

# NEWSLETTER

## St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Mansfield;

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Church Hall enquiries: [staidanshallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:staidanshallbookings@gmail.com)

Property Maintenance, report issues: [staidanspremisesteam@gmail.co.uk](mailto:staidanspremisesteam@gmail.co.uk)

St Aidan's School: 01737 556036

Year A

23rd Sunday - Ordinary Time

10 September 2023

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

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** Michael Palmer RIP

Priest available for confessions after Saturday Mass.

**Sunday 9am** Thanksgiving of Victoria Chandler

**Life breakfast after 9am Mass.**

**Sunday 11am** People of the Parish

**Bar open after 11am Mass.**

**Monday 10am** Santana Fernandes

**Tuesday** No Mass in church

**Wednesday 6.30pm** Deacon Tom Coyle RIP

*St John Chrysostom*

**Thursday 10am** Intentions of Julia Bholah

**THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**Friday 10am** School Mass - Parishioners welcome. No Exposition today

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** Mary Leela Amos RIP

**Sunday 9am** Darren and Alan Terry RIP

**Sunday 11am** Intentions of Eileen and John Joyce

**2nd Collection this weekend.**

**Catholic Education Service, see P2 for details of**

**REMINDER .....**

**Catholic Primary & secondary school references.**

Will you be requesting a priest's reference accompanying an application for a Catholic school this autumn? If so, please write your child's name and sign in the place indicated on the clipboard provided in the church porch.

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

Anne Walker, Eileen & Jack Darville, Caroline Garvey, Pat Kelly, Truda Hobbs, Rhona Devine, Marion McCluskey, Jean Hunt, Mary Crehan, Winn Jordan, Charlie Hooke, Allen Reilly, David Gibson, Sarah Bell, Veronica Lydon-McCluskey, Juliette Hinds, Sammy McCarroll, Rosie Longworth, Anthony Grimshaw, 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.

**Youth Ministry Adult Volunteers**

**Open meeting 17th September 2023 Marian Room after 11am mass**

If you believe that the Youth are an important and essential part of the life of the parish, let the Holy Spirit inspire you and come along to this open meeting. No experience necessary. Get involved, so we can re-start activities as soon as possible. Regards Penne. [staidansyouthmission@gmail.com](mailto:staidansyouthmission@gmail.com)

**Parents who would like their child baptised in the near future should contact Fr Peter to book for the next preparation evening - [coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk)**

**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.



**New Lectern Fall.** Thank you to Leonie Wilding for the gift of this work of art for the liturgical season of Ordinary Time in our church. It is done in a unique form of embroidery called 'goldwork'. All the threads and stitches are hand done by Leonie. Please feel free to come and look closely at it, - we ask that you do not touch the goldwork.

It depicts the Gospel of John 6:9, the loaves and fishes. It was following that feeding of the multitude that Jesus taught that his word was spiritual food and his body in the Eucharist was the true bread from heaven. In the readings, represented by the book in the background, we are fed with Christ's word and in the Eucharist we are fed with his body and blood.

### **2nd Collection this weekend. Catholic Education Service**

The Catholic Education Service (CES) acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh Governments', sharing the aims of high academic standards for all, and increased parental choice. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of state schools. There are over 2000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 pupils. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

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### **2nd Collection next weekend. Home Mission Sunday -**

This collection provides the Bishops of England and Wales with resources to support 'Home Mission', the spread of the Gospel in our own country. The money collected enables a breadth of work to be done in support of parish evangelisation.

### **Sacrament of Confirmation at St Aidan's 2024.**

We need to have the Confirmation Mass earlier in the year in future because the summer term is so full with school trips, Duke of E and sports events, it has become impossible. As we would not want Confirmations in Lent, it leaves the beginning of February as Lent is very early in 2024. The Mass will be Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm. As half term and Christmas come during the preparation period, we will need to start early in October.

Year 9 pupils or older are now being invited to enrol. The new Year 9 pupils will be on average 6 months younger than if we started around Easter as before.

Canon Gerard Bradley (the Archbishop's area vicar) will be coming to our parish on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 to administer the sacrament of Confirmation at 7.30pm Mass.

I would therefore like to invite our young people who are currently in year 9 or older to apply.

The Confirmation preparation programme will begin in the church hall on Sunday evenings in early October on date to be confirmed. The application forms will be available from Fr Peter after Masses today and for the next couple of weeks.

Mass attendance is an essential requirement for any prospective applicant.

The young person applying needs to request the form personally, **NOT A PARENT.**

The St Aidan's programme is not open to people from other parishes.

On the application form the applicants are asked to write a short letter in their own words saying why they wish to be confirmed.

### **Becoming a Catholic ... or receiving the Sacraments of Initiation as an adult.**

**Journey-in-Faith.** Speak to Fr Peter or email: [couldson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:couldson@rcaos.org.uk) The course is for:

- Those who wish to become members of the Catholic Church;
- AND those who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation as adults (18 yrs. and over);

## **THIS SUNDAY... 'Children's Word'.**

Having had a break for school holidays, Children's Word will recommence this Sunday at 9am and 11am Masses. Thank you to our catechists for continuing to provide this great facility.

The focus age group is 4 yrs to 8 yrs. We cannot accommodate toddlers as it is not geared for their level of activity or the particular care they need.

Parents are asked not to go to the hall with the children. An exception to this is if a child needs the parent to accompany them on the first occasion or a child with special needs requires a parent to be there. Otherwise, the only adults in the hall will be the team of three catechists who are designated on the rota for a given Sunday. Children are asked not to join the session late as it is interruptive for the others.

The nature of Children's Word is WORSHIP. The children are doing in the hall at their level what the adults are doing at the liturgy of the word in church. It is not an RE lesson, or Sunday school or a crèche.

**The Archbishop has proposed, and I have accepted, that as from next Sunday St Aidan's will have a Deacon joining our parish.** Unfortunately, I cannot reveal his name today as his current parishioners will not know of his leaving them and it would not be right for them to have advance notice through our online newsletter.

Deacons can be transient (on the way to priesthood) or permanent (remains a deacon). A permanent deacon can be single or married with a family. Our new deacon is the latter. He has been ordained for twenty years so has much experience. Permanent deacons usually have a day job and serve in a parish at weekends and evenings in accordance with their availability. They are unremunerated except for expenses incurred in their duties.

Older parishioners will recall that St Aidan's has in the past had two permanent married deacons at different times. James Gilligan and Joe Parsons (husband of Anne), all now deceased, may they know the reward of their labours.

A deacon has received the sacrament of Holy Orders. His duties in the liturgy when he is present is to always proclaim the Gospel, sometimes preach the homily, announce the sign of peace and the dismissal at the end of Mass. He is first minister of the precious blood when the chalice is given to the people at Mass. From a pastoral point of view he can do everything that a priest does except give absolution or the sacrament of the sick. He cannot be the celebrant at Mass. He can baptise, do funerals, weddings, Benediction and all other liturgical and pastoral ministries.

I am delighted by this news and so will you be when the 'mystery deacon' is revealed. I know you will give him a great 'St Aidan's welcome' next Sunday! Saturday Mass people will have to wait until the following week.

*Fr. Peter*

**An eleven week Alpha Course will be starting on Tuesday, 12th September from 7.00-9.00pm at St John the Baptist Catholic church hall in Purley.** The Alpha course is best described as a fun, non-pressurised, completely free introduction to Christianity and a better understanding of Jesus. It is designed both for regular church goers and also others searching for answers to life's big questions. Each week, we will enjoy a supper together, watch a short film and then join a small discussion group. Now is your chance to find out more about Our Lord, meet new people and make friends!

If you are interested in attending the course send an email to our parish office:  
[couldson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:couldson@rcaos.org.uk)

### **OUR OFFERTORY INCOME**

Cash £553 Standing Orders £540,

Card reader: £195

**Total income: £ 1,288**

of which £700 was gift-aided.

### **THANK YOU.**

Please consider making a standing order for your offertory contributions. Contact our treasurer Peter McFall to get the details.

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

### **Right to Life UK** *Parliamentary pro-life group.* **PRAYER**

This coming Thursday, we commemorate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Let us pray that generations yet to be born will experience the saving power of Christ. Lord hear us

### **Imagine a parish youthgroup aged 55 - 65 ish - that's what we've got in the hall this afternoon !**

Sounds crazy ? Earlier in the year some people from the 'old' youthgroups of St Andrew's, Thornton Heath, 1985 onward, contacted me to say that some of them still stay in touch with one another through a Facebook page. St Andrew's was my first parish as a priest when I was ordained, I was there 1983 - 88. It will be a delight to meet them and some of their 'adult children' at a special St Andrew's 'youth reunion' today in our hall.

*Fr Peter*

## **Beatification of a Polish family.**

*Beatification means to be counted among those in Heaven due to their holy life as well as a sign that God has given through miracle.*

This Sunday, in the Polish village of Markowa, there will be the remarkable occasion of an entire family being beatified at once, including their unborn child.

Józef Ulma and his wife Wiktoria, heavily pregnant at the time of her death, sheltered families of Jews from the Nazis. They knew what it would cost them and their family if they were ever discovered, but they couldn't turn their backs on their neighbours.

When the Nazis came for the Ulmas, it was the dead of night and everyone was sleeping. But the Nazis knew exactly what they would find: they had been tipped off. They didn't spare a single person inside the home - not the Jewish families, not Józef and Wiktoria and their unborn child, not even the Ulma children: Stanisława, age 8; Barbara, 7; Władysław, 6; Franciszek, 4; Antoni, 3; and Maria, 2.

After their deaths, a Bible inside their home was discovered to have the parable of the Good Samaritan underlined in red ink. They had truly lived Jesus' call to love their neighbour as themselves.

## **Today's readings.**

### **First Reading**

**Ezekiel 33:7-9**

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

### **Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9**

*O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God  
and we the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

### **Second Reading**

**Romans 13:8-10**

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: *You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet*, and so on, are summed up in this single command: *You must love your neighbour as yourself*. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

### **Gospel**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'