

# NEWSLETTER

## St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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St Aidan's School: 01737 556036

Year A

Ordinary Time - 25th Sunday

24th September 2023

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Elizabeth Armatige RIP

Sunday 9am Celebrant's intention

Sunday 11am Kate Twomey RIP

Monday 10am Abe Almeida RIP

Tuesday No Mass in church

Wednesday 6.30pm No Mass

Thursday 10am Maria Almeida RIP

Friday 10am **No Mass but there is Exposition 10-10.30am** *Saints Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael*

Saturday Vigil 6pm Penelope Giorgio RIP

Sunday 9am Kathleen Gaffney RIP

Sunday 11am Kate Twomey RIP

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

*St Vincent de Paul*

### Weekday Masses for the coming week.

Please note that there is a Mass on Monday and Thursday. No Mass Tuesday and Wednesday. On Friday there is no Mass but there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 10am - 10.30am.

### Thank you - from MANNA.

Many thanks to all the Parishioners of St Aidan's for your very generous donation of food. Please pass on our special thanks to David Murray for taking the time to drop your donation off with us. Your donation and ongoing support is greatly appreciated and essential to the continuation of the services we offer here to some of the most disadvantaged people in our society.

### Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Fr Peter, 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, Bernard Leonard, Margaret Long, Norma Cordell, Christopher Thomas, Coral Hind, Jean Turner, Freda Blade, David Morling. And all who are sick.

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

Let us pray for peace and justice for all, especially for people who are unable to speak for themselves, including some people in hospital and some people with disabilities, as well as the unborn. Lord hear us.

**If you know of anyone who should be on our parish sick list or needs Holy Communion at home please let Fr Peter know.**

**Dear sisters and brothers,**

Thank you for all your prayers and good wishes while I was in hospital. I have been discharged but must rest as recovery from pneumonia takes about six weeks. No doubt I will be working gradually as and when I feel that I can.

There are some things that will be different while I am recuperating

- Weekday masses will be said when Fr Gus is available. He usually can offer one or two per week. We will publish days of Mass in the newsletter each week. Weekend Masses will continue at the usual times. I am grateful to Fr Kevan Hayden for helping with Saturday evening Masses and Fr Gus Kinnane for Sunday Masses.
- For the time being there will be only one streamed Mass per week and that is 11am Sundays.
- Confirmation enrolment forms for Yr 9 pupils and older are on hold for now.
- Secondary school priest's reference forms can be processed as follows:

For St Aidan's School parents, Mrs Izabela Evans can be handed the forms at school, she will bring them to me for signing and return them at a later date before half-term.

Those who do not attend St Aidan's school should email the parish office during October to make arrangements for signing, [coulson@caos.org.uk](mailto:coulson@caos.org.uk)

- Primary school references will be dealt with in November.
- Some Mass intentions scheduled for weekdays will need to be rescheduled at a later date. Apologies for any inconvenience.

*Have a blessed week.*

FR Peter

**Peter and Brenda McFall are moving!**

Parishioners of St Aidan's and other friends of Peter and Brenda would like to give them a warm send off as they are moving to Liverpool. Please join us at the St Aidan's social club after the 11:00 Mass on Sunday October 1st for drinks and nibbles.

**PPC**

A reminder that our next PPC meeting is Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Marian Room. If you are not able to attend, please send your apologies. Many thanks. Gerry

**Afternoon Tea Friday 29th September at 4 o'clock for a donation of £5.00**

**Please note the change of date.** If you would like to book a place, please speak to Brenda Eydman after 9 o'clock Mass or telephone 01737 552610.

**Taskforce**

This has been postponed from the 30<sup>th</sup> September to the 7<sup>th</sup> October. Many thanks.

**Calling all parish Catechists.**

*First Communion, Confirmation, Children's Word, Baptism, etc. and anyone interest in being a parish catechist.*

On behalf of the Archbishop, we invite you to attend the annual Diocesan Day for Catechists. This day is for all the catechists of the diocese, including those involved in Liturgy of the Word for Children and the RCIA process.

**Where: Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR**

**When: Saturday 30 September 2023**

**Start: 10:00am finishing with Mass at 4:00pm**

*Please book online as soon as possible. Last year the event was fully booked.*

<https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/iu6nxig8>

*You will also find the full schedule of the day on the above link.*

*Please do not turn up on the day without booking first to enable us to make all necessary arrangements.*

*Your parish office will receive an email confirming each booking, as the parish is encouraged to pay the £10 attendance fee but you need to register individually!*

**OUR OFFERTORY INCOME**

Cash £669 Standing Orders £540,  
Card reader: £180

**Total income: £1,389**

of which £708 was gift-aided.

**Second Collection:**

Home Missions £ 203 **THANK YOU.**

### **Interfaith Harvest Event**

Faiths Together in Croydon and South London Inter faith group have been working on putting an Interfaith Harvest event together. It will be on 1st October at the Braithwaite Hall from 12.30-5.30. Starting with a delicious lunch followed by performances from the Al Khayaal Theatre Company, Whirling Dervishes and some Bhangra dancers. There will also be Eco info and local Initiatives, Harvest songs and hymns, time to network and finishing up with tea and cake. This will be a great afternoon on Interfaith discussion and activity. We do ask that people book through eventbrite but it is absolutely free having been funded by the National Lottery. The link to Eventbrite is <https://CroydonHarvest2023.eventbrite.co.uk> this can also be seen on This is Croydon Borough of Culture website.

### **The Purley Food Hub** [purleyfoodhub@gmail.com](mailto:purleyfoodhub@gmail.com)

The Purley Food Hub are grateful for all your generous donations over many months.

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.

### **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.

### **Service of Acknowledgement, Prayer and Reflection**

**For all those who have been harmed by abuse and for those that support or work with those that have been harmed.**

Archbishop John Wilson and the Safe Guarding Team in partnership with LOUDfence, warmly invite you to attend a service on the 27th September 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral for all those who have been harmed by abuse and for those that support or work with those that have been harmed. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to tie a ribbon on the tree of reflection in support or prayer for those that have been harmed by abuse and to show our commitment to end abuse. Light refreshments will be offered after.

### **Marriage & Family Life Events** **GRIEF IN LOSS, HOPE IN CHRIST**

If you are mourning the death of a loved one, this weekend may be for you. It's being held at Aylesford Priory from October 6-8; cost £230 single, £210 shared. For more details phone 01622 717272 or email [reception@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:reception@thefriars.org.uk)

### **NEW BEGINNINGS**

For those who have suffered a divorce or separation or the death of their spouse, this Beginning Experience residential weekend will help provide healing. It's on October 13-15 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. For details ring Maura on 07795 498445 or email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com).

### **Annual Butterfly Service**

Invitation to the Annual Butterfly Service being held at St Barnabas Worship Centre at Croydon University 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 3pm (Sunday) and is for any families that have lost a baby / child / or had a miscarriage.

*A reflection on today's readings from the website of the Association of Catholic Priests (Ireland).*

### **Only God sees the full picture.**

The core of the Gospel parable is also in the Isaiah passage: "My thoughts are not your thoughts." Try as we may, it is impossible to justify the payment of the workers in the vineyard in ordinary social terms. It could hardly be said to be fair. Yes, the owner is generous to the last comers, but why is he not generous to the others as well? It is simply that there is no reckoning up deserts when man meets God.

In Our Lord's time Judaism had reached a legalistic state, and the mentality was prevalent that salvation could and must be earned. There were many commands which must be fulfilled, and people were divided into two classes, the righteous who were on the road to salvation by fulfilling the commands, and the unrighteous, outcasts despised by those who kept the law. It was this slot-machine conception of God that Jesus opposed by his emphasis on love, for in love there is no calculation of duties, rights and obligations; there is only an open-handed giving without counting the cost, and a grateful receiving. We can never say that we have earned our salvation, or anything from God, but can only stand suppliant before him. The latest workers in the vine-yard have not earned what the owner gives them, and the mistake of their envious colleagues is to think that they can deserve well of the owner.

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*Continued from p3.*

Devout Christians may find it hard to stomach that someone who repents on his deathbed is admitted to the kingdom no less than those who have struggled and suffered all their lives for what is right. But this would presuppose a commercial attitude of reward and punishments from God, and it neglects the nature of love. The relationship of the believer to God must be personal love, and as such it is its own reward, for it brings its own happiness also in this life. The greater the struggle, the more a Christian turns to God and finds comfort in the security of his love. Also, fidelity through a long life does bring some advantage over a skimpy final conversion, for it may well be that the relationship of love has so deepened over the years that the Christian, faithfully following Christ, has more capacity for the full enjoyment of God's company than one who comes to know God only at the last moment. Here it is not a matter of God giving a greater reward, but of the person being more capable of receiving it.

Of this deep and rewarding relationship with God and with Christ Paul shows himself in the second reading to be a shining example. Writing as he does under persecution he is yet filled with the joy of Christ. His life is already united with Christ's life, and he longs for the fulfilment of final union.

The parable of the vineyard-workers is no blueprint for labour relations, but it illustrates very well Jesus' teaching about grace and mercy. There are consequences to be drawn, and, in *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis wrote: "The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel." (§114)

### **Today's readings.**

#### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

#### **Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18**

*The Lord is close to all who call him.*

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts.

#### **Gospel**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'