

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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

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Year B

11th Sunday - Ordinary Time

16th June 2024

A very happy Father's Day to all our parish DADS !

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Celeste Menezes RIP

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Sunday 11am Phillips, Watts & Betts families - deceased members.

Monday 10am Dennis Charles Goodwin

Tuesday 10am No Mass

Wednesday 6.30pm PKM

Thursday 10am PKM

St Alban, Martyr

Friday 10am Welfare of Eileen O'Dwyer . Exposition until 11am. *St Aloysius Gonzaga*

Saturday: Saints John Fisher & Thomas More. Martyrs

Saturday Vigil 6pm People of the parish **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Grace Almeida RIP **Sunday 11am** Robert Kiddie RIP

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

This weekend 2nd Collection—DAY FOR LIFE See P3 for Bishops' message.

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England and Wales, *Day for Life* is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. This year it falls on **16 June**. The theme is *The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life*.

A debate on end-of-life issues has been in the headlines in recent months with calls for assisted suicide being expressed, especially by celebrities, a view that opposes the Catholic view that life is a gift and that we are called to care for others at the end of their lives.

The collection is distributed to various Catholic charities promoting the value of human LIFE.

First Holy Communion 2025 ... enrolment.

We are now enrolling the next group of children to prepare for their First Holy Communion. The children will need to be in Year 3 in Primary School or older from September 2024. So they are now in Year 2 in Primary School or older. You will need to collect the details today from Fr Peter after 9am and 11am Masses today. Sat 6pm from next week.

Preparation starts in September 2024.

Lourdes 2024.

Archbishop John warmly invites you to join him as he leads the Southwark diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, from 23rd to 30th August 2024. Details of this can be found on the diocesan website: rcaos.org.uk. Or contact Fr Peter. Experience the unique spirituality of Lourdes, along with people from parishes around the Archdiocese.

LOURDES HCPT Group 510 would like to say a huge 'thank you' for the support at our recent wine tasting event. We raised £742 which will make such a big difference. Watch this space for details of our 'Christmas wine tasting' later in the year.

As the church collection took place during half term it may be that many people who were away would still like to donate. You can place a contribution in an envelope marked Lourdes and drop it in the collection basket next weekend or leave it in the sacristy or parish house.

Congratulations to Stephen Trafford who was ordained as a Deacon on Saturday at Westminster Cathedral. We are pleased that he is visiting us this Sunday and we look forward to him being back with us soon for three weeks.

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**Thank you to Canon Jim Pannett** who is celebrating the 6pm Sat Vigil Mass for us this weekend.

**There will be Confirmation Group reunion and social on Sunday 23rd June 5 - 6.30pm**

in the church hall  
With free pizza and drinks.  
Looking forward to seeing you there

Year 9 plus guests welcome - ONLY with a completed Parental Consent

See link:

<https://st-aidans-parish.org.uk/sermons/parental-consent-form-for-youth-events/>

**YOUTH EVENT.**

**Summertime 2024: 29<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August: Altar Servers Trip to Westminster Pastoral Centre, £189. For aged 11-16.** We commend this excellent residential trip for altar servers and those who regularly attend mass on the weekend. In an event that has now gone on for more than 20 years, it is a few days for deepening one's catholic faith, in a great social atmosphere, including football, sports and visit to Thorpe Park. For more details of how to get to the venue, with a coach laid on at St. Anselm's Dartford, see your parish priest for a form, or contact Fr. Stephen Boyle, chaplain to the Guild of St Stephen,  
[Dartford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:Dartford@rcaos.org.uk),  
[Tel:01322 220075](tel:01322220075).

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

Tony & Jean Bleach, Truda Hobbs, Terry Doman, Eileen Darville, 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, Neil and Keith Ockenden and all who are sick.

**Message from the Bishops of Great Britain and Ireland on the occasion of DAY FOR LIFE**

**- 16th June 2024.**

There has been much discussion in the media recently about 'assisted suicide', whereby people who feel they are overburdened by suffering will be facilitated in bringing their lives to a premature end by a change in legislation. The Catholic Church opposes this.

As Catholics, along with many people of other faiths and none, we share a different vision about what it is to be fully human, especially when we are suffering and approaching death in the hope of eternal life. People who are coming towards the end of their lives can feel vulnerable, and recent research shows that many consider themselves a burden on their loved ones and wider society. Jesus shows us that life always has dignity and that there is no such thing as a useless life. We are called to defend this gift of life to its natural end and to protect vulnerable citizens from a culture that could pressure them into assisted suicide. We support people with the companionship of a listening ear, appropriate treatment, and the best of care, so that their last days can be times of grace, intimacy and love.

Jesus did not send the sick away. Our Lady remained at the foot of the Cross to the very end as Her Son, Jesus, died. Mary is the model of compassionate presence and prayer whom we are called to imitate. People close to death and their loved ones, often go through similar darkness and pain but can come to a more complete acceptance and find peace in those treasured last moments accompanied by spiritual care.

***Bishop John Sherrington (England & Wales)***

***Bishop John Keenan (Scotland)***

***Bishop Kevin Doran (Ireland),***

**CHRISTIAN ART -  
Daily Gospel Reading & Art Reflection.**

Google search: **Christian.art**

An excellent website with a work of art to connect with the Mass Gospel for every day of the year. It also has a commentary on the Gospel reading with an explanation of the art chosen. Link:

<https://search.app/SRmptGESDL7bUMxB7>

**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).

**The Purley Food Hub.  
purleyfoodhub@gmail.com**

PURELY FOOD HUB are always very grateful for our donations but supplies are running low so please donate some food items.

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

Cartons of long-life whole milk, jars of peanut butter, small (500g) bags of sugar, tinned meat - corned beef, ham, chicken, small bottles of squash, sponge puddings, jellies, Angel Delight for children, toddler microwave meals for 12 months+, small bottles of washing up liquid, bars of soap and toilet rolls.

**'This is what the Kingdom of God is like ...'**

Our readings this week are full of hope and confidence. May we grow in joyful hope as we pray and ponder them. The theme of growth, seeds, and trees winds in and out of these readings. So does the notion of universality: God's kingdom is for the whole of humanity.

In the **First Reading**, God, through the prophet Ezekiel, promises the tiny remnant of Israel that they will grow into a new people, just as the cedar grows from a small shoot.

The **Psalm** is a song of thanksgiving to the Lord who enables the just to grow and flourish like a cedar.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, reminds the Corinthians of the confidence they have, despite the tensions of living while waiting for the Lord. This fills them with the expectation of being with him one day.

The **Gospel** contains two parables of the Kingdom: that of the seed, growing secretly; and the parable of the mustard seed. Both parables reveal God working continuously for the growth of his kingdom. As we go about our lives this week, we may find other metaphors for the God who works secretly for his kingdom in all those around us, in our surroundings and in all events.

**Sunday readings:**

**First Reading EZEKIEL 17:22-24**

The Lord says this: 'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

**PSALM 91(92):2-3,13-16**

*It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.*

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

**Second Reading 2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-10**

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

**Gospel MARK 4:26-34**

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.