

# NEWSLETTER

## *St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon*



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**Year B**

**First Sunday of Lent**

**18th February 2024**

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

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** In memory of baby Daniel Sapsford

**Sunday 9am** Shane MacGowan RIP

**Sunday 11am** Philip O'Donnell RIP

**Monday 10am** Charles Fleury RIP

**Tuesday** No Mass

**Wednesday 6.30pm** Mary Chappell RIP

**Thursday 10am** Priscilla Fernandez RIP

**Friday 10am** Rose D'Souza RIP. **LENTEN SCHOOL MASS.** Parishioners welcome. No Exposition.

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** Elizabeth Gadager RIP

**Sunday 9am** Sylvester Anthony D'Souza RIP

**Sunday 11am** Oscar and Cesarina Alimenti RIP

**Life breakfast after 9am Mass.**

**Bar open after 11am Mass.**

**Stations of the cross during Lent  
will be in church at 4pm on  
Sundays.**

*The Chair of St Peter the Apostle*

### **THIS weekend's second collection.**

**The Clergy Support Fund** enables the Archdiocese of Southwark to care for clergy in their retirement, old age, and at their time of ill health, after a lifetime of service and devotion to Christ, His Church and His People. Your donations ensure a dignified retirement for all of our priests.

#### *Why is your help so critical ?*

With the help of generous people like you, the Clergy Support Fund cares for over 100 elderly or unwell priests each year. Over the next ten years, the Archdiocese expects a further 120 priests to retire from active ministry. With the average age of our priests rising, combined with the high cost of care homes, the financial cost of caring for our clergy in their retirement is rising year on year.

Wherever possible, the Archdiocese works with the NHS, social services and the local council to ensure funding gaps are met, but the Archdiocese of Southwark must actively raise funds to meet the gap in funding costs.

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 3rd March.**

This is a day when we eat simply and give generously to make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and malnutrition.

What we save can be put in the second collection NEXT WEEK.

You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website.

Please take a CAFOD envelope home and bring it back next weekend. Available on tables at the back of the church or from the welcomers.

## Introduction to today's readings at Mass.

**First Sunday of Lent, Year B,  
18th February 2024**

### *The Good News of the Covenant*

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. This first Sunday of Lent now leads us immediately into Jesus's own journey into the desert in prayer, fasting, and to face temptation.

The **First Reading** reminds us of the journey of God's chosen people. Here God establishes his Covenant with Noah and all his descendants, and with the whole of creation. Never again will God destroy the earth with a flood. He leaves a bow in the sky to confirm this.

St Peter (**Second Reading**) links the few people Noah saved 'by water' to ourselves. We are saved through the baptism that Christ won for us by his death and resurrection.

The **Gospel** gives a short account of Jesus being tempted in the desert. He emerges ready to proclaim his message: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand'.

The **Psalm** reflects the message of hope that is contained in all the readings. The Lord's ways are faithfulness and love.

May we take heart from the scriptures as we begin our Lenten journey, ready to follow the Lord's ways, and eager to learn his paths.

**We remember Nigel Elliott who died recently,**  
husband of Diane.

Funeral service (C of E liturgy) on Thursday  
7th March at 12.30pm at St Aidan's.

Mass intention 10am Thursday 29th February.

*May he be raised up with the Lord  
in the Resurrection.*

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

Terry Doman, Bridget Haran, Eileen Darville,  
Barbara Wood, Ewan Keppie, Kevin Leavey,  
Anne Walker, Caroline Garvey, Pat Kelly,  
Truda Hobbs, Marion McCluskey, Mary Crehan,  
Winn Jordan, Charlie Hooke, Allen Reilly,  
David Gibson, Sarah Bell, Juliette Hinds,  
Veronica Lydon, 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.

**Taskforce** is taking place next  
Saturday 23rd February 10am - 12 noon  
Please come to do some jobs around the church  
and grounds. Many thanks.

### **Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment.**

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Take action: Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment!

**Have you left a plate?** We are sorting the hall kitchen cupboards at the moment and have found a variety of plates which appear to have been left after different events. There is a table in the hall with the random plates for you to check and collect this weekend or next. After that they will no longer be available.

**Afternoon Tea Friday 1st March at 3 o'clock**  
in the hall for a donation of £5. If you would like to book a place please contact Brenda Eydman after 9 o'clock Mass  
or call 01737 562610

### **Cardinal Vincent Nichols echoes Pope's call for for a lasting ceasefire in the Holy Land.**

"On 8 January, when speaking to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, Pope Francis addressed the terrible conflict in the Holy Land. He said: *'To all the parties involved, I renew my appeal for a cease-fire on every front, including Lebanon, and the immediate liberation of all the hostages held in Gaza. I ask that the Palestinian people receive humanitarian aid and that hospitals, schools and places of worship receive all necessary protection.'*

"This appeal takes on a fresh urgency at this moment of extreme danger if a ground offensive were to be launched in southern Gaza, in an area densely peopled by those already made homeless by this conflict. It is an appeal being echoed by many at this time, to whose voices I readily add my own.

"Let us pray insistently for relief for those who face multiple dangers, for an immediate cessation of armed conflict and for every serious attempt at a lasting ceasefire to be sustained."

This page is reprinted from last week's newsletter for the benefit of those who may have missed the spiritual beginning of Lent due to being away for half term.

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

The season of Lent is a time to renew our Christian faith, - the faith in which we are baptised. In Lent we are called to unite ourselves more closely to Christ in his passion and death through acts of penance, in order to share more fully in the joy of his Resurrection at Easter. In Christian spirituality 'penance' comprises of

**PRAYER, FASTING ALMSGIVING.**

- **PRAYER** - Possibly you could try to go to a Mass on a weekday during Lent.

There will be Stations of the Cross on Sundays of Lent at 4.00pm.

- **FASTING & ABSTINENCE** - This can mean eating less at certain times or on particular days. (Care should be taken not to damage your health, especially if sick or elderly.) It can mean refraining from a particular thing that you like such as sweets, biscuits, tea or coffee. It need not be restricted to food, it can be less TV, cigarettes or alcohol. ***There are days throughout the year when Catholics are still required to abstain from meat, these are: every Friday and Ash Wednesday.***

- **ALMS-GIVING** - You may have a favourite charity to which you would like to make a special Lenten donation. Our CAFOD Fast Day will be on the second Friday of Lent. 'Giving' can also be interpreted in a wider sense: e.g. the giving of some of our time to others; time to listen to members of our family or a lonely neighbour.

**Guidelines on what we might do as a Lenten penance:-**

The obligation of Penance may be fulfilled in one or more of the following ways:

- By abstaining from meat or some other food:  
[Clearly no point in substituting with luxurious alternatives !]
- \* By abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of entertainment:
- \* By making the special effort involved in family prayer, attending a weekday Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross.
- \* By fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps by giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad:
- \* By making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely."

The purpose of 'penance' is to enable us to grow in our love of God and one another and thereby grow in our own humanity. It is not intended to make us miserable but rather enable us to enter more fully into the joy of our risen Lord at Easter

FR Peter

**YEAR OF PRAYER.** Every 25 years is a 'Jubilee Year' in the Church, marking the quarter centuries since the birth of Christ.

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer. The Holy Father has asked that 2024 be year of prayer, as a preparatory year for the Jubilee. This will start in Advent 2023. In preparation for the Jubilee, dioceses are invited to promote initiatives to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer.

**LENT EXTRA ..** Slight delay with delivery. The publishers have apologised for the delay and advised that we can expect the magazines on Monday 12th in time for Ash Wednesday. This publication has spiritual reading and much more for the days of Lent. Cost £3 or any donation for those who may be struggling with income.

**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.

**The Purley Food Hub.**

**purleyfoodhub@gmail.com**

The Purley Food Hub are grateful for all your generous donations over many months. Current priorities: Cartons of Whole Longlife Milk

**Right to Life UK**

*Parliamentary pro-life group.*

**PRAYER**

"We pray for our society. That we would promote a culture that values life, and that we would seek the protection of all humans from conception to natural death.

**200 Club** – February 2024 Draw Winner. The February draw for the 200 Club took place last Sunday. The winning number was No.129, and the winner will 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](mailto:eathurbon@btinternet.com)

**Today's readings.****First Reading GENESIS 9:8-15**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**PSALM 24(25):4-6,7B-9**

*Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love  
For those who keep your covenant.*

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path,  
He teaches his way to the poor.

**Second Reading 1 PETER 3:18-22**

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

**Gospel****MARK 1:12-15**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'