**­­­­­ CHURCH OF OUR LADY & ST CHRISTOPHER**

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

 **Telephone: 020 8759 9136**

 **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 20th & 21st January 2024**

**Readings: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) Page 129: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, RP: Psalm 24:4-9, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) Page 132: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, RP: Psalm 94:1-2, 1 Corinthians 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28

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| **Parish Team****Parish Priest: Fr. John Tabor**Email: johntabor@rcdow.org.ukAny 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 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 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 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,“Repent and believe the Good News”. These words of Jesus in this Sunday’s Gospel are spoken to each one of us. We begin again each day. The process of transformation through grace is lifelong.**The Church and RAAC**In early December 2023, 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.They shared the news that the remedial works will be undertaken using a £100,000 loan from the Diocese, which has been approved by the Archbishop’s Council. The tender process has now begun 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.  The parish is responsible for paying back the loan and so a fundraising effort will begin once we have the detailed costs. Paolo and Nick are due to come for a further meeting with the parish in the next few weeks (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 will last six weeks. The Church will be closed during the period of the works.**Discerning the way forward**The Cardinal has asked 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, at an estimated cost of around £3 million. Again, the parish would be responsible for fundraising for this project.As part of this discernment process, the parish needs to consider the various options available, within the provisions of Church law. These range from closure, to merging with another parish, to coupling 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 outline above and about the longer-term future.For now, the church and hall will only be used for scheduled services. The parish First Holy Communion and Confirmation in-person sessions will take place in Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Heston. 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** |

**FR JOHN AWAY**: **I will be away from the evening of Sunday 21st January until the afternoon of Thursday 25th January and the following weekend, 27th and 28th January. Fr Chris Wallbank MAfr will be saying the Masses that weekend. I know you will make him very welcome.**

 **THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HESTON –** are holding **Nursery Open Days** to promote their faith-filled education for children. The nursery embodies the same values of kindness, compassion, and a strong foundation in Christian faith that are central to the parish community. The Open Days will allow families to explore the classroom, meet passionate staff, and discover the nurturing environment cultivated for pupils. Open Days are on: 24th January, 30th January, 22nd February and 27th February at 9.30 am and 18th January, 6th February and 4th March at 2.00 pm

**PEACE SUNDAY** - The church celebrates Peace Sunday on 14th January 2024. At a time when there is war and conflict in the Middle East, the Ukraine and much further afield as well as the tragedy of displacement caused by climate change, are depicted on our TV screens on a daily basis, it may seem that little can be done by us here in the parish. However, we can pray for change, and we can morally and financially support the work of excellent groups like Pax Christi (see [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)). This year’s theme for Peace Sunday, chosen by Pope Francis, is ‘Artificial Intelligence and Peace’. You can read more about it in the article attached to this week’s newsletter.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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| **Sat 20** | 05.00 pm | Smith/Lewis Family - Private Intention |
| **Sun 21** | 09.00 am11.00 am | Sarah Fernandes – BirthdaySarah Engson & Family - Thanksgiving |
| **Fri 26** | 10.00 am | Estevan Gonsalves - RIP |
| **Sat 27** | 05.00 pm | People of the Parish |
| **Sun 28** | 09.00 am11.00 am17.00 am | Bridie McKiernan - Good HealthJudith & Rylan Fernandes- BirthdayKonkani Mass |

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| **Monthly Donation Report – December 2023** |
| Standing Orders | 944.50 |
| Online Donations | 1,602.11 |
| Loose Plates | 2,438.56 |
| ***Total*** | ***£4985.17*** |
| **Weekly Collection Report as at 15th January 2024** |
| Online Donations | 725.58 |
| Loose Plates | 528.88 |
| Crib Offerings | 297.30 |
| ***Grand Total*** | ***£1551.76*** |

**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 01308637**