

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr Peter Mansfield,

Deacon: Rev. Tony Flavin

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Year C

First Sunday of Advent

1 December 2024

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Deceased loved ones – November book **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Mary-Jo Carrol RIP

Sunday 11am Eileen Patricia RIP

Monday 10am George Noronha RIP

Tuesday No public Mass People of the parish

St. Francis Xavier

Wednesday 6.30pm People of the parish

Thursday 10am Dr John do Rosario RIP

Friday 10am Deceased family members of Kevin & Lesley Leavey

Vigil 6pm People of the parish

Confessions after Mass.

Sunday 9am Living & deceased members of Du-Casse & Kilkelly Families **Sunday 11am** Hughie Clancey RIP

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

ADVENT EXTRA magazine is available on the tables at the back of the church. It is a publication providing spiritual reading for every day of Advent and much more besides. Cost is £4. Place money in dish. If you can't afford it you can give a donation.

Next weekend 2nd collection.

Manna Society - Homeless charity.

See P3 for more information about Manna.

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, 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 and all who are sick.

WINTER BALL!

Tickets are now on sale for the Winter Ball! 7th December at 7pm, £25 per person. 4 course meal, live band Phoenix, cash bar, charity raffle. Purchase yours after any weekend Mass - tickets will not be available to purchase on the door, so don't miss out!

We also need gift donations for The Winter Ball raffle prizes please. All raffle takings are going to The Royal Marsden in Sutton.

Dear sisters & brothers,

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. The presence of the Advent Wreath in the church is a reminder that God's promise to his people is being fulfilled. The ring of evergreen is a symbol of God's life which is eternal; the candles signify the light of Christ coming into a darkened world. Advent is a season of preparation and of looking forward in joyful expectation to Christ coming among us. The readings for this first Sunday focus on the Second Coming of Christ which is part of our Christian faith. In the Creed we say that we believe that "He will come in glory, to judge the living and the dead". The second and third Sundays of Advent will focus on the preaching of John the Baptist with the spotlight on repentance in order to be ready for God's mercy and forgiveness which Jesus brings. The fourth Sunday of Advent will focus on the Virgin Mary as the expectant mother.

Fr. Peter

MANNA CENTRE - Homeless charity.

NEXT weekend we will have the 2nd collection at Masses for the work of Manna.

Every donation will be doubled by the Aviva Community Fund.

You can also go to www.mannasociety.org.uk on a device and click on the red DONATE button which will enable you to DOUBLE your donation at no extra cost to you via the AVIVA COMMUNITY FUND.

Manna is a centre in our diocese for the homeless. Open 7 days a week, 51 weeks a year : Breakfast and lunch, hot showers and housing and welfare advice provided. You can also donate via www.mannasociety.org.uk on a device . Donations help to provide: £10 = breakfast and lunch for 6 people. £40 = bought food for 1 day. £70 = office costs and utilities for 1 day.

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION ADVENT REFLECTIONS.

The Spirituality Commission will be sending daily reflections during Advent featuring Scripture, thoughts and prayers. You can sign-up to receive them directly into your inbox each morning here: tinyurl.com/adventreflections2024

- **New Sunday Missals @ £15**
- **A large variety of rosaries are now available in the church shop.**
- **Advent calendars £2**
- **2025 Catholic diaries with order of Mass are now available @ £3 each.**
- **Catholic calendars @ £1.**

Christian Christmas cards available.

They are sold in packs of tens and twenties. Sending a Christian card at Christmas is a simple but meaningful way of witnessing to our Christian faith and the wonderful message of Christmas which is proclaimed in the Gospels.

Today sees the introduction of the new lectionary for the Catholic Church in England, Wales, and Scotland. Though the scriptural content remains the same, there will be new translations for the readings at Mass, intended to be more faithful to the original languages and to biblical scholarship. They come from the Catholic edition of the English Standard Version of the Bible (ESV, a variant of the Revised Standard Version) and the Abbey Psalter.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST AIDAN'S

Christmas Eve 6pm Vigil Mass

11pm Carols and readings followed by

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas morning: 10am Mass.

**St Aidan's
Children's Christmas Party.**

**Join us on 15th December
12 noon in the hall.**

Free for children.

Lunch provided

Games and music !

Special Guest !

**Tickets for children will be
available in advance. They are free
but needed for catering purposes.**

**Pre Christmas special Afternoon Tea Friday
6th December at 2pm in the church hall for a
donation of £5.00**

It has been decided to have an earlier start in the winter months to make sure that everyone can return home safely in the daylight. To book a place please contact Brenda Eydman 01737 552610 by Tuesday 3rd December at the latest.

“SVP Meeting”

“The next meeting of the parish SVP group will take place on the evening of Monday 2nd December 2024 at 8:15pm in the Marian Room”.

Hospital Mass in Croydon University Hospital.

There will be NO Mass in the Hospital on Christmas Day, (25th December) and on 1st January 2025 (Bank Holiday)
Weekly Masses at 12 noon as usual from Wednesday 8th January.

HEADTEACHER Required for September 2025.
£69,238 - £76,111 Salary L12-16 (Outer London)

ST AIDAN’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,
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CONTACT: Executive Headteacher,
Mark Hannon
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WEST CROYDON REFUGEE CENTRE.

Croydon Refugee Centre are always grateful for our donations. Current needs: warm clothing, hats/gloves/scarves, especially winter coats and waterproof shoes/trainers & umbrellas, good quality shoes/trainers especially teenager’s size, soap, shampoo, conditioner, women’s deodorant, razors, washing up liquid, washing capsules, j-cloths, small (500ml or less) used bottles which can be filled with shampoo, bowls and spoons.

Transport for elderly people to Mass.

There are a small number of elderly people in the parish who could come to Mass (usually 6pm or 11am), if they had a lift. Please let us know if you could help sometimes. One lady lives in Woodmansterne (Sat 6pm).
Please let us know by speaking to Fr Peter or emailing the parish office:
couldson@rcaos.org.uk

Manna Society

We have been given the wonderful opportunity to have our donations **doubled** up until Christmas Day – whoopee! The Aviva Community Fund (ACF) will match all donations made (up to a maximum of £250 per donation) that come via our ACF page. Our page can be accessed via this link <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/the-manna-day-centre-1> or via the red ‘Donate’ button on our website <https://www.mannasociety.org.uk/> Our target is to raise one month’s running costs for the Manna Centre - just under £50,000.

Your donation will help us provide the following Daily: A breakfast & hot dinner for 120 homeless & vulnerably housed people, showers for 30 men & 2-4 women, toilet & washing facilities for 120 people, access to laptops and the internet for 10-20 people, phones recharged for 10 -12 people.
Each week: Housing & welfare Advice for 40-45 homeless & vulnerably housed people, change of clothing for 30 men & as many women who need clothing, access to our medical services for approximately 15 people.

PURLEY FOOD HUB are always very grateful for our donations. Please leave food items in church porch.

Tinned vegetables: carrots, peas, sweetcorn, jars of pasta sauce, packet soup containing individual sachets, small bottles of fruit squash, tins of dessert fruit, tins of rice pudding, packet/tinned custard, adults’ & children’s toothbrushes, small bottles or bars of unisex shampoo, bars of soap.

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

Cash £630, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £160 **Total income:** £1,381
of which £730 was gift-aided.

Please consider making a standing order for your offertory contributions. Contact the GA coordinator Clive Fernandes to get the details. couldsongac@rcaos.org.uk

Thank you.

St Aidan’s School Christmas Fayre! St Aidan’s School Association warmly invites all parishioners to join us for our Christmas Fayre at St Aidan’s School on Sunday 8th December from 12-3pm. There will be music, games, tombolas, mulled wine, mince pies, a raffle and much more. We hope to see you there!

1st Sunday of Advent - Readings.

The great prophet Jeremiah, in the **First Reading**, offers hope in the promise of that first coming. Through the springing up of the 'righteous branch of David' the people will dwell securely. In response, I may like to imagine myself lifting up my soul to the Lord (**Psalm**).

St Paul, writing to the Christians at Thessalonica (**Second Reading**), reminds them to be ready for that second coming of the Lord in glory. They believed this to be imminent, and being ready for it meant abounding in loving service.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus consoles his disciples – and us. When the signs of his coming in glory are to be seen, we can stand tall and eager for the gift of redemption, for what we are awaiting is the fulness of Christ's Spirit, already alive and active in our hearts.

Let's pray, this week, that we may find every opportunity to live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the dead today, and is coming in glory tomorrow. Amen.

Today's readings:

First reading **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Ps 25(24):4-5b. 8-9. 10, 14. R 1b

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O LORD, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation.

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way.

All the LORD's paths are mercy and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and commands.
The LORD's secret is for those who fear him;
to them he reveals his covenant.

Second reading **1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**

Brothers and sisters:

May the Lord make you increase
and abound in love for one another and for all,

as we do for you,
so that he may establish your hearts
blameless in holiness before our God and Father,
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his
saints.

Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask and
urge you in the Lord Jesus,
that as you received from us how you ought to
walk and to please God,
just as you are doing,
that you do so more and more.

For you know what instructions we gave you
through the Lord Jesus.

Gospel **Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

At that time:

Jesus said to his disciples:

'There will be signs in sun and moon and stars,
and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity
because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,
people fainting with fear and with foreboding of
what is coming on the world.

For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then they will see the Son of Man
coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place,
straighten up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.

'But watch yourselves lest your hearts be
weighed down
with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of
this life,
and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.
For it will come upon all who dwell on the face
of the whole earth.

But stay awake at all times,
praying that you may have strength to escape
all these things that are going to take place,
and to stand before the Son of Man.'