

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Year A

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8th October 2023

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Celebrant's intention

Sunday 9am Jean Kelly RIP

Sunday 11am Steve Ashmore RIP

Monday 10am Mass with Fr Gus

Tuesday No Mass

Wednesday No Mass

Thursday 10am Mass with Fr Gus

Friday 10am Exposition 10am - 10.30am

Saturday Vigil 6pm People of the parish

Sunday 9am Michael and Muriel O'Callaghan (Diamond Wedding Anniversary)

Sunday 11am Kate Twomey RIP

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

St John Henry Newman

St Edward the Confessor

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. Today's second collection is for the CAFOD harvest fast day.

Unfortunately, due to a computer error the notice about the CAFOD harvest fast day, Friday 6th October, did not appear in the newsletter last weekend, although the envelopes were distributed by the Welcomers. The CAFOD envelope is not essential, cash can be placed in the basket or given via the card reader. If you are not prepared for this collection you can give via the CAFOD website using the donate button on top of the page: cafod.org.uk or place an envelope in the basket next weekend marked CAFOD.

Harvest Appeal 2023. When flooding hit Pakistan, Dr Nasha's mobile team of healthcare professionals travelled hundreds of miles to treat people who needed help. You can help inspirational local experts like Dr Nasha to reach people in times of crisis this Harvest.

Watch Meera's story on you tube [HERE](#) or via CAFOD home page.

Weekday Masses. While Fr Peter is on sick leave there will generally be two weekday Masses on Mondays and Thursdays at 10am. There are some spaces for Mass intentions, requests may be emailed to coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk or a note through the Parish House.

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays 10 - 10.30am.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. There will be Rosary, Exposition and Benediction led by Deacon Tony on Sundays 8th, 15th, 22nd October at 4pm.

There will be an opportunity for those who want the sacrament of reconciliation - confession - after the Monday Mass.

We would like to return the remaining Baptism certificates to the parents of the July 2023 Confirmation group.

Certificates are available in the altar servers sacristy after all Masses today or text Anthony Smith on 07782 328441.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC met on 28 September. This was the first meeting for six new members who had been elected in May and for Martin Puckett, who is taking over from Peter McFall as Parish Treasurer. Erica Thurbon was elected as Chair and Colin Wilding took on the role of Secretary.

The PPC continues to work on nine priority areas: Welcome, Youth, Elderly, Young Families, Vulnerable, Online Communication, Laity and Faith, Fundraising and Outward Looking. Each topic is led by one PPC member with others supporting. During the meeting the topic leaders were agreed and some of the topics were discussed.

Full minutes of the meeting can be found on the [parish website](#). The next meeting will be on Monday 6 November.

We welcome Pat Kelly who is visiting us this Sunday for the anniversary of his late wife Jean, - 9am Mass intention.

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIPS

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their Youth Ministry Internship Programme. The scheme gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the English Lake District. For more information

contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

A reminder that there are some things that will be different while Fr Peter is recovering.

- 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, couldson@rcaos.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.

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

Cash £609 Standing Orders £540,
Card reader: £67

Total income: £1,216
of which £638 was gift-aided.

THANK YOU.

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

couldsontreasurer@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 particularly girls' socks. Size 1 nappies and baby clothes. Trainers. There is also a great need for toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, washing up liquid, pasta and rice.

The Purley Food Hub purleyfoodhub@gmail.com

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

Current priorities:

Packs of cereal, Tinned meat meals (not hot dogs)
Packet and tinned potatoes, Tins of tuna,
Jars of pasta sauce, Small bottles squash,
Hot chocolate drink needing only water,
Tinned and packet custard,
Deodorant, Shampoo.

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.

SYNOD 21 - 24. - *Cardinal Vincent's reflection continued from last week.*

In 2021 The synod process throughout the world began at parish level. We had meetings where we discussed Church life under three headings: COMMUNITY - PARTICIPATION - MISSION. Since then the process moved through national and continental phases of discussion and discernment. On 4th October the Synod moved to Rome. Part 1 in 2023 and part 2 in 2024.



Below is part 2 of a reflection by Cardinal Vincent which helps to focus our minds on this phase.

The overall aim of the October meeting has been clearly set out: how can we become a listening Church, one that is profoundly open to all, humble and seeking forgiveness - as we have been reminded in today's readings? Can we be a Church of encounter and dialogue which seeks to hold together, often in tension, fidelity to the truth expressed in her teaching and a compassionate love for every person? How can we be a Church of deep respect for all that is truly human, seeking to bring the gifts and talents of every person into the mission given by Christ? How can we be a Church which is constantly restless because we are incomplete, yet a sign and instrument of the union of all with God? The Synod must consider what processes, initiatives, and structures can help us in becoming a truly missionary Church .

Continued next week.

NEWS FROM THE FLOATING SHELTER:

For many years St Aidan's participated in the Croydon Churches' Floating Shelter (CCFS) which provided welcome and accommodation for homeless people in church halls during the winter months. The Covid restrictions of 2020 brought a halt to this work and government health objectives continued to make that work impossible over the subsequent two years. Now that we have returned to a more normal way of living, CCFS has been working to try to find a way of re-opening the shelter following the Covid disruption. Sadly, it has had to conclude that it is not possible to re-open and so we, at St Aidan's, will not be hosting our regular Thursday nights in November and December.

There are a number of reasons for this. Many of the churches around the borough which formerly hosted a night in their hall have had to drop out, either because of lack of volunteers or because their premises are no longer available. We explored the idea of running a shorter shelter from January to Easter and we in St Aidan's could have participated but even this was proving unlikely. Furthermore, The support of Croydon Council has always been necessary for the safe and successful running of the

shelter and the council has decided that it cannot now provide that support. The council has always in the past been closely involved in working with our guests, introducing those to us who could benefit from our welcome and helping to move them on into employment and secure accommodation. Its approach to supporting the homeless is guided now by central government strategy which is to put rough sleepers into single-room accommodation, rather than into a floating shelter, until they can be permanently housed.

Many of our volunteers will be disappointed to hear this. The support from parishioners from all the churches in Coulsdon has been generous and enthusiastic throughout the ten years of our involvement and has sparked the interest of all age groups from children and young people right through to the elderly. The CCFS will be holding its AGM shortly and discussing other ways in which we may support those on the streets in Croydon. One of these ways may well be the continuation of our support to Nightwatch through provision of sandwiches. Watch this space....

Today's readings.

First Reading **Isaiah 5:1-7**

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Psalm 79(80):9,12-16,19-20

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel **Matthew 21:33-43**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'