

# 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 B**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

**31 December 2023**

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

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** Stanley Almeida RIP

**Sunday 9am** Kathleen Nockles RIP

**Sunday 11am** People of the parish

**Monday 11am NEW YEARS DAY 2024** Maria de Lourdes - 80th Birthday. MARY MOTHER OF GOD

**Tuesday No Mass** *Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianza*

**Wednesday No Mass**

**Thursday 10am** Eugene Diver RIP. *The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese*

**Friday 12.45pm Funeral Mass for Maurice O'Leary RIP**

**EPIPHANY**

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** Margaret Gibbs RIP.

**Sunday 9am** John and Helen Kilkelly RIP **11am** Celebrant's intention.

**No life breakfast this Sunday.**

- New Year's Day Mass is 11am.  
- There is no Wednesday evening Mass for two weeks.  
- On Friday this week there is no 10am Mass (Funeral Mass 12.45pm).

**There will be two TASKFORCE mornings in January, Saturdays 6th and 27th, 10am - 12pm.**

**We pray for the repose of the soul of Yvonne Smith RIP, mother of Sue Carr. May she know the peace of our Saviour in heaven.**

**Please pray for the sick and housebound.**

Stephen Dormer, 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.

**Fr Peter will be away from 1 Jan - 12 Jan.** Fr Gus and Fr Joe will be helping. Our thanks to them for the way in which they support our parish.

You may recall Fr Ferruccio (diocese of Milan) used to come to cover in our parish over New Year. He would have loved to have come again but because of BREXIT the Home Office no longer permits priests from the EU to minister in a UK parish with a visitor's visa, they must apply for a Minister of Religion working visa which costs around £600 from the British Home Office.

**Dear sisters & brothers,**

I would like to say thank you to everyone who gave me cards and gifts this Christmas as well as your generous Christmas offerings. Deacon Tony was also very touched that so many people were so warm and generous to him for his first Christmas here, - he wishes to express his thanks to you..

A combined figure for Christmas and Easter offerings is published in the annual accounts which the treasurer makes available in the Spring.

My thanks to the many parishioners who gave of their time and worked hard to prepare the church and prepare the liturgies for Advent and Christmas. Thank you to Brenda and Muriel for the flower arrangements and decorations; to the Waite family who prepared and decorated the Christmas tree; to Denis and Sue for erecting the crib; the church cleaners made sure that the church was looking good for Christmas. In the weeks before Christmas the volunteers in the shop ensured that the Christian Christmas cards, etc. were promoted.

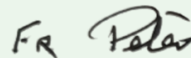
I thank our readers and ministers of Communion for all they have done throughout the year and over Christmas. The lay ministry to the housebound is a wonderful feature of our parish. Thanks to the servers who came to the Christmas Masses, - we are looking forward to the new volunteers starting soon. The welcomers at Mass did well to cover seven Masses over Sunday and Monday.

The music in church was excellent over Christmas. Thanks go to our choir and music leaders, cantors and musicians. It was great that music and singing happened at all Christmas Masses.

Thanks to the people involved in admin tasks, especially Millie who gives of her time helping in the parish office. Money counters and collectors are an essential part of every parish even though their help often goes unnoticed.

There is a multitude of people who give of their time and talents to our parish. I cannot mention them all individually. Ultimately, it is the Lord we serve and it is only He who sees all that you do and rewards you.

With my thanks, prayers and every blessing for 2024.



**Liz Moore** has recently stepped back from being sacristan. We owe Liz a great debt of gratitude for so many years of dedicated service not only in the sacristy but in many other roles especially as special minister of Holy Communion at Mass and to the housebound.

We thank Mary Archer for taking on additional duties as sacristan. Liz will continue to assist Mary on weekdays.

**FLOATING SHELTER:** Now that our current season of support for the homeless has come to an end, a huge thank you to all those parishioners who provided sandwiches and also to those who drove our weekly consignment to Croydon on Thursday evenings throughout November and December. Each week we sent off over 100 sandwiches together with additional fresh fruit and treats for Nightwatch to distribute in Queens Gardens, Croydon. In addition we were able to send off bags of groceries collected by one of the Coulsdon churches. The collaboration between the Floating Shelter and Nightwatch is much appreciated by all involved and we hope it will continue. Furthermore, the Floating Shelter continues to explore other ways to support the homeless in the absence of our overnight shelter and we will respond whenever other initiatives arise. A more detailed report will be issued at the end of January.

**NEXT week second collection :**

**Catholic Children's Society (CCS) - Crisis Fund.**

We do not have a collection basket near our crib at St Aidan's for 'crib offerings'. Instead we will have a second collection next weekend.

CCS Crisis Fund provides immediate financial support for families facing a crisis in their lives. This support can make a huge difference to families in desperate situations when they have nowhere else to turn. *See website for more information:*

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/crisis-fund/>

**Archbishop John in his pastoral letter for the feast of today's Holy Family writes ....**

"We know that every family has its difficulties. Sometimes, sadly, we also know there is breakdown, both in marriage and in family life. To anyone who is wounded by damaged or broken relationships, please know that the Church is your home, a compassionate 'hospital' of healing and mercy.

"I want to say a very sincere 'thank you' to every family which forms part of our Archdiocese. Thank you for your commitment to your faith and for making your homes holy places where the values and virtues of the Holy Family of Nazareth are put into practice. "