**­­­­­CHURCH OF OUR LADY 020 8759 9136**

**AND ST CHRISTOPHER**  **email:** cranford@rcdow.org.uk

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

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

**2nd Sunday of Lent – 4th & 5th March 2023**

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

3rd Sunday of Lent & 1st Scrutiny (Year A) Page 158: Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42

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| **Parish Team****Parish Priest: Fr. John Tabor**Email: johntabor@rcdow.org.uk**Catechetical Co-ordinator:** Bejoy IgnatiousWorking 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 **Parish Secretary:** Gillian SatchellWorking days: Wednesday & Friday morningsPlease e-mail parish office with requests and queriesIn-person enquires on Wed & Fri between 10.30 – 11.30 am. Email**:** cranford@rcdow.org.uk **Parish Safeguarding Officers:**Natalie Smith & Pelazia RodriguesEmail: cranfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.ukEmail: 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) 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 Worthwhile Fast**Last week we looked at the practice of prayer, situated within the three traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This week it is the turn of fasting. I suspect that of the three practices, this is everyone’s least favourite. The older ones among you will remember the very specific fasting rules that existed during Lent before the liturgical reforms of the 1960s.The question remains. Why fast? We could offer several answers, connected with health, physical and emotional wellbeing and achieving a good balance. All of these are good answers in and of themselves, but within the context of the Lenten season, fasting is prescribed by the Church to help us to come back to the reality that we need God in everything. Recently, I came across a rather good prayer about fasting, suggested by the Abbot of Ampleforth, Dom Robert Igoe OSB, and I attach it here:“*Lord, give me the courage to: Fast from judging others; feast on Christ dwelling in them. Fast from fear of illness; feast on the healing power of God. Fast from words that pollute; feast on speech that purifies.* *Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude. Fast from anger; feast on patience. Fast from pessimism; feast on hope. Fast from negatives; feast on encouragement. Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness. Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion.**Fast from suspicion; feast on truth. Fast from gossip; feast on purposeful silence. Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that sustains. Fast from anxiety; feast on faith. Amen”.* 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.

**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

**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

**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 and up until Holy Week, weekend masses available until June.** Please send your requests via email to Gillian at Cranford@rcdow.org.uk. **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

**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 4 |  5.00 pm | Josh Dsouza - Birthday |
| Sun 5 |  9.00 am11.00 am12.30 pm | Elicio D Souza - BrthdayPrayers for Members of the Gawlik FamilyPortuguese Mass |
| Mon 6 | 10.00 am | Jelza Gracias – Birthday  |
| Wed 8 | 10.00 am | Ruzai Conha & Francis Cunha - RIP |
| Thu 9 | 10.00 am | Peter & Patricia Newton – Private Intention |
| Fri 10 |  **9.30 am\***  6.00 pm | Victoria Cruz – Birthday Thanksgiving & Good Health**\* Holy Hour follows the 9.30 am mass**Stations of the Cross |
| Sat 11 |  5.00 pm | People of the Parish |
| Sun 12  |  9.00 am11.00 am | Maria Piedade Cortez – RIPPrivate Intention |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**February donation: Weekly cash: 05/02/23 £716.05, 12/02/23 £730.90, 19/02/23 £641.56, 22/02/23 £443.75, 26/02/23 £885.32. Contactless: Gift Aid: £370.00, Non-Gift Aid: £691.00. Total: £4478.58**

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**