**­­­­­CHURCH OF OUR LADY 020 8759 9136**

**AND ST CHRISTOPHER**  **email:** [cranford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cranford@rcdow.org.uk)

**CRANFORD web:** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk>/cranford

**32 High Street, Cranford, TW5 9RG**

**1st of Advent 26th/27th November 2022**

**Readings:** **1st Sunday of Advent (Year A):** Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44

**Next week: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year A):** Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

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| **Parish Team**  **Parish Priest: Fr. John Tabor**  Email: [johntabor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:johntabor@rcdow.org.uk)  **Catechetical Co-ordinator:** Bejoy Ignatious  Working days: Thursdays 9.00 am – 5.00 pm, Saturdays 11.00 am – 6.00 pm and on Sundays 9.00 am - 2.00 pm.  Email: [bejoyignatious@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bejoyignatious@rcdow.org.uk)  **Parish Secretary:** Gillian Satchell  Working days: Wednesday & Friday mornings  Please e-mail parish office with requests and queries  In-person enquires on Wed & Fri between 10.30 – 11.30 am. Email**:** [cranford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cranford@rcdow.org.uk)    **Parish Safeguarding Officers:**  Natalie Smith & Pelazia Rodrigues  Email: [cranfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:cranfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  Email: [cranfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:cranfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  Mobile: 07851 390118 (Dedicated Parish Safeguarding Number)  --------------------------------------------------------  **Protecting your Privacy:**  In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which became effective in May 2018, the Parish requires your permission to hold your data for Parish/Diocesan use. You can read our full privacy policy on [www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy)  ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  **MASS INTENTIONS**  If you wish to offer a Mass intention, please email or call/visit the Parish Office on a Wed/Fri between 10.30 – 11.30 am.  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  **ONLINE MASSES**  Mass and other liturgies live streamed from Westminster Cathedral and other parishes are available at [**www.churchservices.tv**](http://www.churchservices.tv)  ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  **MASS TIMES**  **Saturday:** 5pm; **Sunday Masses**: 9.00 am and 11.00 am  **Weekday Mass Timings**: Please see Mass intentions overleaf  **Confession:** Saturday afternoons 4.15 – 4.45 pm  **Portuguese Mass**: 12.30 pm on Sundays as advised  **Konkani Mass**: 4th Sunday of the month - 5.00 pm  *This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT) Registered Charity No: 233699* |  | Dear Friends  **“Stay Awake”**  The year has come full cycle and now we are at the start of Advent. These past months have been busy, both globally and indeed locally. Each successive year seems to go by faster and each successive year seems to bring more opportunities – as well as challenges. The readings for this Advent Sunday are a reminder to us that we know neither the time, nor the day of the Second Coming.  This should encourage us to live as fully as we can each day, recognising each moment as a gift from God. This can sometimes be rather difficult, especially if we are busy or stressed. We might try beginning and ending each task with a short prayer such as “O God come to my aid, O Lord make haste to help me”. We might end with something like “Lord Jesus, Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me”. In these uncertain times, being grateful to God for the simple things in life, a roof over our heads, a bed to sleep in, some food to eat and perhaps share, can really help to instil some joy into our lives and those of others too. Joy is infectious, as is gratitude.  Here are some further thoughts on this Sunday’s Gospel, which you may find helpful:  **Motivation for Matthew 27: 37-44**  Today is the day! This season of Advent is a time of preparation for Our Lord is coming. As you read today’s Gospel, let the sense of urgency and even perhaps enthusiasm for this Coming of Jesus strike a chord in your heart and in your mind and soul as well. Am I ready for this unknown, yet expected ultimate encounter with the Word Who became man for me? Am I ready to participate more fully in the building up of God’s Kingdom today, through a deep encounter and engagement with His Word and to share this journey of adventure with those around me?  Let us stay awake, be ready, because that encounter starts now and with it, a continuing transformation of myself into the person God knows and desires that I can become!  Have a good week and let us pray for each other.  **Father John**  **Addendum**  Copies of My Day by Day for Advent are available for purchase at £1.50 a copy. We have ordered a small number initially, but more can be ordered if there is sufficient interest. |

**MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER** 3rd December at 12 noon, bring and share lunch afterwards.

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS: Thursday, 16th December – 6.00 pm-8.00 pm.**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES: Christmas Eve: 5.30 pm Portuguese Mass; 8.00 pm Solemn First Mass of Christmas. Carols round the Crib from 7.30 pm. Christmas Day: 9.00 am Family Mass, 11.00 am Mass.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION PARENTS** on 17th December there will be a meeting for the parents of the First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates. **Meeting times: 11:00 Confirmation Parents & 12:00 First Holy Communion Parents**. Attendance is required; if unable to attend, please contact Fr. John via e-mail [cranford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cranford@rcdow.org.uk)

**CARITAS 10TH ANNIVERSARY** This year is the 10th anniversary of Caritas Westminster, the social action arm of the Diocese. We are inviting anyone who would be interested to be part of a focus group happening in the coming fortnight to get in touch. There are three Zoom focus groups to choose from Thursday 1, Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 December from 6.30-7.45pm. Your opinion would be very helpful. If you would like to take part, please email Julie Christie-Webb, Caritas Fundraising Manager, to register, at [juliechristiewebb@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:juliechristiewebb@rcdow.org.uk)

**CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas:** In Advent, let us share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD’s World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as “super soup kitchens”, “trees for life”, or “water for a family” will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

**MASS OFFERINGS** There are several spaces for masses in January and February. You are encouraged to book anniversary Masses etc. **AT LEAST three months** in advance to avoid disappointment. We recommend three Mass bookings per person at a time, so that everyone receives a fair chance to have Mass requests booked. As the Diocese suggests moving to a cashless system, wherever possible, all payments should be made online through bank transfer into parish account, quoting the reference “Mass Offering”. Please refer to the bottom of this newsletter for bank details. *We have several slots available for Mass bookings at the moment.*

**BAPTISMS** Please request an appointment with Fr John via e-mail [cranford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cranford@rcdow.org.uk)

**POLITE REQUEST** Our insurers have asked us to ensure that only Diocesan approved contractors are engaged in property survey and repairs such as roof clearing, drain inspection etc. related to the church/ presbytery.

**MARRIAGE** Couples seeking marriage should inform Fr John **AT LEAST** **six months** before the scheduled wedding date so that there is enough time for all the necessary administration work to be processed. This is a statutory requirement applicable across all parts of the UK and overseas.

**secondary school signing forms (Certificate of Catholic Practice)** If you have missed the assigned dates for CCP forms, please contact Fr John by email to make an appointment. You are encouraged to apply for more than one Catholic school, as the local schools around our area are often oversubscribed. Fr John is required to know the person for whom he is signing the form, so it is important that your child comes with you. There is a reasonable expectation for the parents to be practising Catholics and be supportive of the parish.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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| Sat 26 | 5.00pm | Reva Fernandes - Birthday |
| Sun 27 | 9.00am  11.00am  5.00pm | Antonia Sebastiana Fernandes – RIP  Domingos De Araujo Ricardo & Maria Pereira – RIP (Wedding Remembrance)  Konkani Mass |
| Mon 28 | 10:00am | People of the Parish |
| Wed 30 | 10.00am | Julieta Morares – RIP (Birthday) |
| Thu 1 | 10.00am | Thomas Lobo & Nutam Fernandes - RIP |
| Fri 2 | 9.30am | Nelina – Thanksgiving  Holy Hour After Mass |
| Sat 3 | 5.00pm | Fatima Braganza - RIP |
| Sun 4 | 9.00am  11.00am  12.30pm | Roque Fernandes – Birthday  Rosemary Joy Aquino – RIP  Portuguese Mass |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

The Contactless machine is available in the Church. If you wish to donate by online banking please do so directly to our bank, giving your name as a reference and indicate if it is for baptism, wedding, mass intention etc.

**Gift Aid:** If you are a UK taxpayer, the Diocese strongly recommends you to Gift Aid your donation, as the government will top up your donation by 25 percent. The parish relies heavily on this extra support, which comes at no additional cost to you. This facility is also available on the contactless device. It takes only just 2 minutes and is a one-time process, meaning all future donations made using the same bankcard will automatically be processed through Gift aid. If you have any questions on Gift Aid, please contact the parish office. Thank you for your continued financial support for your parish church.

**HSBC Bank: Account name: WRCDT Cranford**

**Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account: 01308637**