

# NEWSLETTER

## St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Year A

Ordinary Time - Eleventh Sunday

18th June 2023

**A very happy Father's Day to all our parish DADS !**

*All Masses are streamed for housebound on the parish YouTube channel: St Aidans Coulsdon*

Saturday Vigil 6pm People of the Parish **Followed by Confessions**

Sunday 9am Dennis Charles Goodwin

Sunday 11am First Holy Communion children

Monday 10am Intentions of Lambert Pereira

Tuesday **No public Mass here.**

Wednesday 6.30pm Francis and Beatrice Burgess

Thursday 10am Canon Gary Pierce RIP

Friday 11am FUNERAL Eddie Aldridge RIP

**Saturday 10am Mass THE BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Saturday Vigil 6pm People of the parish

Sunday 9am Deceased members of the Kelleher family

Sunday 11am Tom Joyce RIP

**Life breakfast today.  
Bar open after 11am Mass.**

*St John Rigby*

*St Alban*

*St Aloysius Gonzaga*

*Saints John Fisher and Thomas More*

**This Sunday we have First Holy Communions at 11am Mass. We pray for the children and their families as they receive this wonderful gift from the Lord, - the gift of Himself.**

### 2nd collections.

**This week 'Day for Life' (read details on P2)**

**Next week: Our parish Lourdes Group. [Leader: Bridget Hanlon]— help to subsidise deserving people. Cheques payable to: RCOS Coulsdon.**

**Taskforce next Saturday Last Saturday of the month. From 10.00am to 12.00pm.**

Please come along for a variety of tasks around the church, hall and grounds.

### **Please pray for the sick and housebound.**

Anne Walker, Eileen & Jack Darville, Caroline Garvey, Pat Kelly, Truda Hobbs, Rhona Devine, Margaret O'Leary, Marion McCluskey, Jean Hunt, Mary Crehan, Winn Jordan, Charlie Hooke, Allen Reilly, David Gibson, Veronica Lydon-McCluskey, Juliette Hinds, Sammy McCarroll, Sarah Bell, Rosie Longworth, Anthony Grimshaw, Bernadette Blaquiére, Eileen Brockhurst, Czeslaw Sajadak, Trudy Kiely, John Cooksey, Geoff Wood, Joseph Darville, Margaret Long, Norma Cordell, Christopher Thomas, Coral Hind, Jean Turner, Freda Blade, David Morling.  
And all who are sick.

**THIS SUNDAY 2nd collection. DAY for LIFE. 18 June 2023**

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England and Wales, *Day for Life* is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. This year it falls on **18 June**.

The theme is **'Listen to Her'** and focuses on post-abortion trauma and the impact of abortion primarily on women, but also men and others.

Each year a message is released, usually by the Church's Lead Bishop for Life Issues, offering a reflection on the year's theme. The 2023 message is unique in that the bishops' have given it over to a Catholic woman who has had an abortion to share her experiences. Often the voices of women who have had an abortion are silent in Church and in society. The hope is that this will help break this silence and offer further opportunities for healing and reconciliation..

### **Jane's Story.**

I went to Catholic schools, I knew about God and morality on some level, but for me, the culture spoke louder when it came to making decisions around sexuality.

When I was 15, I discovered I was pregnant and the fear clouded everything. I had one aim, and that was to solve the problem I had found myself in. A quick search for confidential help landed me at a clinic connected to an abortion provider. They seemed to genuinely believe that abortion was the solution to my problem and I don't remember discussing any other options. I was relieved when they determined that I was capable enough to make this decision alone, without the involvement of an adult, which is still legal to this day.

That Saturday I travelled alone to the clinic. My parents were unaware, due to other difficulties in the family home that I didn't want to contribute to. I went through the degrading experience of a surgical abortion, and I thought that if I could just get through that day, I would never have to think about it again. I remember feeling conflicted as a tear rolled down my cheek, that I quickly wiped away. I believed I couldn't be sad because this was something I had chosen to do. So after the initial feeling of relief, I pushed down the experience and avoided anything to do with the topic of abortion. It was difficult to be around pregnant women and I found the anniversary difficult each year.

Over the next few years, I became more curious about faith through the invitation of a friend. I was looking for direction and truth, but my spiritual life was always tainted by the thought that I could never be forgiven for what I had done – somehow, God's mercy didn't apply to me. In the fleeting moments of honesty with myself and God, I knew that my choice didn't make me lose something, but someone. At times, this realisation was unbearable.

This led to periods of deep depression and suicidal thoughts, as well as more promiscuous behaviour

and numbing the pain with alcohol, food, or isolation.

This all changed when I was encouraged to go to confession. Even when I tried to justify my choice, the priest met me with the love and mercy of Jesus. The tears he shed melted my heart of stone. I began to give up my old ways of life and follow His way.

On this journey I was introduced to Rachel's Vineyard: a healing ministry that provides support for those who are suffering after abortion. I remember the kindness of the woman that I spoke to, and I knew I wouldn't be judged there.

It took so much courage to go on a retreat, but I can genuinely say it changed my life. By hearing other people share their stories and being gently encouraged by the team, I was able to speak the truth of what had happened to me on that day. My feelings were acknowledged, including my sense of loss. I was finally given permission to grieve for the baby that had died through my choice. I acknowledged my motherhood and named my son Joseph. This was the start of God turning the guilt, shame and unforgiveness into a deep love for my son, as any good mother would have.

The healing has continued alongside my faith journey. I've taken responsibility for the role I played in my abortion, but with perspective and time, I can see that my 'choice' wasn't really a choice at all. There were other people's failures, and an inability to truly give informed consent as a teenager that also contributed. The option that was presented as a quick fix solution has eternal consequences, and I truly believe that if I'd have known the impact abortion.

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*If you are affected by this story (as a woman or man) speak to someone you trust. Any conversation with a priest is in absolute confidence.*

*Rachael's Vineyard's website is:*

<https://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk/>

### Green cards. - New volunteers in the parish.

Thank you to those who filled in the cards for volunteering in the parish. We received around thirty five. I am gradually contacting the people who offered to volunteer, some of them have already begun helping.

If you have not filled in a card and you wish to volunteer you can email to me.

[couldson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:couldson@rcaos.org.uk)

There are some skills still needed.

- Someone with a basic knowledge of accounts and MS Excel.
- Someone who would like small decorating jobs, eg the WC in the church.
- Confirmation team (Youth).

Thank you,

### St Aidan's School Summer Fair

St Aidan's School Association warmly invites all parishioners to their Summer Fair on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 12PM-4PM at the school. Please see attached poster for further details and we look forward to seeing you there.

### Youth Social and Confirmation Session

There will be no youth social on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Instead, the end of year youth social will be on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 4pm. All aged 11-16 are welcome, parental consent forms are in the porch. More adult youth helpers are still needed. Please speak to Br. Stephen for details. The confirmation group will be meeting at 5:30pm on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, to enable them social time.

Justice and Peace meeting scheduled for Wed 21 June is postponed until September.

### WEST CROYDON REFUGEE CENTRE.

Croydon Refugee Centre are always grateful for our donations. Current needs: New underwear and socks for men, women and children. Size 1 nappies and baby clothes. Trainers.

### The Purley Food Hub

[purleyfoodhub@gmail.com](mailto:purleyfoodhub@gmail.com)

The current needs are: Cartons of long-life whole milk. Individual sachets of soup. Tinned meals e.g. Irish stew or chicken in white sauce.

### Parish BBQ

9<sup>th</sup> July

2023

12pm

to

4pm



### Delicious Food

Cash Bar

Live Music

Kids Area

Charity Raffle

Br Stephen's last hurrah!

Tickets on sale in the coming weeks

Adults £5 Children £3



### CHURCH SHOP

New stock of first Holy Communion and Confirmation cards available.

### OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

Cash £ 881, Standing Orders £540, Card reader: £140 **Total income: £1,561** of which £597 was gift-aided.

**THANK YOU.**

## **Readings at Mass today.**

### **For 6 pm and 9 am only.**

#### **First Reading                      Exodus 19:2-6**

From Rephidim the sons of Israel set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp. Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, “You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagle’s wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.”’

#### **Psalm 99(100):2-3,5**

*We are his people, the sheep of his flock.*

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age.

#### **Second Reading                      Romans 5:6-11**

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might

be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God’s anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

#### **Gospel                      Matthew 9:36-10:8**

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.’ He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: ‘Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.’