**­­­­­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**

**2nd Sunday of Advent 3rd/4th December 2022**

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

**Next week: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A):** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 1:18-24

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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,  A Call to renewal  In this Sunday’s Gospel, we encounter the austere figure of St John the Baptist. His message of repentance is radical and at the same time current down the ages. His message is as relevant today as it was when he first proclaimed it and started baptising people in the river Jordan, two thousand years ago. This time of preparation is a good time for taking stock, for having a good clean in our spiritual lives, especially through Confession.    We can also look at our prayer lives as part of our Advent preparations. Does my prayer life feel dull, almost mechanical? How much time do I give to prayer? Have I considered trying out other forms of prayer, or do I prefer to stick with what I feel comfortable with doing? Each of us will have different answers to these questions, just as each of us has a unique relationship with God.  This coming week we will be celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday 8th December. It was right and fitting that the Mother of God should be born without sin. Her “Yes” to the Angel’s message –“let it be done to me according to Your Word” is the attitude of one whose will is perfectly attuned to God’s own will. Our vocation is to do likewise – to do God’s Will and so become saints!  Have a good week and let us pray for each other.  God bless,  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. |

**CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATION:** On 21st December, we will be decorating the church after the 10.00 am mass. Volunteers welcome.

**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 spaces for masses in January and February and we are taking bookings up to the end of March 2023. 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.

**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 3 | 12.00pm  5.00pm | People of the Parish  Fatima Braganza - RIP |
| Sun 4 | 9.00am  11.00am  12.30pm | Roque Fernandes – Birthday  Rosemary Joy Aquino – RIP  Portuguese Mass |
| Mon 5 | 10:00am | Trevor Davies - RIP |
| Thu 8 | 10.00am | Ria Rodrigues – Good Health |
| Fri 9 | 10.00am | Veryan Eperon - RIP |
| Sat 10 | 5.00pm | People of the Parish |
| Sun 11 | 9.00am  11.00am | Peggy Reynolds – RIP (Anniversary)  Peter Fernandes – RIP (Anniversary) |

**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**