

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Mansfield, Deacon: Rev. Tony Flavin
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St Aidan's School: 01737 556036

Year A

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

19th November 2023

11am Mass is streamed for housebound on the parish YouTube channel: **St Aidans Coulsdon**

Saturday Vigil 6pm Deceased loved ones - Nov Bk

Sunday 9am Celebrant's Intention

Sunday 11am Deceased relatives and friends of Rosie Longworth

Monday 10am Paul McCarroll RIP. **Mass of anniversary of consecration of the church.**

Tuesday 10am No Mass

The Presentation of Our Lady.

Wednesday 6.30pm

St Cecilia

Thursday 10am Christian Clark RIP

Friday 10am Francis Mary Winifred Bede-Cox **Exposition until 11am** *St Andrew Dung-Lac*

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 9am Elizabeth Kelleher

Sunday 11am Deceased loved ones - Nov Bk

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

Please note that the Wednesday and Friday Masses have resumed.

Sacrament of Confirmation at St Aidan's 2024. - Enrolment forms are available THIS WEEKEND. The young people can get a form from Fr Peter after Mass today. Next Sunday 26th is the last day to return the enrolment forms.

Current Mass attendance is an essential requirement for any prospective applicant. The applicants must take responsibility personally for returning the form. 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.

200 Club – November 2023 Draw Winner. The October draw for the 200 Club took place last Sunday during the LIFE Breakfast after the 9.00am Mass. The winning number was No.115, they receive £200. If you are not a member of the 200 Club and wish to join, or would like more information before you decide, please contact Erica Thurbon – email: eathurbon@btinternet.com

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.

Taskforce is taking place next

Saturday 25 Nov. 10am - 12 noon

Please come to do some jobs around the church and grounds. Many thanks.

Afternoon Tea. Friday 1st December at 2pm

In the church hall for a donation of £5.00

Please note the earlier start for this month only. Be sure to have a light lunch and come hungry. To book a place, speak to Brenda Eydman after 9am Mass on Sunday or telephone 01737 552610

Anniversary of the consecration of our Church.

This week we will celebrate the anniversary of the consecration of St Aidan's Church. It is designated as a solemnity which is the highest rank of Liturgical celebrations. The official anniversary date is 21st November, Tuesday, but we will transfer it to Monday with Mass at 10am as there is no Mass scheduled for Tuesday.

Our church and altar were consecrated in 1986 almost 20 years after the opening. It was unusual in the past for there to be a time gap between the opening and the consecration because it used to be the rule that a church could not be consecrated until any debt on building was paid. Celebrations of church anniversaries are normally done in relation to the consecration date.

The consecration of a church is not primarily about a building, it is about the church community of which the building is a symbol. Catholics celebrate three anniversaries of church dedications during the year. They are: 1) St John Lateran Basilica, Rome - 9th Nov; 2) our diocesan Cathedral - 7th Nov; 3) the parish church. By pure coincidence all the dates occur in November.

These three celebrations are about our Catholic Christian identity. They express the truth that our 'belonging' is not limited to a local parish community. We are connected to all other catholic communities in our diocese of Southwark with the Archbishop and our cathedral at the centre. Through him we are connected to a family of parishes and Catholic communities in South London and Kent. Our identity as belonging to a universal Church is symbolically expressed when we celebrate the dedication of St John Lateran, Rome, on 9th November. It is the cathedral church of Rome, officially the Pope's cathedral and therefore the 'mother church' for Catholic Christians. It signifies that our 'belonging' is to the universal body of Christ.

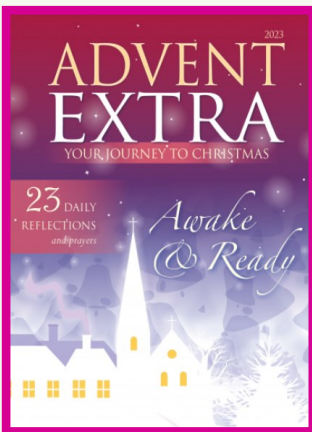
As with our family identity, 'belonging' has more than a present dimension. It has an historical dimension. We share in the faith and ministry of the Apostles, the Bishop being a symbol of the unbroken line between the early apostolic church of Pentecost and the Church of today, - including all the generations in between. In the creed we profess our faith in '*one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church*'.

As we mark the consecration of our parish church this week we are mindful that the church of St Aidan, Coulsdon, is not primarily bricks and mortar. In today's second reading, given in the lectionary for the anniversary Mass, St Paul sums up the Christian understanding when he writes:

You are God's building. For the foundation, nobody can lay other than the one which has already been laid that is Jesus Christ. Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? The temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. (1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17)

The prayer over the people at the end of the Mass for the consecration of a church seems a suitable blessing to invoke on our parish today and on all those beyond our physical parish who join in our streaming.

May God, who has willed that all his scattered children be gathered in his Son, grant that you become his temple and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Advent Extra is a publication providing spiritual reading for every day of Advent and much more besides. Please note that it is now in A5 format not A4. Cost is £3 ... on tables at back of church. Place money in dish. If you can't afford it you can give a donation instead.

Calling new Altar Servers!

We are looking to recruit new Altar Servers for all Masses to join our wonderful existing servers. Girls, boys and adults are needed and will be very welcome. Children are eligible from year 4 upwards.

If you or your child is interested or would like some further [information](#) please speak with the Altar Server's team member outside at the end of Mass today or contact PJ O'Donnell
peterodonnell83@gmail.com 07767 836 394

There will be a training session for new and current servers on Sunday 10th December at 12.30pm at the church.

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.

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).

Advent Retreat 2023 – Prepare Your Heart By Redemptorist Publications.

Starting 29th November 2023. Journey this Advent and prepare yourself to enter into the story of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection. Only £20. What's included: *Prepare Your Heart* Book, St Joseph Icon Christmas Cards, four weekly emails throughout Advent, each containing access to a thought-provoking video to accompany the *Prepare Your Heart* book, donation to charitable missions and postage & packaging. If you are interested, then go to this link and fill out the form by the 27th October <https://mailchi.mp/e3b04f480a6f/rp-advent-retreat-2023>.

THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL – VACANCY Finance Assistant.

We are currently looking to appoint a full-time Finance Assistant. Please visit the school's website for more information. The closing date for applications is 21 November.
<https://www.johnfisherschool.org/our-school/career-opportunities>

CAFOD is looking for parishes to help promote our Nativity Fun Run that is taking place on 9th December in Clapham Common. We have banners and leaflets that we have been distributing to the parishes that are willing to help promote it for us. If your parish is willing to take some leaflets or a banner (perhaps both), we can coordinate dropping it off to you.

If you are interested in the above please let Fr Peter know. couldson@rcaos.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CARDS now available in the church shop after Masses.

Message on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales on the ongoing Israel / Hamas war:

“To our brothers and sisters across the Holy Land, particularly those sheltering in the Parish of the Holy Family in Gaza along with those in the West Bank, we remain close to you and in constant prayer for you at this most difficult, terrifying, and testing of times. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

“To our own government, we urge you to continue your diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire, the immediate release of all hostages and the facilitation of humanitarian aid so that desperately needed food, water, fuel, and medical supplies can be safely delivered into Gaza. We will continue to add our voice to the impassioned chorus calling for justice, peace, and the cessation of the suffering that has descended upon the Holy Land.

“To the Catholic Community here in England and Wales, please join us in prayer for those in the Holy Land, particularly for those who have been taken hostage, those who have been killed, those who have been injured, and their families.

“We also pray for those who are wearied by the conflict to receive strength, and those in positions of power and authority receive the wisdom to guide them into ways of peace and justice.”

Bishop Declan Lang
Bishop Nicholas Hudson

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME Cash £618
Standing Orders £540, Card reader: £275
Total income: £1,433
of which around £872 was gift-aided

2nd Collection: Archbishop's Appeal £379
THANK YOU.

Right to Life UK

Parliamentary pro-life group. PRAYER

Let us pray for all doctors, nurses and midwives working in maternity wards, that their healing hands would be guided from above during any complications. Lord hear us

Today's readings.

PROVERBS 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

PSALM 127(128):1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

Second Reading 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so

we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. 'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." 'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." 'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." 'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'"