

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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

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Year B

4th week of Easter - Good Shepherd Sunday.

21st 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 Moss RIP

Sunday 11am Mia Harding RIP

Monday 10am Eddie Aldridge RIP - 1st Anniversary (Votive Mass of St George in anticipation of 23rd)

Tuesday **NO MASS**

St George

Wednesday 6.30pm Teresa Leonard RIP

Thursday 10am Lionel Pereira RIP

St Mark

Friday 10am Haran family intentions

Saturday Vigil 6pm Marian Leonard RIP

Sunday 9am Welfare of Anthony O'Harlihy

Sunday 11am People of the parish

CONFIRMATION
preparation resumes this
Sunday 21st April at 6pm.

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

THIS WEEKEND - Second Collection The Priest Training Fund.

The ordained priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. In the Archdiocese of Southwark, we are blessed to have men answering the call to the Priesthood and Diaconate and choosing to dedicate their lives to Christ and His people.

Your donation to the Priest Training Fund will support the work of the Archdiocese of Southwark's Vocations team, so they can encourage and inspire those who hear God's calling. Your donations will also support the seminary fees and living costs of our Seminarians and those in formation for the Diaconate.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY the Second Collection will be for the Maintenance of St George's Cathedral.

This collection helps to meet the cost of the upkeep of the Mother Church of the Diocese

Tuesday 23rd April is St George's Day.

St George is patron saint of England and patron of our diocesan cathedral at Southwark. We have little historical information about his life. What is known is printed on this page.

There is also the legend. Legends concerning the lives of saints can be like parables or biblical myths. They may not be historically true but they can convey truths of faith. St George slaying the dragon represents his fight against evil and his conquest of the devil through the power of his faith in Christ which manifests God's saving power. Hence the story has inspired Christian iconography since medieval times.

At this time we invoke St George's intercession, that in Jesus' name he may slay the dragon of Coronavirus and its many tentacles which are in our midst.

Your in Christ, *FR Peter*



**St George patron Saint of England.
Patron of our Cathedral of St George,
Southwark.**

Historical information.

In different regions and times, many places in the world have chosen Saint George as a patron saint. His slaying of the dragon in the legendary story is a symbol of the victory of goodness over evil and it endeared him to many.

There is almost nothing known of the early years of Saint George's life. He was born around the year 263AD, in the city of Lydia near Jerusalem. In his seventeenth year, he enlisted as a cavalry soldier in the army of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. He became a high ranking officer, rising through the ranks because he was a proficient soldier, an able horseman.

When the Emperor Diocletian began his campaign of persecuting Christians, George, who was a devout Christian, requested an audience with the Emperor and was granted one. George pleaded with the Emperor to refrain from this distasteful practice. Diocletian was so annoyed and incensed, that he commanded George to recant his religion. When he refused, George was arrested, tortured, and finally put to death on April 23, 303AD. This day is now known as Saint George's Day.

George was canonized by Pope Gelasius in 494AD. The Pope said St. George was one of those "...whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God." St. George exemplified courage, devotion, piety, leadership, truthfulness and dedication.

Crusaders venerated him and wore his cross (red on a white background). King Edward III of England chose George to be the patron Saint for the Knights of the Garter.

The legend concerning St George and the dragon.

Ancient storytellers told legends of an Eastern city called Salem where a terrifying dragon lived in a swamp nearby. The dragon demanded a daily tribute of sheep and cattle. Soon, after exhausting these food supplies, the dragon demanded the sacrifice of two children a day. A lottery system was devised to pick the victims. Cleodolinda, the daughter of the King, was chosen for that day's sacrifice.

As Cleodolinda was sadly proceeding to her doom, along came the knight George. Seeing the dragon about to gulp down the lovely princess, George promised the citizens deliverance from their troubles. After making the sign of the cross, he transfixes the dragon with his lance and wounded it with his magic sword Ascalon. George then had the princess bind the beast with her girdle. The dragon then became docile and tame, and followed the princess and George back to the city. There in the market square, George killed the dragon with his lance.

As George was killing the dragon, he told the city citizens that this act was to show the power of God. Not only was the princess saved and the city relieved, but the people gave up their idols and accepted Christianity.

Afternoon Tea on Friday 3rd May at 4pm

In the church hall for a donation of £5.00. If you would like to attend please contact Brenda Eydman after 9am Mass or telephone 01737 552610 to book a place.

*Good Shepherd Sunday, 21 April 2024,
Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon
Chair of the National Office for Vocation

One of the most important elements of the synodal process is learning to listen. We can see this in action in the 'conversations in the Spirit' which have taken place in the international Synod which took place in Rome last October. Bishops and other delegates from different parts of the world sat at round tables listening deeply to each other in an atmosphere of prayer, and often these diverse individuals were able to come to agreement on a way forward on matters which at the beginning of the process seemed impossible to resolve.

Listening deeply is at the heart of discerning our vocation in life. The way in which we listen is not to think of what we want to say; not to have pre-formed answers in mind and to await our turn to speak. In listening like this we become receptive to the holy Spirit. We listen because we are called; every one of us is called to holiness. St John Paul II called this the universal call to holiness, and it applies to every single human person even if they are not Christian. But within this general vocation there are many other calls which we should listen to. One of our modern problems is that our world is very noisy, and it is often difficult to hear our own voices and thoughts in the surrounding din, let alone the words of others. One situation that can occur is we find ourselves on set paths in life, and it is not easy to change direction even if we want to do just that. Commitment to our families and other responsibilities block our ears and we just carry on as before.

Today is Vocations Sunday, traditionally a day for asking young men and women if they are called to the priesthood and religious life. There is no doubt that the church needs priests to celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments, and Religious to offer a living witness to the values of the Kingdom of God. Without them, we would be a very impoverished Church. But how do we work out whether God is calling us to a particular vocation? One simple test is whether following a particular path in life gives us joy. If we are happy and content, or at least think we will be, then it is worth giving it a try. I am not saying that we should be

deliriously happy all the time but there should be an underlying knowledge that we have chosen the right path in response to God's call.

Following a vocation is not an obstacle course that has to be overcome. There will be difficulties, but an inner state of contentment is important. This develops as our friendship with Jesus grows, and our sense of purpose becomes clear. Following a vocation does involve making a leap of faith but it is not a leap into the unknown. Just as there are risks in getting married no matter how much we prepare for it, so there are risks in offering yourself for priesthood and religious life. In all cases we have examples of happy and fulfilled people living their vocation.

If we listen deeply within our prayer, we may hear that call from God. But we may hear God speaking to us through our families or in our circle of friends. Usually, it is not a very clear call, just some hints and nudges, or a notion that keeps coming back. I would like to suggest to you two ways forward which apply to every Christian, but I think they have special meaning for someone who is discerning a particular vocation.

Pope Francis at the end of the international Synod gave two directions of travel for the participants. The first was to spend time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. This he said would free us in spirit so that we would avoid other attractions. Adoration is a special kind of prayer which helps us shirk off everything except that one person who is important to us – Jesus Christ. His second point was to steer us towards service of others. In serving others, giving ourselves to other people in response to different needs, we undoubtedly find Jesus.

In today's gospel reading Jesus says that he is the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. Becoming close to Jesus, through prayer and listening, through adoration and service will involve sacrifice there is no escaping that. But the word sacrifice means to make holy, and holiness is what we are all made for and that which we all should seek.

May God bless you as you seek to come closer to the Lord and deepen your understanding of what God is calling you to be.

The Purley Food Hub.
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).

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

Cash £625, Standing Orders £540,
Card reader: £10

Total income: £1,175 of which
£642 was gift-aided

Thank you.

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

DAY OF REFLECTION AND RENEWAL.

FOR READERS AND EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCCHARIST

[For those who could not attend the last Tooting Bec day.]

Saturday 27th April 2024

St Catherine of Siena, 100 Leatherhead Road, Chessington KT9 2HY

10:30 Holy Mass 11:10 Tea / Coffee break
11:30 Session 1 - Canon Gerard Bradley – Meditation on Paschal Mys-
tery and Ministry
12:30 Lunch – sandwich lunch with refreshments
13:15 Session 2 – Review of Ministries:
Reading Ministry
Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
14:00 Adoration & Confessions 15:00 Departure

Those attending must book through Fr Peter: couldsdon@rcaos.org.uk

Sunday readings:

First Reading

ACTS 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

PSALM 117(118):1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29

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

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men;
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

I will thank you for you have answered
and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
You are my God, I thank you.

My God, I praise you.

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

Second Reading

1 JOHN 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel

JOHN 10:11-18

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. 'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'