

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Year B

Gaudete Sunday - 3rd of Advent 17th December 2023

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Intentions of the Symss family

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Sunday 11am Dr Paul Byrne RIP

Monday 10am Intentions of the Moniz family

Tuesday No Mass in church.

Wednesday 6.30pm Mario Almeida RIP

Thursday 10am Dennis Kelleher

Friday 10am John Philpot RIP **Exposition ends 11am**

Saturday Vigil 6pm Intentions of Mary and Bernie Lavelle

Sunday 9am Phyllis and John Du Casse RIP **Sunday 11am** People of the parish

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

**Sacrament of
Reconciliation -
Confessions.
See P2 for full
schedule before
Christmas.**

CHRISTMAS see P2 and parish card.

**The Diocesan directory 2024 is now available
in the shop @ £6.**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS,
Catholic diaries with Mass text as well as
calendars are also available.**

Fire Warden for Christmas Vigil Mass

We are looking for a volunteer to act as Fire Warden at the Christmas Vigil (6pm) Mass. No formal qualifications are necessary. A full briefing will be given beforehand. If you can help the parish on this occasion please speak to Fr Peter or email the Premises Team on staidanspremisesteam@gmail.co.uk

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Rhona Devine, Jean Turner, Christopher Thomas, Barbara Wood, Ewan Keppie, Kevin Leavey, Anne Walker, Eileen & Jack Darville, Caroline Garvey, Pat Kelly, Truda Hobbs, 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, Coral Hind, 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.

We welcome Br Stephen this weekend. He has holidays from Seminary and has been spending a few days here.

Wedding Celebration!

This weekend we congratulate Vincent Doran's daughter Sarah Doran and Alfie Foulger who married on Saturday in Essex. We offer our prayers and best wishes for their future life together.



MANNA CENTRE.

Manna is a centre in our diocese for the homeless.

Open 7 days a week, 51 weeks a year : Breakfast and lunch, hot showers and housing and welfare advice provided.

You can also donate via www.mannasociety.org.uk on a device .

Donations help to provide: £10 = breakfast and lunch for 6 people. £40 = bought food for 1 day. £70 = office costs and utilities for 1 day.

FOOD donations and other items for the homeless. Leave in church porch.

During December the Manna Society would be grateful for: pasta, pasta sauces, sugar, baked beans, tinned fish tomatoes and vegetables, soup, dilutable drinks, corned beef, chopped ham, luncheon meats, tinned meat, men's jeans 30-38, jogging bottoms, toilet rolls, tea mugs, underwear, trainers, body wash, deodorants, shaving foam, shampoo and disposable razors. Also sleeping bags, rucksacks and oyster cards.

WEST CROYDON REFUGEE CENTRE.

Croydon Refugee Centre are always grateful for our donations. Current needs: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, bin bags, washing up liquid, Dinner plates and bowls.

New underwear and socks for men, women and children particularly girls' socks, trainers.

All winter clothes, outer wear, winter shoes & boots.

Please note the Christmas Mass times.

'MIDNIGHT MASS' begins at 11.30pm

preceded by carols & readings.

Christmas 2023

St Aidan's

Catholic Church - Coulsdon

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions.

Wednesday 20 Dec. 7pm

Thursday 21 Dec. 10.30am

Friday 22 Dec. 10.30am

Saturday 23 Dec. 12 noon to 12.30pm

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### **4th Sunday of Advent 23/24 Dec.**

#### **Masses**

**Sat 6pm. Sunday 9am and 11am**

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CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sun 24 Dec. 6 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

Sun 24 Dec. 11 pm carols and readings

followed by Mass which begins at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day 25 Dec.

9.00am & 11.00am

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**Tue 26 Dec. 12 noon Mass of St Stephen**

**Wed 27 Dec. no Mass in church**

**Thursday 28th Dec. 10am**

**Friday 29th Dec. 10am.**

### **200 Club – November 2023 Draw Winner**

The December draw for the 200 Club took place last Sunday after the 9.00am Mass. The winning number was No.141, cheque in the post for £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](mailto:eathurbon@btinternet.com)

**There is no TASKFORCE in December.**

**There will be two in January,**

**Saturdays 6th and 27th**

#### **OUR OFFERTORY INCOME**

Cash £544

Standing Orders £540,

Card reader: £125

**Total income: £1,209**

of which £660 was gift-aided

#### **Second Collection: Manna Centre Homeless.**

Thank you for a very generous response to the Manna cash collection appeal for the homeless.

**It raised £848.**

**“When you did it for the least of my brothers and sisters you did it for me”**

*Jesus in Mt 25: 35*

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

**[couldsontreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:couldsontreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)**

#### **Christmas offerings.**

##### **The collection at the Christmas and Easter**

**Masses** is the main source of personal income for priests. This is the system adopted in Catholic parishes throughout England. Catholic priests do not receive a salary in the way that ministers of other denominations do. They are therefore dependent on the Christmas & Easter offerings for personal income.

The basket offertory collection for the fourth Sunday in Advent will be as usual for the parish. However, The Archbishop has decided that for this year the equivalent of parish standing orders for one weekend in December may be included as Christmas Offerings.

‘Just giving’, BACs, Card reader and online donations can be designated as ‘Christmas offerings’.

Parishioners’ main responsibility is to the priest of their own parish, not the parish they may be visiting at Christmas. If you are going away you may wish to put your contribution in an envelope and post it through the Parish House letterbox or leave it in the sacristy marked ‘Christmas offering’.

Any cheques should be made payable to the parish bank account ‘RCAS Coulsdon’ for banking purposes. If you are in the Gift Aid scheme, please use the relevant envelope as the parish will benefit from the tax returned.

#### **Third Sunday of Advent, ‘Gaudete’ Sunday, Year B, 17th December 2023**

##### **The message of today’s readings.**

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*‘Rejoice! The Lord is near.’*

The readings on this *Gaudete* (‘Rejoice!’) Sunday are full of encouragement, resonating with joyful hope as we draw closer to the birthday of Jesus: God’s Son coming to live amongst us. Isaiah, Mary, and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for his people.

Isaiah (**First Reading**) announces the coming of the anointed one: a cause for rejoicing. He will bring freedom, healing and good news to the people. Images of clothing bodies and growing seeds celebrate God’s activity in the world and in our lives.

Mary’s Magnificat is a joyful song of praise to God, her Saviour who is rich in mercy. (**Psalm**)

St Paul (**Second Reading**) encourages us to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do; we are to give thanks for all things to God, and to pray constantly. Paul urges us to be happy always, because Christ is faithful to his promise and will not fail us.

The focus of the **Gospel** is John the Baptist, who bears witness, testifying to the true identity of ‘the light’: Jesus himself. John answers the priests’ questions about his own identity and ministry, then announces that the Saviour they seek, Jesus, is already amongst them, though ‘unknown to them’.

As we continue preparing for Christmas, we rejoice that Jesus is already in our hearts and lives. Let’s pray to receive the graces needed to announce his message and presence through our attitudes, actions and words.

## Right to Life UK

*Parliamentary pro-life group.*

### PRAYER

As we await the coming of the Child Jesus at Christmas, we ask God to fill our hearts with joy for the gift of new life. Lord hear us.

## Sacrament of Confirmation preparation.

Parents and candidates please note the following dates:

- Sunday 17th Dec 6pm – 7pm  
Candidates meet for 2nd session.
- The first session next term begins on  
Sun 14th Jan 2024 at 5.30pm.

## Today's readings.

### First Reading

### ISAIAH 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

### PSALM

### LUKE 1:46-50,53-54

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

## Second Reading

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

## Gospel

### JOHN 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.