

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

maidenlane.org.uk

*This parish is part of the WRCDT
Registered Charity Number 233699*

DONATIONS

maidenlane.org.uk/
support
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*Thank you for your
kindness and generosity.*

THE LAMPS ARE BURNING FOR:

SANCTUARY LAMPS

N & E Martin

LADY CHAPEL

Parastasi for Panagiota Stojiljkovic

SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Vanessa Martin

*To have the lamps burning for your intentions,
visit maidenlane.org.uk/lamps*

FIND US ONLINE



LIVE STREAM

maidenlane.org.uk/live



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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 – 28TH DECEMBER 2025 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

SUNDAY 28TH

✠ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9.30 am Said Mass in English

11.30 am Said Mass in Latin

Ps Wk 1

Pro Populo

Anthony Brown RIP – Anniversary

MONDAY 29TH

ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR

10.00 am Mass

6.30 pm Mass (1962 Missal) – St Thomas Becket

Private Intention

TUESDAY 30TH

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10.00 am Mass

Cosgrove Family

WEDNESDAY 31ST

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10.00 am Mass

Pope Benedict XVI RIP – Anniversary

THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY 2026

✠ THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

12 noon Said Mass in Latin

Wendy Murphy – Intentions

FRIDAY 2ND

SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

10.00 am Mass

(Friday Abstinence)

O'Hare Family

SATURDAY 3RD

THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

5.00 pm Exposition

6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Danny Braddick – Intentions

SUNDAY 4TH

✠ SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

9.30 am Said Mass in English

11.30 am Sung Mass in Latin

5.00 pm Holy Hour

Ps Wk 2

Pro Populo

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

MODEL OF LIFE

The Gospel according to Luke recounts that when the shepherds of Bethlehem had received the Angel's announcement of the Messiah's birth "they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger". The first eyewitnesses of Jesus' birth therefore beheld a family scene: a mother, a father and a new-born son. For this reason the Liturgy has us celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the First Sunday after Christmas. This year it takes precedence over the Feast of the Holy Innocents, invites us to contemplate this "icon" in which the little Jesus appears at the centre of his parents' affection and care.

In the poor grotto of Bethlehem — the Fathers of the Church wrote — shines a very bright light, a reflection of the profound mystery which envelopes that Child, which Mary and Joseph cherish in their hearts and which can be seen in their expression, in their actions, and especially in their silence. Indeed, they preserve in their inmost depths the words of the Angel's Annunciation to Mary: "the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God".

Yet every child's birth brings something of this mystery with it! Parents who receive a child as a gift know this well and often speak of it in this way. We have all heard people say to a father and a mother: "this child is a gift, a miracle!". Indeed, human beings do not experience procreation merely as a reproductive act but perceive its richness and intuit that every human creature who is born on earth is the "sign" *par excellence* of the Creator and Father who is in Heaven.

How important it is, therefore, that every child coming into the world be welcomed by the warmth of a family! External comforts do not matter: Jesus was born in a stable and had a manger as his first cradle, but the love of Mary and of Joseph made him feel the tenderness and beauty of being loved. Children need this: the love of their father and mother. It is this that gives them security and, as they grow, enables them to discover the meaning of life. The Holy Family of Nazareth went through many trials, such as the "massacre of the innocents" — as recounted in the Gospel according to Matthew — which obliged Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt. Yet, trusting in divine Providence, they found their stability and guaranteed Jesus a serene childhood and a sound upbringing.

Dear friends, the Holy Family is of course unique and unrepeatable, but at the same time it is a "model of life" for every family because Jesus, true man, chose to be born into a human family and thereby blessed and consecrated it. Let us therefore entrust all families to Our Lady and to St Joseph, so that they do not lose heart in the face of trials and difficulties but always cultivate conjugal love and devote themselves with trust to the service of life and education.

MASS INTENTIONS

The earliest dates available are now in **June 2026**. Book intentions online at maidenlane.org.uk/intentions There are not many dates left for next year.

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 at 12noon**; 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 2026 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.

2025 – HOLY YEAR OF JUBILEE

The Holy Year of Jubilee closes for us today and so this is the final opportunity to obtain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence. It is still, however, to obtain an ordinary Plenary Indulgence by praying the Stations of the Cross here and fulfilling the usual conditions. More information at maidenlanejubilee.co.uk

CRIB APPEAL

This year's crib appeal is for the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation. The hospital is run by the Order of Malta and is the only hospital in the region that can care for neonatal babies. Please be as generous as you are able. Thank you!

REPAIRS TO THE ROOF

Those of you who have been in the church during the week will have heard considerable banging going on as repairs to the lead on the roof have taken place. There is still some work to be done. If you are able to donate towards these repairs, please visit maidenlane.org.uk/donate Thank you to those who already have! It's made such a difference.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Epiphany of the Lord is a Holy Day of Obligation and falls on **Tuesday 6th January**. Masses on that day will be at 8am (1962, Low), 1.05pm (said, English) and 6.30pm (sung, Latin). Blessed chalk will be available for you to take home to bless your homes.

SODALITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The next Sodality of the Blessed Sacrament Mass, concluding with Adoration and Benediction will be on **Thursday 8th January at 6:30pm**. 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. The seven Sanctuary lamps have now been booked for the entirety of 2026, so only the Lady Chapel & Sacred Heart lamps are available until 2027.

CONFESSION

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

Our sick parishioners and friends: 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, Nicholas Pollock, Traute Pollock **Of your charity – please pray for those who have died recently:** Rose Reid, Joan Rodrigues, Molly Steele, Sarah Burke, Fr Patrick Hayward CRL, John O'Riordan, William Taor, Roy Truman, John Ushe, Jan Skubisz, Pope Francis, Ann Luff, Sr Patricia of the Presentation, Alan Bettles, Fr David Barnes, 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