

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Mansfield, Deacon: Rev. Tony Flavin
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Year A

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

29th October 2023

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Thanksgiving for the life of Jude Stockermans.

Sunday 9am Dorinda and Miguel Farina RIP (mother and son)

Sunday 11am Yolanda Sapsford RIP

Monday 10am **NO MASS**

Tuesday 7.30pm **Vigil Mass of All Saints**

All Saints **Wednesday 10am** Girlie Rachel Murindagomo RIP.

Souls of the faithful departed **Thursday 10am** Holy Souls in purgatory.

Friday 10am **Exposition 10am - 10.30am**

Saturday Vigil 6pm Deceased loved ones - Nov Bk

Sunday 9am Michelle Gent RIP.

Sunday 11am Michael Crowe RIP

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.
Bar open after 11am Mass.

There are some spaces for Mass intentions, - requests may be emailed to coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk or by a note through the Parish House.

No Rosary and Benediction today. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays 10-10.30am.

During the month of November there will be a book placed on the sanctuary with the names of our departed loved ones. Please place your list in the box provided in the church. Throughout November Masses will be offered for all the names in the book.

FAQ. If people submitted a list in previous years do they need to do a new one each year ?
YES. Composing your list of departed loved ones is part of your prayer for them and a way of bringing them to the Eucharist which is offered for the living and the dead.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

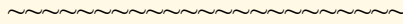
Fr Peter, Kevin Leavey, Anne Walker, Eileen & Jack Darville, Caroline Garvey, Pat Kelly, Truda Hobbs, Rhona Devine, Marion McCluskey, Jean Hunt, Mary Crehan, Winn Jordan, Charlie Hooke, Allen Reilly, David Gibson, Sarah Bell, Veronica Lydon-McCluskey, Juliette Hinds, Sammy McCarroll, Rosie Longworth,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

Wednesday 1st November is 'All Saints' Day'.

A Holy Day of obligation. Catholics are required go to Mass on this day or the evening before.

Wednesday is the feast of 'All Saints'. Masses are at 7.30 on Tuesday, Vigil Mass and on Tuesday morning at 10am. School Mass is 1.45 in Church, parishioners welcome.

On All Saints we honour all those who have reached the fullness of life in the Kingdom of Heaven, thereby giving praise and thanks to God for his grace working through them. It reminds us that the 'Communion of Saints' consists not only of canonised saints but of all those who are now united with God our Father through the redeeming love of Christ, in whose risen glory they share. These include those we call "our loved ones".



Thursday is 'All Souls' Day' - 2nd November is the Commemoration of the Souls of the Faithful Departed. Mass on All Souls Day is at 10am.

On 'All Souls' and throughout the month of November the Church prays especially for the Souls of the Faithful Departed in purgatory. In doing so we are praying that those who have died may be purified of the effects of sin in their lives and so enter the fullness of eternal life. This is the purification that we call 'purgatory'. Traditionally, the purification is symbolised by fire. It is unfortunate that this symbolism has often been misrepresented as God inflicting pain. The authentic meaning of the symbol of fire is to be found in the context of the fire of God's love which purifies.

Psalm 66 v10.

For You have tried us, O God; You have refined us as silver is refined. We went through fire and through water, yet You brought us out into a place of abundance.

Afternoon Tea.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME TO 3pm.

Friday 3rd November at 3pm in the church hall for a donation of £5. If you would like to book a place, please speak to Brenda Eydman after Sunday 9am Mass or ring 01737 552610.

FAIRTRADE STALL on Sunday 12 November

in the hall after the 9am and 11am Masses selling Transform Trade and CAFOD Christmas cards and other beautiful items.

If you are free to help on the stall please contact Rosa Shea. rosashea@outlook.com

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,

Priest's references for Catholic Primary school applications.

Fr Peter asks parents to hand in their forms by giving them to Deacon Tony or posting it through the letterbox of the Parish House. Signed forms can be collected from the servers' sacristy on the following weekend.

Parents are asked to place the form in an envelope marked 'Reference' with the child's name.

All forms must be submitted to Fr Peter in the month of November, not later.

Day of Recollection for Readers and Special Ministers of Holy Communion.

Canon Gerald Bradley is inviting readers and Eucharistic Ministers to a Day of Recollection for prayer, renewal and practical guidance for your ministry. It will be from 10-3pm Saturday 2nd December 2023 at St Boniface Hall, 185 Mitcham Road, Tooting, SW17 9PG. Lunch is included. Please email couldson@rcaos.org.uk if you would like to attend.

By train:

Couldson South to Tooting, change at Blackfriars

Parish support in times of bereavement and other forms of loss.

A new pastoral group is being launched in our parish.

The St Aidan's Listening Group has been set up to support those who have experienced loss including bereavement but not exclusively as loss occurs in many areas of life. We will be offering a monthly opportunity for anyone who feels that they would benefit from a quiet, confidential space to talk and be listened to. Your loss is personal to you and may come in the form of; the loss of a relative or close friend; through separation or divorce; or experiencing miscarriage. This informal and welcoming group is open to anyone, including those who have experienced bereavement or loss both recently and in the past. All are very welcome to join us for tea/coffee and biscuits. **We will meet on the second Friday of each month in the Hall Marian Room from 10:30 – 11:30. Our first meeting will be on Friday 10th November.**

Experiencing loss is very individual to each person. Many find group sessions helpful while others may prefer to talk in a more private setting, please email the Listening Group if you would like to explore this: listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com

Please note that the group are all members of the parish and are offering a listening ear, we are not offering professional counselling.

If you do not have transport to come to the sessions, let us know and we will work something out to be in touch with you. You can email listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com or phone the parish office 020 8660 2452.

Sara Waite - Group leader.

Reflections on today's Mass readings with Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.

First reading Exodus 22:20-26

These are the very primitive laws of the Old Testament, the heart of the first law-code laid down for Israel in the desert of the Exodus, before the Israelites even reached the Holy Land. 'Primitive'? Does our modern society equal them and the values they express? The principle is to help everyone who needs help, even foreigners, widows and orphans - just as God helped the Hebrews when they were slaves in Egypt. Men and women, made in the image of God, are God's representatives on earth, and must continue God's work of caring and healing. Anyone in need must not be humiliated, but must be given full human dignity, allowed to stand tall before his or her neighbours. The creditor may not enter the debtor's house to hassle him, the worker must be paid on time to get his dinner, the homeless must get back his cloak for the night, the vulnerable are not to be exploited. To summarize all this, Jesus will say, 'You must love your neighbour as yourself' - and here too he is quoting the Old Testament (Leviticus 19:18). Who are the vulnerable in our society? How do we continue God's work of caring for them?

Second reading. 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

After the consecration at every Mass we remind ourselves that Christ will come again, and the Thessalonians to whom Paul is writing were especially alert to this 'Second Coming' as they waited for Christ to come again from heaven. Paul had taught them that Christ has conquered death, that death is no more, and they mistakenly took this to mean that Christians would not physically die. Paul will answer this misunderstanding later in the letter. We don't know what this 'Second Coming' of Christ will be, but for Christians, history has a purpose and a direction. We do know that each of us will face Christ for our individual judgment when we die. We should not imagine that this will simply consist of Christ doling out suitable penalties to us; but as scripture says, 'No human being can see God and live'. Faced with the stunning purity of the glory of God we will be filled with longing and love, but will surely know too that we are not yet ready to enter into the pure and overwhelming love of God: only when the dross is purged away will we be prepared for entering into Christ's embrace.

Continued on next page.

Reflection continued.

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

Familiarity with Jesus' answer to the question about the greatest commandment blunts our awareness of its startling directness. Many answers could be given, perhaps singling out any one of the ten commandments as the greatest, the most important basis of society. Jesus' answer hits home, turning us away from self to God. 'Love' (not 'obey' or 'adore' or 'fear' or 'reverence') is the command. Love is not simply the warmth of companionship, but is the willing generosity of mother to helpless young child or daughter to helpless old parent, of wife to alcoholic husband or husband to paralysed wife, seeking no reward but the happiness of the receiver. Paul gives a useful check-list about love in chapter 13 of his first letter to the Corinthians. John's first letter provides a useful summary: 'No one who fails to love the brother or sister whom he can see, can love God whom he has not seen'.

Today's readings.

First reading Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this:

“You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

Second reading. 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation cf. Ac16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'