**­­­­­ CHURCH OF OUR LADY & ST CHRISTOPHER**

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

**Telephone: 020 8759 9136**

**2nd Sunday of Advent – 9th & 10th December 2023**

**Readings: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B) Page 85: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, RP: Psalm 84:9-14, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8**

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B) Page 87: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, RP: Luke 1:46-50, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

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| **Parish Team**  **Parish Priest: Fr. John Tabor**  Email: [johntabor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:johntabor@rcdow.org.uk)  Any required appointment will be at 11.00 am on Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays.  **PLEASE DO NOT USE Fr John’s personal number or email address for mass requests.**  **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 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 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  **These premises are monitored by CCTV.**  *This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT) Registered Charity No: 233699* |  | Dear Friends  This Second Sunday of Advent sees he austere figure of John the Baptist take centre stage. We should take heed of his advice to seek repentance and a life of humility.  **The Church and RAAC**  We have been advised that there is a RAAC issue with our church and people are rightly concerned as to how this will affect our parish community.  Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (or RAAC) is a material used in construction in many buildings between 1960’s and the 1990. Unfortunately, our church was built in 1969/1970 and so is affected. With the help of the Property Services Department in the Diocesan Central Services (Head Office), we are advised that we have about 40% RAAC in our church.  We are awaiting quotes from three contractors and the parish, together with Property Services will make decisions on how to manage the issue.  **After the 11.00 am Mass this Sunday,** **10th December**, (note the change of time) Paolo Camoletto, Chief Operating Officer of the Diocese and Nicholas Seed, Director of Finance of the Diocese, will be here at all the Masses to answer questions and discuss the way forward for us at this time. Please do come to hear what is under discussion and share your views.  During this time, the church and hall will only be used for scheduled services. The First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes will take place in Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Heston, until further notice.  Please be assured that the church is not about to be closed, but how the church is used will need to change until this matter is resolved.  I have formed a small group to support me in managing the situation. We will use the newsletter and announcements at the end of Mass to give updates on this issue as and when we receive them.  Have a good week and let us pray for each other.  **Father John** |

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING** will be held on Wednesday, 20th December after the 10.00 am mass. All flower donations will be gratefully accepted as well as money donations via BACS payment, quoting “Christmas Flowers”.

**A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL -** Tickets are now on sale for the annual Christmas concerts, which celebrates the mystery of Christ’s Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on **19th and 20th December** **at 7.30pm**. We encourage everybody to purchase tickets quickly before these popular events are sold out. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from Ticketmaster; go to [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

**THE SVP** are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs; PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 46088237**. Thank you so much for your support.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS** – Fr John will be signing Primary School forms at **10.00 am** on **Saturday, 6th January 2024.** Please make a note now of these dates.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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| **Sat 09** | 05.00 pm | Roque Fernandes – Thanksgiving |
| **Sun 10** | 09.00 am  11.00 am | Avelino Correia – RIP  Sandra Travasso - Birthday |
| **Wed 13** | 10.00 am | Joel & Chrisilda Ferrao - Wedding Anniversary |
| **Thu 14** | 10.00 am | Minguel Franscisco Gonsalves - RIP |
| **Fri 15** | 10.00 am  **10.30 am** | Piety Carvalho – RIP  ***HOLY HOUR*** |
| **Sat 16** | 05.00 pm | People of the Parish |
| **Sun 17** | 09.00 am  11.00 am | Andrew Rodrigues – RIP  Sarah Engson & Family - Thanksgiving |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**Contactless total for 4th December 2023: £442.63**

**Contactless payments or online banking (standing order or BACS) is now the preferred method of offertory giving. Cash handling is becoming increasingly difficult as the banks continue their roll out of branch closures.**

The Contactless machine is available in the Church. If you wish to **donate via online banking** please see our details below, 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 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. 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**