

# NEWSLETTER

## St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Mansfield, Deacon: Rev. Tony Flavin

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Support in times of loss: [listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com](mailto:listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com)

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**Year B**

**2nd week of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday**

**7 April 2024**

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

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** People of the parish

**Sunday 9am** Mary Melody RIP

**Sunday 11am** Welfare of Phillips and Ruseniek's Families

**Monday 10am** **Solemnity of the Annunciation** Alex Moore RIP.

**Tuesday** No Mass

**Wednesday 6.30pm** Welfare of Kitty McEvoy

**Thursday 10am** Kaveh Zianian RIP

**Friday 11am Funeral Mass** Clare Beecheno RIP **No 10am MASS.**

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** People of the parish

**Sunday 9am** Canon Gary Pierce RIP.

**Sunday 11am** Teresa Trumper RIP.

**Life breakfast after 9am Mass.**

**Bar open after 11am Mass.**

**Special Taskforce next Saturday 13 April  
10am - 12 noon.**

Sweeping of parking bays in preparation for painting of white lines.

Next weekend and Monday 15th April there is no parking in the car park **except** for Saturday and Sunday Masses. There is **no parking** for 10 am Mass on Monday 15th April as painting will be in progress.

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

Nicy Roberts, Truda Hobbs, Terry Doman.  
Bridget Haran, Eileen Darville, Barbara Wood,  
Ewan Keppie, Kevin Leavey, Anne Walker, 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, Trudy Kiely, John Cooksey, Geoff Wood,  
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.**

**Collections:** Good Friday - Shrines and charities of the Holy Land: £976

Thank you to all who organised and donated to the Good Friday teas. It raised £54 for CAFOD.

Easter / Christmas Offerings will be publicised in the parish accounts.

**THANK YOU.**

**The St Aidan's listening group** will be meeting at 10:30am in the Marian room on Friday 12th April. This group is open to anyone who has experienced loss. Please email [listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com](mailto:listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com) or phone the parish office 020 8660 2452 should you wish to learn more.

### Gift Aid Envelopes

The new sets of Gift Aid Offertory envelopes are now available for collection from the table at the back of church. The boxes of envelopes are for those who make their Offertory donation in cash or by cheque. The smaller envelopes are for those who have set up a standing order, and therefore contain envelopes only for Diocesan 2nd Collections, Easter & Christmas offerings.

The new batch of envelopes come into effect from the 9th April 2023. If you want to donate by standing order instead of using cash, please contact our Parish Treasurer at [couldsontreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:couldsontreasurer@rcaos.org.uk). You can also make a donation using the Card Reader at the back of church, or through the JustGiving page, the link for which can be found on the Home page of our parish website. If you have any questions, please contact Peter, or telephone the number at the top of this newsletter.

If you are a Gift Aid donor, please collect your envelopes at the end of Mass. Thank you for all your contributions.

### Weekly Mass in Croydon University Hospital

There will be a Mass every **WEDNESDAY at 12 noon** in the Chapel at Croydon University Hospital, starting on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**. All are most welcome.

### **The Purley Food Hub.**

[purleyfoodhub@gmail.com](mailto:purleyfoodhub@gmail.com)

Please leave food items in church porch. No fruit or perishables please.

Tea, peanut butter and fish paste most needed.

### **WEST CROYDON REFUGEE CENTRE.**

Croydon Refugee Centre are always grateful for our donations. Current needs: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, women's deodorant, razors, washing up liquid, washing capsules, toothpaste, soup/dessert bowls and spoons, dinner plates, saucepans etc, size 16 plus (underwear for women), women's socks, men's large & XL u/w (boxers).



**Above is our 2024 Easter garden.** Thanks go to Bernadette Hallett who develops it each year. We are encouraging her to enter it in the Chelsea flower show !!

### **Dear Sisters & Brothers,**

**Thank you for your generosity with the Easter offerings.** Thanks also to those who were away but brought their offerings to the Parish House.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who gave me cards, good wishes and gifts as well as assurances of prayers. Deacon Tony was grateful for the cards and gifts he received.

Thank you to the many parishioners who gave of their time and worked so hard to prepare the Church and assist at the many services and Masses over Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to the people who arranged the flowers, the Easter garden and other displays. It was also good to have our singers, cantors and musicians leading the music as they do throughout the year. I thank the altar servers for turning out with their usual enthusiasm. There are many others, including readers, ministers, sacristans, cleaners, collectors and money counters who make a great contribution of their time and talent. As always there are several cleaners and office volunteers preparing in the background.

**SVP MEETING.** The next meeting of the parish SVP group will take place on the evening of Monday 8th April 2024 at 8:15pm in the Marian Room.

## Pope Francis' Easter message to the world last Sunday 31 March 2024.

The Church relives the amazement of the women who went to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. The tomb of Jesus had been sealed with a great stone. Today too, great stones, heavy stones, block the hopes of humanity: the stone of war, the stone of humanitarian crises, the stone of human rights violations, the stone of human trafficking, and other stones as well. Like the women disciples of Jesus, we ask one another: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (cf. *Mk* 16:3).

This is the amazing discovery of that Easter morning: the stone, the immense stone, was rolled away. The astonishment of the women is our astonishment as well: the tomb of Jesus is open and it is empty! From this, everything begins anew! A new path leads through that empty tomb: the path that none of us, but God alone, could open: the path of life in the midst of death, the path of peace in the midst of war, the path of reconciliation in the midst of hatred, the path of fraternity in the midst of hostility.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen! He alone has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life. He, the living One, is himself that path. He is the Way: the way that leads to life, the way of peace, reconciliation and fraternity. He opens that path, humanly impossible, because he alone takes away the sin of the world and forgives us our sins. For without God's forgiveness, that stone cannot be removed. Without the forgiveness of sins, there is no overcoming the barriers of prejudice, mutual recrimination, the presumption that we are always right and others wrong. Only the risen Christ, by granting us the forgiveness of our sins, opens the way for a renewed world.

Jesus alone opens up before us the doors of life, those doors that continually we shut with the wars spreading throughout the world. Today we want, first and foremost, to turn our eyes to the Holy City of Jerusalem, that witnessed the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, and to all the Christian communities of the Holy Land.

My thoughts go especially to the victims of the many conflicts worldwide, beginning with those in Israel and Palestine, and in Ukraine. May the risen Christ open a path of peace for the war-torn peoples of those regions.

In calling for respect for the principles of international law, I express my hope for a general exchange of all prisoners between Russia and Ukraine: all for the sake of all!

I appeal once again that access to humanitarian aid be ensured to Gaza, and call once more for the prompt release of the hostages seized on 7 October last and for an immediate cease-fire in the Strip.



Let us not allow the current hostilities to continue to have grave repercussions on the civil population, by now at the limit of its endurance, and above all on the children. How much suffering we see in the eyes of the children: the children in those lands at war have forgotten how to smile! With those eyes, they ask us: Why? Why all this death? Why all this destruction? War is always an absurdity, war is always a defeat! Let us not allow the strengthening winds of war to blow on Europe and the Mediterranean. Let us not yield to the logic of weapons and rearming. Peace is never made with arms, but with outstretched hands and open hearts.

*[At this point the Pope addresses all the current conflicts in the world. Not printed here but available at this [link](#).]*

May the Risen One make the light of his face shine upon migrants and on all those who are passing through a period of economic difficulty, and offer them consolation and hope in their moment of need. May Christ guide all persons of good will to unite themselves in solidarity, in order to address together the many challenges which loom over the poorest families in their search for a better life and happiness.

On this day when we celebrate the life given us in the resurrection of the Son, let us remember the infinite love of God for each of us: a love that overcomes every limit and every weakness. And yet how much the precious gift of life is despised! How many children cannot even be born? How many die of hunger and are deprived of essential care or are victims of abuse and violence? How many lives are made objects of trafficking for the increasing commerce in human beings?

Brothers and sisters, on the day when Christ has set us free from the slavery of death, I appeal to all who have political responsibilities to spare no efforts in combatting the scourge of human trafficking, by working tirelessly to dismantle the networks of exploitation and to bring freedom to those who are their victims. May the Lord comfort their families, above all those who anxiously await news of their loved ones, and ensure them comfort and hope. May the light of the resurrection illumine our minds and convert our hearts, and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected and loved.



## Sunday readings:

### First Reading      ACTS 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

### PSALM 117(118):2-4,15-18,22-24

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.*

Let the sons of Israel say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let the sons of Aaron say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let those who fear the Lord say:

‘His love has no end.’

The Lord’s right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,  
but not doomed to die.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad.

### Second Reading      1 JOHN 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God’s children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult,

because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world –our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

### Gospel      JOHN 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you’, and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you.

‘As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.’

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

‘Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.’

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, ‘We have seen the Lord’, he answered, ‘Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him:

‘You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.