** ­­­­­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 Sunday of Lent – 25th & 26th February**

**Readings:** **1st Sunday of Lent (Year A) Page: 151: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11**

2nd Sunday of Lent (Year A) Page 155: Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9

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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 ([Cranford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:Cranford@rcdow.org.uk)) 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  **Where Prayer and Action Meet**  On this First Sunday of Lent, I thought it might be helpful to say something about prayer. Prayer is one of the three traditional practices – the other two being fasting and almsgiving – that the Church invites us to focus on during this Lenten season.  The traditional description of prayer is that it is “a lifting up of heart, mind and soul to Almighty God”. That is a good start. However, I think a more useful and simpler description of prayer is that it is a relationship with God. It is a relationship that God begins with each one of us and we respond in the best wat we can. Think back to your earliest prayers and to your more heartfelt prayers. Lent is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with and awareness of God, through increased prayer. You might feel that although your present way of praying is familiar and comfortable, it is only that. Perhaps try another set of prayers, another form of prayer. For instance if you regularly use familiar prayers such as the “Hail Mary”, you might add another “arrow” prayer such as “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me”. This is an excellent way to tune in with God at different points during the day.  Our prayer can also become part of our work – when we start and finish each task with a prayer, that task becomes something more. It becomes an offering to God, which is of course, what our lives are! When we go out from the Church, we do not leave our prayer life at the door. We are encouraged and strengthened by our encounter with God – and each other – at Mass to “go and announce the Gospel of the Lord”, so that our prayer and action meet.  Have a good week and let us pray for each other.  **Father John** |

**CARDINAL’S LENTEN APPEAL 2023 –** Please see details at the back of the church along with envelopes and details of other ways of donating. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford.

**CAFOD’s FAMILY FAST DAY** this Lent is on Friday, 3rd March, details at the back of the church.

**MUSICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held on Friday, 17th March at 6.00 pm followed by a St Patrick’s Day party afterwards. Volunteers to assist will be most welcome.

**ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACREMENT OF MATRIMONY – WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY, 1TH MAY 2023 AT 2.30 PM** - The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5**th **10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Details of attendees will be sent to [family@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:family@rcdow.org.uk)

**LENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS** (18-30s) led by the Assumption Sisters on **Saturday 18th March 2023 in Kensington**. Young people are invited for a day retreat (10.30am-5pm) including talks • Mass • Stations of the Cross • confessions • adoration • faith sharing and social.  Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Simon Stock Church Hall, London W8 4BB. Donations only. **Register**: [tramy@assumptionreligious.org](mailto:tramy@assumptionreligious.org)

**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR COUNTERS AND CATECISTS** please advise Fr John if you would like to volunteer. **Counters** **please note** there is a revised Counters Rota available from the office.

**MASS OFFERINGS -** **We have spaces in March (9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th & 30th) and up until Holy Week, weekend masses available until June.** Please send your requests via email to Gillian at [Cranford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:Cranford@rcdow.org.uk). **As the Diocese suggests moving to a cashless system, wherever possible, all payments should be made online through bank transfer into the parish account, quoting the reference “Mass Offering”. Please refer to the bottom of this newsletter for bank details.** Due to unforeseen circumstances, we regret we may have to move the mass intentions to another day, please see newsletter for rescheduled mass intention date.

**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. In the case of weddings scheduled for February 2024, the couple should come and see Fr John during the middle part of July 2023 as both office and Chancery will not be working during the month of August and it is important that a six-month period is kept to avoid difficulties.

**PRIMARY 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 25 | 5.00 pm | All Souls in Purgatory – Dedicated by Kiwi Fernandes |
| Sun 26 | 9.00 am  11.00 am  12.30 pm  5.00 pm | Marianinha Dias – RIP First Anniversary  David Payne – RIP  Portuguese Mass  Konkani Mass |
| Mon 27 | 10.00 am | Doreen Byrne – Birthday - RIP |
| Thu 2 | 10.00 am | Skylah Fernandes – 1st Birthday |
| Fri 3 | 10.00 am  6.00 pm | Marion Houghton – Good Health  Stations of the Cross |
| Sat 4 | 5.00 pm | Josh Dsouza - Birthday |
| Sun 5 | 9.00 am  11.00 am  12.30 pm | People of the Parish  Prayers for Members of the Gawlik Family  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. For those that do not have a bank account, charge cards are available.

**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**