY 28TH

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

10.00 am Mass

Anthony Brown RIP – Anniversary

FRIDAY 29TH

ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR, PATRON OF PARISH CLERGY

10.00 am Mass

King-chiu Kwan RIP

SATURDAY 30TH

SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

5.00 pm Exposition

6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Barbara Jurenczyk RIP

SUNDAY 31ST

✠ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

9.30 am Said Mass in English

11.30 am Said Mass in Latin

Pro Populo

Pope Benedict XVI RIP – Anniversary

MONDAY 1ST JANUARY – NEW YEAR'S DAY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

12 noon Mass

6.30 pm Mass (1962 Missal)

Victoria Adekoya – Intentions



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

COME TO SAVE US!

Christ is born for us! Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to the men and women whom he loves. May all people hear an echo of the message of Bethlehem which the Catholic Church repeats in every continent, beyond the confines of every nation, language and culture. The Son of the Virgin Mary is born for everyone; he is the Saviour of all.

This is how Christ is invoked in an ancient liturgical antiphon: "O Emmanuel, our king and lawgiver, hope and salvation of the peoples: come to save us, O Lord our God". *Veni ad salvandum nos!* Come to save us! This is the cry raised by men and women in every age, who sense that by themselves they cannot prevail over difficulties and dangers. They need to put their hands in a greater and stronger hand, a hand which reaches out to them from on high. Dear brothers and sisters, this hand is Christ, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary. He is the hand that God extends to humanity, to draw us out of the mire of sin and to set us firmly on rock, the secure rock of his Truth and his Love.

This is the meaning of the Child's name, the name which, by God's will, Mary and Joseph gave him: he is named Jesus, which means "Saviour". He was sent by God the Father to save us above all from the evil deeply rooted in man and in history: the evil of separation from God, the prideful presumption of being self-sufficient, of trying to compete with God and to take his place, to decide what is good and evil, to be the master of life and death. This is the great evil, the great sin, from which we human beings cannot save ourselves unless we rely on God's help, unless we cry out to him: "*Veni ad salvandum nos!* – Come to save us!"

The very fact that we cry to heaven in this way already sets us aright; it makes us true to ourselves: we are in fact those who cried out to God and were saved. God is the Saviour; we are those who are in peril. He is the physician; we are the infirm. To realize this is the first step towards salvation, towards emerging from the maze in which we have been locked by our pride. To lift our eyes to heaven, to stretch out our hands and call for help is our means of escape, provided that there is Someone who hears us and can come to our assistance.

Jesus Christ is the proof that God has heard our cry. And not only this! God's love for us is so strong that he cannot remain aloof; he comes out of himself to enter into our midst and to share fully in our human condition. The answer to our cry which God gave in Jesus infinitely transcends our expectations, achieving a solidarity which cannot be human alone, but divine. Only the God who is love, and the love which is God, could choose to save us in this way, which is certainly the lengthiest way, yet the way which respects the truth about him and about us: the way of reconciliation, dialogue and cooperation.

Dear brothers and sisters, on this Christmas, let us then turn to the Child of Bethlehem, to the Son of the Virgin Mary, and say: "Come to save us!"

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Happy Christmas! May you all have a very happy and holy day. Thank you also to everyone who has sent cards and given presents. I am very grateful to you all for your incredible kindness and generosity!

A NEW CRIB FOR THE SHRINE?

In this 800th anniversary of St Francis setting up the first Nativity Scene, we have received comments from parishioners and visitors that the Crib in the Shrine is somewhat sparse, lacking in detail and some of the figures are indeed broken.

And so, we are trying to raise money for a new Nativity scene, which will include a stable and some scenery, and will in future be set up in the Lady Chapel for all to pray before. Might you be able to help us in this by donating a single figure? Or perhaps several?

On our website at maidenlane.org.uk/crib are images of the intended new crib, as well as the prices of each figure. There is a contact form at that bottom of the page for you to be in touch with us. Please state the names of the figures that you would like to donate, and a link will be emailed back to you to make your donation. If someone has already donated the figure that you would like to contribute, then we will inform you of this to avoid duplications. A list of the names of donors will be worked into the base of the stable, and a Mass is offered each month in perpetuity for all the Shrine's benefactors.

SODALITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The next Sodality of the Blessed Sacrament Mass is on **Thursday 4th January at 6:30pm**. Our guest preacher will be **Fr Michael Guthrie**, Assistant Priest of St George's, Sudbury, and Mass will be concluded as usual with a period of Adoration and Benediction. To find out more about the Sodality, and to become a member, visit sodality.co.uk

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Solemnity of Epiphany falls on Saturday 6th January, however in accord with a decree of the Bishops' Conference, the Obligation is kept on Sunday 7th January. There will be a Mass on **Saturday 6th January at 12noon (1962)**, and then the usual Sunday schedule on **the 7th of 9:30am (said, English) and 11:30am (sung, Latin)**, with the **Saturday Vigil at 6pm**. Blessed chalk will be available for you to take home for the traditional Epiphany blessing of homes.

SEVEN DAY LAMPS

Are available at the back of the church for £6, or online at maidenlane.org.uk/lamps.

MASS INTENTIONS

The earliest dates available are now in **March 2024**. You can use the envelopes at the back of the church or online at maidenlane.org.uk/intentions

COELIAC DISEASE / GLUTEN INTOLERANCE

We now have some low-gluten hosts for those who suffer from Coeliac disease and gluten intolerance. But please – tell us you require one **before** the Mass begins, and receive at the end of Holy Communion. These Sacred Hosts are reserved in a different ciborium to avoid cross-contamination.

Our sick parishioners and friends: Natalie Williams, Douglas Adams, Norma Stanes, Phil Bawden, Almudena Dagn, 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, Nicholas Pollock, Fr Patrick Hayward, Traute Pollock, Noël Tobin, Geoff Smale, David Michael Barrett, John Lynch, Ann Gorman, Janet Seeley **Of your charity – please pray for those who have died recently:** Ann Christine Leece, Johanna Sophia Pretorius, Pauline Lewis, Michael O'Toole, John Hughes, Fr Mark James Leenane, William Blake, Eve Schreiber, Soumaya Tabet, Eugene Owen Monahan, Thomas Hunt, Joy Fleischmann, George Cardinal Pell, Pope Benedict XVI, Veronica Davies, Vivien May Adams, Irene Walters, Gerard Joseph Waddingham KGCHS,