

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr Peter Mansfield, Deacon: Rev. Tony Flavin
Parish House: 1 Portnalls Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. CR5 3DD
Tel: 020 8660 2452 Email: coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Website: www.st-aidans-parish.org.uk
Support in times of loss: listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com
Safeguarding: Bridget Hanlon coulsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Alexandra Collins coulsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Church Hall enquiries: staidanshallbookings@gmail.com
Property maintenance, report issues: staidanspremisesteam@gmail.co.uk
St Aidan's School: 01737 556036

Year B

2nd Sunday of Lent

25th February 2024

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Elizabeth Gadager RIP

Sunday 9am Sylvester Anthony D'Souza RIP

Sunday 11am Oscar and Cesarina Alimenti RIP

Monday 10am Welfare of Terry Doman

Tuesday No Mass

Wednesday 6.30pm People of the Parish

Thursday 10am Sir Christopher Benson RIP and Lady Jo Benson RIP

Friday 10am Fr John Tyndall RIP **Exposition until 11am.**

St David

Saturday Vigil 6pm People of the parish

Sunday 9am Sylvester Anthony D'Souza RIP **Sunday 11am** Antenor, Maria and Norma Gomes 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.**

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY.

CAFOD Family Fast Day was Friday 23rd Feb

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

You can donate in the 2nd collection this weekend.

Use the baskets or the Card reader or directly via the CAFOD website.

Apologies for a wrong date given for the FAST DAY in last week's newsletter. If you haven't observed the CAFOD fast and you are not ready for the collection today it is not a problem. You can make any day of Lent your family fast day. You can put your CAFOD envelope in the collection basket on any week. If you have not got the official envelope just write CAFOD on your own envelope.

Would the person who asked for a Mass intention for Anthony O'Harlihy please contact Fr Peter.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Truda Hobbs, Terry Doman, Bridget Haran, Eileen Darville, Barbara Wood, Ewan Keppie, Kevin Leavey, Anne Walker, Caroline Garvey, Pat Kelly, 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.

Lenten Masses in Croydon University Hospital

There will be Mass in the Hospital Chapel at 12pm on Monday 4th, Monday 11th and Monday 25th March. All are most welcome.

Today's Gospel reflection with

Fr Martin Foster Director, Liturgy Office. Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

This year we listen to Mark's account of the Transfiguration in Chapter 9. Mark's is the shortest Gospel and can often be concise and even breathless as he moves from one scene to the next. But he also includes small details which the other synoptic Gospels (Matthew and Luke) do not include. Though the structure of the story is common in all three Gospels, Mark tell us that Jesus' clothes became 'radiant, intensely white' but adds this was 'as no one on earth could bleach them'. Mark is perhaps trying to convey the extraordinary nature of the scene, that is outside normal experience, beyond what we might be able to imagine.

We then hear that Jesus is talking with Moses and Elijah. These two Old Testament figures represent the Law and the Prophets — which is one way Jewish people refer to the Hebrew scriptures. In Luke's account it tells what they were speaking of — Jesus' 'departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem'. In Greek the word for 'departure' is 'exodus' — so Luke is making a link between the saving of the Israelites through the Passover and crossing of the red sea and our salvation in Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

Next the disciples respond by Peter saying that 'it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents...' This is another example of the small differences between the three gospel accounts which tell us something about how the evangelist saw Jesus. In each account Peter addresses Jesus differently. In Matthew, he says 'Lord' — the same word we use in the 'Lord, have mercy', in Luke it is 'Master,' whereas in Mark Peter sees Jesus as a teacher, 'Rabbi'. This speech is followed by another one of Mark's small details as he explains about Peter 'For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified'. This provides a human touch as Peter blurts out what is on his mind.

Before the disciples can finish a cloud overshadows them and they hear a voice, 'This is my beloved son; listen to him.' And then it is over, 'suddenly' only Jesus is there. It makes one think of those moments which seem to last for ever but have only taken a few minutes — when time seems to be frozen.

The season of Lent is an invitation for us to find time to make a moment of reflection — to take time on the mountain top — but with our focus on Easter the journey to which Lent is heading.

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

Easter cards are available in the church shop @ £1 each.

St Patrick's Day cards will be available from next weekend.

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. After that they will no longer be available.

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!

Right to Life UK *Parliamentary pro-life group.*

PRAYER

We pray for all considering abortion. We pray that the love and kindness of those around them would support pregnant women everywhere to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds. Lord hear us.

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

Cash £502, Standing Orders £540,

Card reader: £203

Total income:

£1,245 of which £674 was gift-aided

Second Collection: Clergy Support Fund £555

Thank you.

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

couldontreasurer@rcaos.org.uk

The words of Alexie Navalny at the closing of his trial in 2021 included the following Christian witness:

“If you want I’ll talk to you about God and salvation. I’ll turn up the volume of heartbreak to the maximum, so to speak. The fact is that I am a Christian, which usually rather sets me up as an example for constant ridicule because mostly our people are atheists and I was once quite a militant atheist myself,”

“But now I am a believer, and that helps me a lot in my activities, because everything becomes much, much easier. I think about things less. There are fewer dilemmas in my life, because there is a book in which, in general, it is more or less clearly written what action to take in every situation. It’s not always easy to follow this book, of course, but I am actually trying. And so, as I said, it’s easier for me, probably, than for many others, to engage in politics.”

Navalny went on to quote the Bible, specifically the Beatitude passage from Christ’s Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”

“I’ve always thought that this particular commandment is more or less an instruction to activity,”

“And so, while certainly not really enjoying the place where I am, I have no regrets about coming back, or about what I’m doing. It’s fine, because I did the right thing. On the contrary, I feel a real kind of satisfaction. Because at some difficult moment I did as required by the instructions, and did not betray the commandment.”

St Aidan’s Social Club & Bar.

General information.

If you are not a member you are welcome to come in after 11am Mass and ask at the bar to be signed in as a visitor. If after a few visits you like it you can become a member.

Dave Murray will be collecting Social Club membership subscriptions throughout March.

The bar and Club are a great asset in the life of our parish community.

Bar licences like ours are issued with conditions that are legally binding. These are:

- **That it is a licence for a MEMBERS’ CLUB.**

Adults who use the bar must become members by enrolling their name with the membership secretary. This includes those who avail of the facilities after the 11am Sunday Mass. Currently the membership secretary is it David Murray.

An annual ‘member’s subscription’ is required. It is currently £5 per annum and is collected every March in accordance with the Club constitution.

Members receive a membership card.

Occasional visitors may be signed in by a member. Up to 4 visitors per member. A visitors book is kept at the bar.

Membership is restricted to parishioners. A parishioner is a Catholic (or family member) who lives within St Aidan’s parish or attends St Aidan’s church as their usual place of worship.

Children under 14 yrs are included with their parent’s membership. Those who are 14 – 17 years are junior members. There is no membership fee required of them.

- **That an AGM of members will take place annually.**
 - **That a committee be in place** in accordance with the constitution to ensure that the regulations are adhered to and that the constitution is observed.
- The committee organises or oversees social events if the bar is to be open.
- **That the legal licencing hours are observed.**

WEST CROYDON REFUGEE CENTRE.

Croydon Refugee Centre are always grateful for our donations. Current needs: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, washing up liquid, washing pods, toilet rolls, boy's socks (new) especially aged 4 to 10, men's new underwear (boxers) - especially size medium, rucksacks, luggage (needed for those having to move at very short notice) and shopping trolleys.

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 (for clients' children), small bags of sugar (500g), jars of meat and fish paste, tinned meat meals - especially chicken and beef, packet soup, jars of honey, small boxes/packs of tea bags (80 or 120), packet custard requiring only water, tinned rice pudding, tin openers, shampoo and toilet rolls.

Today's readings.

First Reading GENESIS 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

PSALM 115(116):10,15-19

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted,'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Second Reading ROMANS 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel

MARK 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.