

RECTORY

1 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden,
LONDON, WC2E 7NB
020 7836 4700

THE ACTORS' & POLICE CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors
& the London Catholic Police Guild

RECTOR

Fr Alan I P Robinson
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Alex Dimminger
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Edward Kay

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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

Private Intention

LADY CHAPEL

Private Intention

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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 – 10TH DECEMBER 2023 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 10TH

✠ 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

*Ps. Week 2
Ashby Collinson – Intentions
Parents & Grandparents RIP*

MONDAY 11TH

ST DAMASUS I, POPE

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour
6.30 pm Mass – 1962 Missal

Francois Dimminger RIP – Anniversary

TUESDAY 12TH

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Private Mass offered for

Sr Gabriel of Our Lady & The Holy Face RIP

WEDNESDAY 13TH

ST LUCY, VIRGIN & MARTYR

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
6.30 pm Service of Lessons & Carols with London's West End

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Nastainczyk RIP – Anniversary

THURSDAY 14TH

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST & DOCTOR

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
7.30 pm Omnia Voices – Christmas by Candlelight

Anna Löffler

FRIDAY 15TH

ADVENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
7.00 pm Mosaic Choir – The Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist

(Friday Abstinence)

Benefactors of Corpus Christi

SATURDAY 16TH

ADVENT FERIA

9.00 am Church cleaning & decorating
5.00 pm Exposition
6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Joseph Bell RIP – Anniversary

SUNDAY 17TH

✠ 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

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

*Ps. Week 3
Sheila Gaeton RIP
Pro Populo*

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, which includes Vespers, Rosary and Benediction

Eucharistic Prayer Group: Young Adults Prayer Group each Wednesday 7pm in Church with Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary. Contact Annette: cpguk@gmail.com

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD!

This Sunday marks the second stage of the Season of Advent. This period of the liturgical year brings into the limelight the two figures who played a preeminent role in the preparation for the historic coming of the Lord Jesus: the Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist. Today's text from Mark's Gospel focuses on the latter. Indeed, it describes the personality and mission of the Precursor of Christ. Starting with his external appearance, John is presented as a very ascetic figure: he was clothed in camel-skin and his food was locusts and wild honey that he found in the Judaean desert.

Jesus himself once compared him to the people "in kings' houses" who are "clothed in soft raiment". John the Baptist's style must remind all Christians to opt for a lifestyle of moderation, especially in preparation for the celebration of the Christmas festivity, in which the Lord, as St Paul would say, "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich".

With regard to John's mission, it was an extraordinary appeal to conversion: his baptism "is connected with an ardent call to a new way of thinking and acting, but above all with the proclamation of God's judgment" and by the imminent appearance of the Messiah, described as "he who is mightier than I", who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit".

John's appeal therefore goes further and deeper than a lifestyle of moderation: it calls for inner conversion, based on the individual's recognition and confession of his or her sin. While we are preparing for Christmas, it is important that we re-enter ourselves and make a sincere examination of our life. Let us permit ourselves to be illuminated by a ray of light that shines from Bethlehem, the light of the One who is "the Mightiest" who made himself lowly, "the Strongest" who made himself weak. All four Evangelists describe John the Baptist's preaching with reference to a passage from the Prophet Isaiah: "A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God'". Mark also inserted a citation from another prophet, Malachi, who said: "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way".

These references to Old Testament Scriptures "envisage a saving intervention of God, who emerges from his hiddenness to judge and to save; it is for this God that the door is to be opened and the way made ready".

Let us entrust to Mary, the Virgin of expectation, our journey towards the Lord who comes, as we continue on our Advent itinerary in order to prepare our hearts and our lives for the coming of the Emmanuel, God-with-us.

CONFESSION

Confessions are heard for half an hour before all Masses. Please do make use of this life-giving Sacrament. It is a gift from God which all of us need if we wish to be truly united with Him. And just to remind and reassure you – **what is said to the priest in Confession can never be disclosed to anyone.**

WEST END CAROL SERVICE

On **Wednesday 13th December at 6.30pm** there will be a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols, ending with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, here at Corpus Christi, the Catholic Actors Church. This is organised in collaboration with various artists from the West End, including the Royal Opera House, Wigmore Hall, and many others. It will be a wonderful evening, preparing for the coming of the Lord. More details will follow in due course, but please do put this date in your diaries now. Entry is free and all are most welcome to come and begin the spiritual preparations for the holy season of Christmas.

OMNIA VOICES CONCERT

Celebrate the festive season with a choral concert from Omnia Voices, featuring Christmas classics including In Dulci Jubilo, A Spotless Rose, Winter Wonderland and more on **Thursday 14th December at 7:30 pm**. Omnia performs Christmas songs from throughout the ages within the beautiful surroundings of Corpus Christi church, shimmering with candlelight and the magic of Christmas. Tickets are £12, including a glass of wine and mince pies, available on the door or online tinyurl.com/OmniaVoices

MOSAIC CHOIR: EASTERN CAROLS

We are delighted to be welcoming back the **Mosaic Choir of The Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist**, who have been here in previous years to sing carols from various the Eastern / Orthodox traditions. They will be giving a concert on **Friday 15th December at 7pm**. Entry is free, though there will be a collection for charity, so please come prepared.

DIARY DATE – CHURCH CLEANING

On **Saturday 16th December** from 9am we will be cleaning the church and getting it ready for Christmas. Please could you come and help us in whichever way you can – sweeping, mopping, dusting or polishing? The more volunteers we have, the quicker it goes! Thank you!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Full details for the Mass times around Christmas can be found on our website at maidenlane.org.uk/Christmas or on the fliers in church. Mass on Christmas Eve is at 9pm, and Christmas day at 9:30am (said, English) and 11:30am (sung, Latin). Christmas falls slightly awkwardly this year, with Christmas Eve being on a Sunday. This means you need to fulfil your obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent on either the evening of 23rd or the morning of 24th December, as well as your Christmas obligation on either the evening of 24th or the morning of 25th December.

SEVEN DAY LAMPS

Are available at the back of the church for £6, or online at maidenlane.org.uk/lamps. Why not have the lamps before Our Lord burn for someone you care about?

MASS INTENTIONS

The earliest dates available are now in **February 2024**. If you have dates that you particularly would like a Mass offered, please get them to us as early as possible to avoid disappointment. You can use the envelopes at the back of the church or online at maidenlane.org.uk/intentions

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,