**­­­­­ CHURCH OF OUR LADY & ST CHRISTOPHER**

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

**Telephone: 020 8759 9136**

**3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) – 16th & 17th December 2023**

**Readings: 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**

4th Sunday of Advent (Year B) Page 90: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16, RP: Psalm 88:2-5, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

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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  We are now well over halfway through this short Advent season. The Lord is indeed very near and on this “Gaudete” Sunday, we can indeed rejoice at His coming very soon.  **The Church and RAAC**  Last Sunday after the 11.00am Mass, Paolo Camoletto, Chief Operating Officer of the Diocese and Nicholas Seed, Finance Director of the Diocese came to the parish to give an update on the RAAC in the Church and to answer questions. It was a useful meeting and allowed people to ask questions and to engage with the process of moving forward.  Paolo shared the news that the remedial works will are expected to cost about £100,000. The tender process will begin in January with works commencing soon afterwards. This work is urgent and is necessary to ensure that the Church is safe. The works are remedial and the roof beams will need to be checked every six months.  To assist with funding the cost, the parish can borrow on a loan facility, but the parish is responsible for paying back the loan and so a concerted fundraising effort will begin in the New Year. A request was made for both Paolo and Nick to come back for a further meeting with the parish towards the end of January (date to be confirmed), once the tenders have been received and a contractor has been appointed. At this meeting, they will be able to give more details about the works, which are expected to last six weeks. The Church will be closed during the period of the works.  **Discerning the way forward**  During the meeting, Paolo referred to a desire from the Cardinal that we use this period to consider the future. The existing church building is coming to the end of its usable life and a decision will need to be taken about this. A new build will be required within the next decade. With the cost of a new church expected to be between £2 million and £3 million, this is a big decision. Again, the parish would be responsible for fundraising for this project.  As part of this discernment process, the parish will need to consider the various options available, within the provisions of Church law. These range from closure, to merging with another parish, to being coupled with a nearby parish. This last option would allow the parish to retain its separate individual identity, while making effective use of the resources available, including keeping the Church open.  Please do take the time to think about how you would like to be involved in the fundraising activities outlined above, and about the longer-term future.  For now, 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.  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”.

**THE JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK – UPCOMING EVENTS – 18th December, 12.30-1.30pm:** Monthly Prayer Vigil outside the Home Office, Marsham Street, SW1P4DF. Organised by Westminster Justice & Peace, London Catholic Worker and the London Churches Refugee Fund to pray for migrants seeking safe passage to the UK. Contact Barbara Kentish [barbarakentish@talktalk.net](mailto:barbarakentish@talktalk.net). **15th January 2024, 12.45-2.00pm:** “Feedback from COP28” zoom meeting organised by Southern Dioceses Environment Network. Speaker: Neil Thorns (Director of Advocacy, CAFOD). Southern Dioceses Environment Network is a network for all Catholics and our friends who care about creation and protecting our common home. Attend as a one-off or participate regularly. Free tickets available under link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/southern-dioceses-environment-network-feedback-from-cop28-tickets-763861880447?aff=oddtdtcreator>

**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.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS** – Fr John will be signing Primary School forms at **10.00 am** on **Saturday, 6th January 2024 and Saturday, 13th January.** Please make a note now of these dates.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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| **Sat 16** | ***10.00 am***  05.00 pm | ***Confessions***  People of the Parish |
| **Sun 17** | 09.00 am  11.00 am | Andrew Rodrigues – RIP  Sarah Engson & Family - Thanksgiving |
| **Wed 20** | 10.00 am  ***10.30 am*** | Maria Franascia Fernandes - RIP (Birthday Anniversary)  **Confessions** |
| **Thu 21** | 10.00 am | Private Intention |
| **Fri 22** | 10.00 am | Savio Gonsalves & Elizabeth & John Gonsalves - RIP |
| **Sat 23** | 05.00 pm | Rocha Fernandes - Birthday |
| **Sun 24** | 10.00 am  01.00 pm  03.45 pm  07.30 pm  10.00 pm | People of the Parish  Portuguese Mass  Children's Mass  Midnight Mass  Konkani Mass |

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| **Monthly Donation Report – November 2023** | |
| Standing Orders | 899.50 |
| Online Donations | 2,568.40 |
| Loose Plates | 2,218.13 |
| ***Total*** | ***£5,686.03*** |
| **Weekly Collection Report as at 10th December 2023** | |
| Standing Orders | 200.00 |
| Online Donations | 637.00 |
| Loose Plates | 629.00 |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***£1,466.00*** |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**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**