

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

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Parish Website: www.st-aidans-parish.org.uk

Support in times of loss: listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com

Safeguarding: Bridget Hanlon coulsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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Church Hall enquiries: staidanshallbookings@gmail.com

Property maintenance, report issues: staidanspremisesteam@gmail.co.uk

St Aidan's School: 01737 556036

Year B

5th Sunday of Easter

28th April 2024

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Marian Leonard RIP

Sunday 9am Welfare of Anthony O'Harlihy

Sunday 11am People of the parish

Monday 10am Sarah Annie Coogan

Tuesday NO MASS

Wednesday 6.30pm John Archer RIP

Thursday 10am Dr Peter Rodrigues RIP

Friday 7.30pm CONFIRMATION MASS NO MORNING MASS

Saturday Vigil 6pm Martin Rodrigues RIP

Sunday 9am Hannah Cook

Sunday 11am People of the parish

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

St Catherine of Siena

St Joseph the Worker

St Athanasius

Saints Philip and James, Apostles

The Martyrs of England & Wales.

THIS 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

Catholic Primary & secondary school references.

Will you be requesting a priest's reference accompanying an application for a Catholic school this autumn?

If so, please write your child's name and sign in the place indicated on the clipboard provided in the church porch.

There are separate clipboards for primary and secondary schools.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Truda Hobbs, Terry Doman, 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.

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.

Church car park.

There are always ongoing problems with the church car park but in recent times we have had difficulty having free spaces for our parishioners attending weekday Masses. Unauthorised use at weekends has also meant that several spaces are taken by drivers not attending Mass. These have included trade vans. For these reasons we are currently closing our car park when there is no church service or when the hall is not in use.

In addition to the above issues local residents have asked us and the schools to deal with the dangerous chaos between 3pm and 3.30pm on weekdays. A local resident has recently written as follows: *"The volume of cars of parents in and out of the car park is causing the car park to spill over capacity every day. This is becoming dangerous on a daily basis with cars often reversing back out onto the busy main road once all spaces are taken."*

The parish Premises committee are asking for volunteers to perform the task of opening and closing the bollards for the month of May. A key time is opening at 9.15am for Mass on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please contact the premises team on their email:

staidanspremisesteam@gmail.com
or the parish office.

Looking ahead, it has been decided that we need the help of a car park management company. More details about that soon.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY NEWS

The process for the Synod has progressed to a new stage. The England & Wales Bishops' Conference secretariat is collating diocesan responses to the universal stage synthesis ahead of a submission that will inform the working document (Instrumentum Laboris) for October 2024.

Our diocesan submission can be found here:
<https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/synod>.

The diocesan contacts have also prepared a simple survey on how you have participated in the process and what thoughts you might have on its value. The link can be found here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/Mk8bYmwW0W>.

Celebrating migrants at St George's Cathedral - Monday 6th May 2024.

Everyone's a migrant. Anyone who has moved from one country to another, from one part of the country to another, one city to another, one town to another, one street to another is a migrant whether travelled by bus, train, car, taxi, aeroplane, boat, ship or any other means of transport. Everyone is welcome.

Come to celebrate the valuable contribution the stranger makes to every structure of society in life across our city and beyond.

Principal celebrant Archbishop John Wilson.

The Mass will be celebrated on **Monday 6 May at 12.30pm** at **St George's Cathedral, London SE1 6HR**. People are encouraged to arrive early.

An Ecumenical CELEBRATION

Coulsdon Churches Together 40th Birthday
Pentecost

Pastor Malcom's birthday

A United Service
followed by Refreshments

Date and Time:
19th May 2024, 18.00



Venue: Old Coulsdon Congregational Church and its Cameron Hall, Coulsdon Road, CR5 1BH. No off road parking available.

Please let Fr Peter know if you wish to attend.
coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk

A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER.

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see **cafod.org.uk/encounter** for more information, including an online session on Saturday 4th May to learn more.

The month of May in Catholic tradition is dedicated to Mary, Mother of Christ and mother of us all.

There will be Rosary and adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30pm every Friday in May (except the first Friday due to Confirmations).

Devotion to Mary is an important part of our spiritual lives as Catholics. Praying to Mary is of course not the same as offering prayer to God. When we pray to Mary we are not worshipping her we are asking her help as a loving Mother in the Christian family.

Reflection on today's readings.

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'I am the vine, you are the branches.'

We are deeply rooted in the love of Christ. The risen Christ is the source of all that we need to grow ever closer to God.

In the **First Reading**, we hear how shortly after his conversion, St Paul was initially treated with fear and disdain by those he had been persecuting. Paul's zeal for the Lord was grounded in a very personal encounter with Christ. Knowing that he was loved completely despite all that he had done before, gave him the encouragement to spread the Good News.

As a faithful worshipping Jew, Paul would have been familiar with praying today's **Psalm**, an encouraging song of praise. It foretells how generations yet to come will be filled with the love of the Lord.

In the **Second Reading**, the writer counsels that even if we feel we have failed or fallen short in our response to God's love for us, his love is so immense and all-forgiving that we need not be afraid. Knowing this, we can be free to live out the great commandment to love one another.

The beautiful image of a vine carefully tended by the Father is used by Jesus to describe his and our relationship to God (**Gospel**). We are all sustained in an intimate co-existence with the Holy Trinity. Jesus invites us to remain close to him. Without him, our life is nothing, with him, we discover our true identity and purpose.

This week, let us try to consciously be aware that we are branches of one vine, rooted in God's love. Although we may have our differences and shortcomings, we are forever loved completely by a God of compassion, love and forgiveness. Let us pray that like St Paul, we will have the grace to live out this amazing Good News.

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 £584, Standing Orders £540,
Card reader: £192

Total income: £1,316 of which £781 was gift-aided

Second collection:
Priest Training Fund £773

Thank you.

We pray for our young people who are being Confirmed on Friday evening. Everyone is welcome to this Mass at 7.30pm.

Candidates

Emily Knolles, Jeremy Kwarteng, Eoin Clarke, Betsie Workman Maisie Workman, Natalie Evans, Orla Hunt, Anne Oliva, James Barron, Erin Murdoch. Guillermo Espinoza. Abigail Yusooof.

We also have two teenagers preparing for baptism and Confirmation this summer:
Ramani Lartey and Jethro Kimbugwe.

Sunday readings:

First Reading

ACTS 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

PSALM 21(22):26-28,30-32

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him;
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him,
my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations
yet to come,

declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

‘These things the Lord has done.’

Second Reading

1 JOHN 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel

JOHN 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.’