

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Year B

28th Sunday - Ordinary Time

13th October 2024

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Mrs Eleanor Nolan RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Maria Mafalda Cota RIP **4pm Rosary and Exposition.**

Sunday 11am People of the parish

Monday 10am Josephine Murphy RIP

Tuesday No public Mass

St Teresa of Avila

Wednesday 6.30pm John Cook RIP

Thursday 10am Steve Ashmore RIP.

St Ignatius of Antioch

Friday 10am Sheila Phillips RIP **Exposition until 11am** *St Luke*

Sat Vigil 6pm Francis & Mary Winifred Bede-Cox **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Sharon Matthews RIP **Sunday 11am** People of the parish.

Life breakfast after 9am Mass
Bar open after 11am Mass.

Second collection next week. World Missions.

World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to share our faith in Jesus so that all may experience God's love. The funds raised build much-needed infrastructure, from chapels and schools to orphanages, clinics and dispensaries. World Mission Sunday is one of the collections that has been especially chosen by the Holy Father to support the mission of the Church in the world via Missio.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Sue Henriot, Claire Longworth, Riley Fitzgerald (age 5 yrs), Kevin Leavey, 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 and David Morling

October is the month of the Holy Rosary.

There will be Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the Sundays of October at 4pm.

The last annual national Mass count takes place this weekend.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2024.

Many people need to make early arrangements with family and friends for Christmas day. With that in mind we are publishing the times of Christmas Masses. There is one important change to note for this year. There is going to be only one Mass on Christmas morning at 10am.

The 6pm Vigil Mass is always full; the 11.30pm Midnight Mass is about 65% full. The numbers for the 9am and 11am morning Masses would fit into one Mass, hence the new Mass time of 10am.

Full schedule is:

6pm Vigil Mass

11am Carols and readings followed by

11.30pm Night Mass

Christmas morning: 10am Mass

TODAY is Prisoners' Sunday.

"I was in prison and you came to me"

PACT is the leading Catholic charity in prisons. We support prisoners, their families and their children, offering them hope and the chance to turn their lives around. Our work at Pact draws on the values of our faith. To learn more or donate go to the website or click [PACT](#).

Prisoners Sunday is an opportunity to consider how we, as individuals, as a Church, and as communities, are serving our brothers and sisters affected by imprisonment.

Our prisons are in crisis. There are record numbers of people behind bars. Inspectors regularly report instances of vermin, violence, self-harm and people languishing in cells with nothing to do. At the same time, too many people are released with no home, no job, no family and no hope.

The ripple effects of this crisis are felt well beyond the prison walls. The lives of hundreds of thousands of families and children are affected as they, too, serve a hidden sentence. Having a mother, father, husband or wife in prison can have a devastating impact – more than half of families tell us they are struggling to afford the basics for themselves and their children.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT?

Do you feel alone? Are you constantly frustrated or angry with your spouse? Have you stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille may be for you. Its programme has helped hundreds of couples through difficult times in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next programme starting with a residential weekend from November 8-10 call 0788 7296983 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

St Aidan's Catholic Primary School Open Days

As a small one form entry school.

Dates for the open days this year are:

- Friday 25th October 2024 at 9.30am
- Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 9.30am
- Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 9.30am
- Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 2.00pm
- Friday 10th January 2025 at 9.30am

WINTER BALL

Save the Date! Winter Ball 7th December 2024.

More information and tickets on sale soon.

Secondary school priest's references.

Fr Peter will be available in the Parish House, 1 Portnalls Rd., CR5 3DD, at the following times and dates to sign secondary school priest's references. No appointment necessary.

Fri 18 Oct. 3 - 3.45pm;

Mon 21 Oct. 7.30 - 8pm;

Thurs 24 Oct. 3 - 3.45pm;

Primary school references will be done in November.



School children at St Aidan's join Br Oliver for the Rosary.

Brother Oliver has started doing rosary groups for the month of October. He has taught the children how to use the rosary and then the children say a decade of the rosary.

Mrs Hughes our head of school says *"Thank you Brother Oliver for taking the time to support our children in their faith"*.

Message from Cardinal Vincent on legislating for 'assisted suicide'.



This Wednesday, 16 October 2024, a bill will be introduced to Parliament proposing a change in the law to permit assisted suicide. The debate will continue for a number of months, in society and in Parliament, before a definitive vote is held there. This puts in the spotlight crucial questions about the dignity of human life and the care and protection afforded by our society to every human being. As this debate unfolds there are three points I would like to put before you. I hope that you will take part in the debate, whenever and wherever you can, and that you will write to your Member of Parliament.

The first point is this: be careful what you wish for. No doubt the bill put before Parliament will be carefully framed, providing clear and very limited circumstances in which it would become lawful to assist, directly and deliberately, in the ending of a person's life. But please remember, the evidence from every single country in which such a law has been passed is clear: that the circumstances in which the taking of a life is permitted are widened and widened, making assisted suicide and medical killing, or euthanasia, more and more available and accepted. In this country, assurances will be given that the proposed safeguards are firm and reliable. Rarely has this been the case. This proposed change in the law may be a source of relief to some. But it will bring great fear and trepidation to many, especially those who have vulnerabilities and those living with disabilities. What is now proposed will not be the end of the story. It is a story better not begun.

The second point is this: a right to die can become a duty to die. A law which prohibits an action is a clear deterrent. A law which permits an action changes attitudes: that which is permitted is often and easily encouraged. Once assisted suicide is approved by the law, a key protection of human life falls away. Pressure mounts on those who are nearing death, from others or even from themselves, to end their life in order to take away a perceived burden of care from their family, for the avoidance of pain, or for the sake of an inheritance. I know that, for many people, there is profound fear at the prospect of prolonged suffering and loss of dignity. Yet such suffering itself can be eased. Part of this debate, then, must be the need and duty to enhance palliative care and hospice provision, so that there can genuinely be, for all of us, the prospect of living our last days in the company of loved ones and caring medical professionals. This is truly dying with dignity. Indeed, the radical change in the law now being proposed risks bringing about for all medical professionals a slow change from a duty to care to a duty to kill.

The third point is this: being forgetful of God belittles our humanity. The questions raised by this bill go to the very heart of how we understand ourselves, our lives, our humanity. For people of faith in God - the vast majority of the population of the world - the first truth is that life, ultimately, is a gift of the Creator. Our life flows from God and will find its fulfilment in God. 'The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' (Job 1:21) To ignore or deny this truth is to separate our humanity from its origins and purpose. We are left, floating free, detached, in a sphere that lacks firm anchors or destiny, thinking that we can create these for ourselves according to the mood of the age, or even of the day.

The clearest expression of this faith is that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. That is the source of our dignity and it is unique to the human person. The suffering of a human being is not meaningless. It does not destroy that dignity. It is an intrinsic part of our human journey, a journey embraced by the Eternal Word of God, Christ Jesus himself. He brings our humanity to its full glory precisely through the gateway of suffering and death.

We know, only too well, that suffering can bring people to a most dreadful state of mind, even driving them to take their own lives, in circumstances most often when they lack true freedom of mind and will, and so bear no culpability. But this proposed legislation is quite different. It seeks to give a person of sound will and mind the right to act in a way that is clearly contrary to a fundamental truth: our life is not our own possession, to dispose of as we feel fit. This is not a freedom of choice we can take for ourselves without undermining the foundations of trust and shared dignity on which a stable society rests.

As this debate unfolds, then, I ask you to play your part in it. Write to your MP. Have discussions with family, friends and colleagues. And pray. Please remember: be careful what you wish for; the right to die can become a duty to die; being forgetful of God belittles our humanity. May God bless us all at this critical time.

+ Vincent Nichols

Today's readings stress the need for wisdom when discerning our priorities. They challenge us to see the world and our place in it through the lens of wisdom.

The **First Reading** says that wisdom, God's greatest gift, is more valuable than anything else; having wisdom means possessing all things. Wisdom is personified; she is God's own self for us.

The **Psalm** teaches us to value our days and to use wisely the gifts therein.

The **Second Reading** shows how God's word can read our deepest thoughts and intentions.

It is the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus of Nazareth, that discerns the priorities of the rich young man in the **Gospel**. Because nothing is hidden from God, the wealthy man is seen, and sees himself held accountable. He is invited to perceive the distractions his great wealth brings, and to receive the riches of deep relationship with Christ.

This week, let's pray that we might be open to the irresistible Word and Wisdom of God; that we might let ourselves be discerned and challenged; that we may become truly rich in Christ

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Today's readings:

First Reading WISDOM 7:7-11

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing. I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud. I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps. In her company all good things came to me, at her hands riches not to be numbered.

PSALM 89(90):12-17

Fill us with your love so that we may rejoice.

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune.

Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

Second Reading HEBREWS 4:12-13

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

Gospel MARK 10:17-30

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'