

RECTORY

1 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden,
LONDON, WC2E 7NB
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THE ACTORS' & POLICE CHURCH

National Church for Catholic Actors
& the London Catholic Police Guild

RECTOR

Fr Alan I P Robinson
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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 – EW

LADY CHAPEL

Private Intention – EW

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Private Intention – EW

*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 – 15TH DECEMBER 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 15TH

✠ THIRD 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 Wk 3
Sheila Gaeton RIP
Pro Populo*

MONDAY 16TH

ADVENT FERIA

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

Joseph Bell RIP – Anniversary

TUESDAY 17TH

ADVENT FERIA

No Public Mass. Private Mass offered for

Tony & Norma Stanes – Welfare

WEDNESDAY 18TH

ADVENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

Benefactors of Corpus Christi

THURSDAY 19TH

ADVENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
7.30 pm Omnia Voices Christmas Concert

Bill Jones RIP – Anniversary

FRIDAY 20TH

ADVENT FERIA

12 noon Exposition
1.05 pm Mass
5.00 pm Holy Hour

Deceased Members of Stanes & Perkins Families

SATURDAY 21ST

ADVENT FERIA

5.00 pm Exposition
6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Pro Populo

SUNDAY 22ND

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

*Ps Wk 4
Ted Pearce RIP – Anniversary
Brendan Geraghty 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

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

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

The Gospel for this Sunday of Advent presents once again the figure of John the Baptist, and it depicts him while he is speaking to the people who come to him at the River Jordan to be baptized. Since John, with incisive words, urges them all to prepare themselves for the Messiah's coming, some ask him, "What then shall we do?". These exchanges are very interesting and prove to be of great timeliness.

The first answer is addressed to the crowd in general. The Baptist says, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise". Here we can see a criterion of justice, motivated by charity. Justice requires that the imbalance between the one who has more than enough and the one who lacks the necessary be overcome; charity prompts us to be attentive to others and to meet their needs, instead of seeking justification to defend one's own interests. Justice and charity are not in opposition, but are both necessary and complete each other. "Love — caritas — will always prove necessary, even in the most just society", because "There will always be situations of material need where help in the form of concrete love of neighbour is indispensable".

Then we see the second answer, which is directed at some "publicans", that is, tax-collectors on behalf of the Romans. The publicans were already despised for this, and also because they often made the most of their position to steal. The Baptist does not ask them to change their profession, but to exact no more than what has been established. The prophet, in the name of God, does not demand exceptional acts, but first and foremost the just fulfilment of one's duty. The first step towards eternal life is always the observance of the Commandments; in this case, the seventh one: You shall not steal.

The third reply concerns the soldiers, another class that enjoyed a certain authority, and was thus tempted to abuse it. John says to the soldiers: "Rob no one by violence, and be content with your wages". Here too the conversation begins with honesty and with respect for others: an instruction that applies to everyone, especially for those with greater responsibility.

On considering this dialogue as a whole, we are struck by the great concreteness of John's words: since God will judge us according to our works, it is there, in our behaviour, that we must show that we are doing his will. For this very reason, the Baptist's instructions are ever timely: even in our very complex world, things would go much better if each person observed these rules of conduct. Therefore let us pray to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that he may help us to prepare ourselves for Christmas, bearing the good fruits of repentance.

MASS INTENTIONS

The earliest dates available are now in **March 2025**. To book a Mass, you can use the envelopes at the back of the church or online at maidenlane.org.uk/intentions

NEW NATIVITY SCENE

We are thrilled by the response to our **new Nativity Scene**, following our appeal last year for donations towards new figures. The appeal went exceedingly well and the new Nativity scene contains over 100 figures, which have all been donated by benefactors from around the world. There are still some figures that have not yet been donated. If you would like to add to our nativity scene, visit maidenlane.org.uk/crib

OMNIA VOICES CONCERT

Celebrate the festive season with a choral concert from Omnia Voices, featuring Christmas classics including Silent Night, Carol of the Bells, Bethlehem Down and more on **Thursday 19th 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/OmniaVoices24

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). Mass in the weekdays following Christmas Day will be at 10am.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Mass on New Year's Day – The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God – will be at **12noon** and will be a said Mass in Latin.

2025 – HOLY YEAR OF JUBILEE

2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee, and is to be a time of special graces and opportunities to grow closer to Our Lord. Corpus Christi is to be a Jubilee Church here in the Diocese of Westminster, and so it will be a place of Pilgrimage where you can obtain the special Plenary Indulgences available for the year. There will be a particular sung Jubilee Mass celebrated on **the first Saturday of the month at 11am** as well as various other events during the course of the year. The first of these Masses will be on **Saturday 4th January**. For more information about the Jubilee and what's on here, visit maidenlanejubilee.co.uk

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Obligation to go to Mass for the Epiphany has this year been transferred to Sunday 5th January, and so the usual Sunday Mass schedule will remain in place. Mass will also be offered on Monday 6th at 1:05pm (said, English) and 6:30pm (1962, sung).

SODALITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The next Sodality of the Blessed Sacrament Mass with Adoration and Benediction will be on **Thursday 9th January at 6:30pm**. This month's guest preacher will be **Fr Matteo Di Giuseppe**, Assistant Priest, Willesden Green and Kensal Rise. To find out more about the Sodality, and to become a member, visit sodality.co.uk

SEVEN DAY LAMPS

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

CONFESSION

Confessions are heard for half an hour before all Masses, or upon request.

Our sick parishioners and friends: Fr David Barnes, Alain de Jager, Mieko Madenokoji, Douglas Adams, Norma Stanes, Phil Bawden, Sheena Colman, Christos Hana, Christopher Bronne, Sandra Jones, Velrich Fernandes, Kee Ow Peng, Maria Jessiman, Marilyn Bruce-Mitford, Peter Noakes, Tony Pearce, David Jordan, Christopher Browne, Margaret Griffith, Pascal James, Brian Keenan, Sid Shepherd, Nicholas Pollock, Fr Patrick Hayward, Traute Pollock, **Of your charity – please pray for those who have died recently:** Evelyn Watkin, Holly Armstrong, Fr Michael Gallagher O.Praem., Lola Pinagli, Sydney Byrne, Sr Carmel of Jesus, Fr Francis Wahle, Fr John Warnaby, Fr Michael Daley, Ann Slater, Ann Christine Leece, Johanna Sophia Pretorius, Pauline Lewis, Michael O'Toole, John Hughes, Fr Mark James Leenane, William Blake,