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THE ACTORS' & POLICE CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors
& the London Catholic Police Guild

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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

Sanchez-Rojas 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 – 31ST DECEMBER 2023 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

SUNDAY 31ST

✠ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

9.30 am Said Mass in English *Pro Populo*
11.30 am Said Mass in Latin *Pope Benedict XVI RIP – Anniversary*

MONDAY 1ST JANUARY – NEW YEAR'S DAY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

12 noon Mass *Victoria Adekoya – Intentions*
6.30 pm Mass (1962 Missal)

TUESDAY 2ND

SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS

No public Mass today. Private Mass offered for *Maria RIP*

WEDNESDAY 3RD

THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass *Maureen Doherty RIP*

THURSDAY 4TH

CHRISTMAS FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass *Michael McBrien RIP*
6.30 pm **Sodality of the Blessed Sacrament Mass** *Sodality Members*

FRIDAY 5TH

CHRISTMAS FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass *Tom Glennon – Anniversary*

SATURDAY 6TH

CHRISTMAS FERIA

12 noon Mass (1962 Missal) *Pope Benedict XVI RIP*
5.00 pm Exposition
6.00 pm Vigil Mass *Georgina Bell RIP – Anniversary*

SUNDAY 7TH

✠ THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9.30 am Said Mass in English *Pro Populo*
11.30 am Sung Mass in Latin *Johannes Tenzler RIP – Anniversary*
5.00 pm Holy Hour



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

THE HOLY FAMILY

On this Sunday following the Nativity of the Lord we are joyfully celebrating the Holy Family of Nazareth. It is a most suitable context because Christmas is the Feast of the family *par excellence*. This is demonstrated by numerous traditions and social customs, especially the practice of gathering together as a family for festive meals and for greetings and the exchange of gifts; and how can the hardship and suffering caused by certain family wounds which on these occasions are amplified go unnoticed?

Jesus willed to be born and to grow up in a human family; he had the Virgin Mary as his mother and Joseph who acted as his father; they raised and educated him with immense love. Jesus' family truly deserves the title "Holy", for it was fully engaged in the desire to do the will of God, incarnate in the adorable presence of Jesus.

On the one hand, it was a family like all others and as such, it is a model of conjugal love, collaboration, sacrifice and entrustment to divine Providence, hard work and solidarity in short, of all those values that the family safeguards and promotes, making an important contribution to forming the fabric of every society.

At the same time, however, the Family of Nazareth was unique, different from all other families because of its singular vocation linked to the mission of the Son of God. With precisely this uniqueness it points out to every family and in the first place to Christian families God's horizon, the sweet and demanding primacy of his will, the prospect of Heaven to which we are all destined. For all this, today we thank God, but also the Virgin Mary and St Joseph, who with much faith and willingness cooperated in the Lord's plan of salvation.

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 celebrate 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 2024 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.

HOLY HOURS

The 5.00pm Holy Hours with Vespers, Rosary & Benediction will resume next Sunday 7th January.

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

CONFESSION

Confessions are heard for half an hour before all Masses, or upon request. Do make use of this wonderful Sacrament which restores our relationship with the Lord.

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,