

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Year A

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

12th November 2023

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Saturday Vigil 6pm Symss family intention.

Sunday 9am Deceased loved ones - Nov Bk

Sunday 11am Dead of two World Wars

Monday 10am Richard D'Cumha RIP

Tuesday No Mass

Wednesday 6pm Canon Francis Roe RIP.

Thursday 10am Fr Leon Jacques RIP

Friday 10am Deceased priests, deacons and parishioners of St Aidan's.

Saturday Vigil 6pm Deceased loved ones - Nov Bk

Sunday 9am Celebrant's Intention

Sunday 11am Deceased relatives and friends of Rosie Longworth

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

Please note that the
Wednesday and Friday
Masses will resume this
week.

THIS WEEKEND Second Collection Archbishop's Appeal. See details on P2.

Special envelopes are available on the tables at the back of the Church (optional).

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.

Sacrament of Confirmation at St Aidan's 2024. - Enrolment forms are available THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT. The young people can get a form from Fr Peter by going to the priests' sacristy immediately after Mass. Please enter through the door to the left of the altar.

Current Mass attendance is an essential requirement for any prospective applicant. The applicants must take responsibility personally for returning the form at Mass next weekend. It can also be posted through the letter box of the Parish House, 1 Portnalls Rd. CR5 3DD.

The Confirmation preparation programme will begin in the church hall on Sunday 3rd December at 6pm, it will continue on 10th and 17th Dec. There will be a break over the Christmas school holidays. The date of Confirmation Mass will be confirmed soon.

On the application form the applicants are asked to write a short piece in their own words saying why they wish to be confirmed. Our parish programme is not open to people from other parishes.

THIS WEEKEND Second Collection

Archbishop's Appeal

Sat 11th / Sun 12th November.

Special envelopes are available on the tables at the back of the Church (optional).

The Archbishop's Appeal is a diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation.

Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and Schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve. Please be generous to the Archbishop's Appeal 2023. Every gift is welcome. Find out more, or donate online: www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal.

For Cash / Cheque – you may also use the Archbishop's Appeal envelopes at the back of church. Thank you for your generosity of heart.

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

Cash £575

Standing Orders £540,

Card reader: £90

Total income: £1,205

of which around £650 was gift-aided

THANK YOU.

Right to Life UK

Parliamentary pro-life group. PRAYER

Let us pray for all those who are alone and suffering with a terminal illness in hospital or hospice care, that they might experience the love of Christ from their carers and that their suffering might be eased. Lord hear us.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Kevin Leavey, Anne Walker, Eileen & Jack Darville, Caroline Garvey, Pat Kelly, Truda Hobbs, Rhona Devine, Marion McCluskey, 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.

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,

I would like to thank you for your prayers, cards and good wishes since I came home from hospital. Your love and support was a great encouragement and consolation to me.

The doctor has agreed that my health is 'good enough' for me to resume more of my parish duties. My medical tests confirm that the pneumonia has cleared and I am feeling a gradual increase in my stamina. I have some remaining respiratory issues that are not acute but need attention. I will be given a hospital appointment to investigate but the waiting time is several months, I am relaxed about that as there is nothing urgent to deal with.

I have been doing more in the parish recently and intend to be more visible from now on. Last Wednesday I attended the Mass and lunch hosted by Archbishop John for clergy celebrating jubilees of ordination this year. The Archbishop took the opportunity to advise me to return to work slowly and not try to pick up everything at once. I was pleased to hear him say that as it affirmed my own plan in accordance with how I am feeling. I will be saying the Masses on Wednesday and Friday in the coming week.

I would like to thank Fr Gus, Fr Kevan and Fr Joe who have been so generous with their help and support to the parish and to me personally. They will continue to give support for a little while.

A very sincere thank you to all those who kept everything going in the parish and ensured that the liturgy, pastoral care and all other areas of parish life continued smoothly.

Yours in Christ,

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.

**St Aidan's
Social Committee are delighted
to invite you to join us for the
Annual Winter Ball.**

2nd December 2023 arrival 7pm



4 course meal.

**Dancing to the
fabulous Phoenix**

**£25 per person.
Tickets are now on sale
after weekend Masses.**

**Cash bar
(pre order for your table available).**

Remembrance Sunday.



Today we remember those who gave their lives in the two World Wars of the 20th century. In particular we give thanks for those who suffered and died so that we may live in freedom.

In recent times there have been many other conflicts and peace keeping missions throughout the world where members of the Armed Forces have paid with their lives or have been severely injured.

Many men and women of the Services suffer from post traumatic stress disorder and depression as a result of their experiences in more recent conflicts.

Let us not forget the sacrifice made by the families of the men and women of the services.

We bring before the Lord:

- those who have died, - that they may know eternal life;
- those who continue to serve, - that they may be kept safe;
- the families and loved ones, - that they may receive the support they deserve.

Reflection on today's Gospel.

From the Association of Catholic Priests (Ireland) website .

Responsible for our own destiny.

The refusal of the wise virgins to share may appear selfish. But here we are not talking really about lamps and oil but about people and life. There are certain things you cannot borrow or inherit. Your parents or my parents may have been the best people in the world. If so, that is a blessing beyond measure. But for all that it cannot be taken for granted that we will automatically become decent caring men and women. We can learn from one another, be inspired by one another, but in the last analysis we shape our own destiny. Character cannot be transferred or borrowed. We must build it for ourselves.

The same is true of the faith. Parents and other people are reminded that it is their responsibility to hand on the faith to the younger generation. But again faith is not like a farm of land or a legacy. It cannot be given by a parent to a child. Yes, all kinds of encouragement and good example can help enormously, but in the end, the young person as they grow up to maturity must accept or reject the invitation in his or her own heart.

The arrival of children of their own can often be a decisive moment for young parents as regards the faith. Some never seem to come back, but always remember God has his own way of welcoming people home even if along unexpected routes.

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.

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.

Prayer for all the people of the Holy Land at this time of war. (From Worth Abbey parish website.)

God of light and salvation, our refuge and our strength,
We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the escalating violence.
We pray for those killed and injured by rockets from Gaza in southern Israel.
May your rod and staff comfort them.

We pray for those who are grieving. May they know your ever-present help.
We pray for the protection of those who have been taken hostage by Hamas. As they walk through this dark valley, may they fear no evil.

We pray for the civilians of Gaza. May they know that their help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth. We especially remember all of those who have been killed and wounded in Gaza recently – may you comfort and heal those who are in pain and those who have lost loved ones.

And we pray for all the people of the Holy Land. May you guide them along the right paths.
We ask all this in union with Christ and trusting in the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Today's readings.

First Reading

WISDOM 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

PSALM 62(63):2-8

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

Second Reading

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not

grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel

MATTHEW 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'