

## 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  
a.i.p.robinson@btinternet.com

## PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Alex Dimminger  
maidenlane@rcdow.org.uk

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Edward Kay

## SAFEGUARDING

Sabina Leigh  
coventgardensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

## 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

Reginald Thompson  
Private Intentions

### LADY CHAPEL

Private Intention

### SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Private Intention

*To have the lamps burning for your intentions,  
visit [maidenlane.org.uk/lamps](http://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 – 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

### SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

#### ✠ 3<sup>RD</sup> 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*

### MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

#### ADVENT FERIA

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

*Carolyn – Thanksgiving*

### TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

#### ADVENT FERIA

Private Mass offered for

*Bill Jones RIP – Anniversary*

### WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

#### ADVENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition  
1.05 pm Mass

*John & Joan Kedward – Intentions*

### THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

#### ADVENT FERIA (ST PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST & DOCTOR)

12 noon Exposition  
1.05 pm Mass

*Vincent Hoban RIP*

*(Friday Abstinence)*

### FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

#### ADVENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition  
1.05 pm Mass

*Ted Pearce RIP – Anniversary*

### SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>

#### ADVENT FERIA (ST JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST)

5.00 pm Exposition  
6.00 pm Vigil Mass

*Fr John Francis Hoban RIP*

### SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

#### ✠ 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am Said Mass in English  
11.30 am Sung 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 25<sup>TH</sup> – 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*

**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

## REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!

The liturgical texts for this Season of Advent renew the invitation to us to live in expectation of Jesus and not to stop looking forward to his coming so as to keep ourselves open and ready to encounter him. Heartfelt watchfulness, which Christians are always called to practise in their daily life, characterizes in particular this season in which we prepare joyfully for the mystery of Christmas.

The external environment proposes the usual commercial messages, although perhaps to a lesser degree because of the economic crisis. Christians are asked to live Advent without allowing themselves be distracted by the bright lights but knowing how to give things their proper value and how to fix their inner gaze on Christ. Indeed if we persevere in “watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise”, our eyes will be able to recognize in him the true light of the world that comes to dispel our gloom.

The liturgy of this Sunday, known as “Gaudete” Sunday, is a special invitation to us to joyfulness, to a vigilance that is not sad but happy. “Gaudete in Domino semper”, St Paul wrote: “Rejoice in the Lord always”. True joy is not a fruit of “divertirsi” [having a good time] understood in the etymological sense of the word di-vertere (di-version), that is, shirking the commitments of life and one’s responsibilities.

True joy is linked to something deeper. Of course, in the all too often frenetic pace of daily life it is important to find time for rest and relaxation, but true joy is linked to our relationship with God. Those who have encountered Christ in their own lives feel a serenity and joy in their hearts that no one and no situation can take from them. St Augustine understood this very well; in his quest for truth, peace and joy, after seeking them in vain in many things he concluded with his famous words: “and our heart is restless until it rests in God”.

True joy is not merely a passing state of mind or something that can be achieved with the person’s own effort; rather it is a gift, born from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus and, making room within ourselves, from welcoming the Holy Spirit who guides our lives. It is the invitation of the Apostle Paul who says: “May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this Season of Advent let us reinforce our conviction that the Lord has come among us and ceaselessly renews his comforting, loving and joyful presence. We should trust in him; as St Augustine says further, in the light of his own experience: the Lord is closer to us than we are to ourselves: “*interior intimo meo et superior summo meo*” (“higher than my highest and more inward than my innermost self”).

Let us entrust our journey to the Immaculate Virgin whose spirit is exulted in God our Saviour. May she guide our hearts in joyful expectation of the coming of Jesus, an expectation full of prayer and good works.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Full details for the Mass times around Christmas can be found on our website at [maidenlane.org.uk/Christmas](http://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 23<sup>rd</sup> or the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> December, **as well as** your Christmas obligation on either the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> or the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> December.

## 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](http://sodality.co.uk)

## EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Solemnity of Epiphany falls on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January, however in accord with a decree of the Bishops’ Conference, the Obligation is kept on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a Mass on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon (1962)**, and then the usual Sunday schedule on **the 7<sup>th</sup> 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, along with instructions of how to do this.

## SEVEN DAY LAMPS

Are available at the back of the church for £6, or online at [maidenlane.org.uk/lamps](http://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**. Please get your requests 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](http://maidenlane.org.uk/intentions)

## CONFESSION

A reminder that Confessions are heard for half an hour before all Masses, or by making an appointment with Fr Alan. Going to Confession before Christmas, which takes us back to the state we were in after our Baptism, is the best preparation we can make to meet with the coming of the Word made Flesh. Many of you at Corpus Christi go to Confession regularly: well done! But if you’ve got out of the “habit”, please do come back. What’s the point of dragging a heavy sack of sins on your back, when Jesus wants to receive them and lighten your load, and be reconciled with you? They’ll always be in the way until you hand them over to the Lord. So best to let go...with the help of God’s Grace.

## CELIAC DISEASE

We now have some low-gluten hosts for those who suffer from Celiac disease. 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 gluten 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,