

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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St Aidan's School: 01737 556036

Year B

31st Sunday - Ordinary Time

3rd November 2024

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Confessions after Mass. Deceased loved ones - Nov Book

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

Monday 10am Deceased loved ones - Nov bk. *St Charles Borromeo*

Tuesday No public Mass

Wednesday 6.30pm Welfare of Kevin Leavey

Thursday 10am Nigel Elliott RIP *Dedication of St George's Cathedral* Coffee in Marian room after Mass.

Friday 10am FUNERAL Mass - Mary Wright RIP

Sat 9th Nov. Dedication of St John Lateran Basilica - Rome.

Vigil 6pm Michael Ward RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Remembrance Sunday. **Sunday 9am** Welfare of Clare Barrett **Sunday 11am** Dead of Two World Wars

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

Thank you and welcome to Fr Gus who is celebrating the Sunday morning Masses here this weekend. Fr Peter is attending the 40th anniversary Mass of St Peter's Church, Bearsted (Maidstone), Kent, where he was Parish Priest 1996 - 2005.

Second Collection this weekend is for LEPROA.

Please see P3 for more details of the work of the charity combatting leprosy.

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 6pm Vigil Mass

11pm Carols and readings followed by

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas morning: 10am Mass.

If you parked your car in the church car park for Mass on Thursday evening 31 October (All Saints) please let Fr Peter know, coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk This does not apply to those with a weekday permit.

This weekend's second collection at Masses is for LEPRA, a charity combatting leprosy and associated diseases in the developing world. For their website go to lepra.org.uk

LEPRA is a charitable organisation combatting Leprosy.

Leprosy is not a disease of the past. It still exists but it is curable. It is caused by a type of bacteria called Mycobacterium leprae and can affect the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes. According to the WHO, it is a 'neglected tropical disease' (NTD) which still occurs in more than 120 countries, with more than 200 000 new cases reported every year. If left untreated, leprosy can cause disabilities.

We work in partnership with people affected by leprosy to: Improve early detection
Our healthcare workers carry out active case finding (door-to-door engagement) to identify people with early symptoms and refer for treatment as soon as possible;

Lepra ensures access to treatment and care. After diagnosis, we ensure people affected have access to multidrug therapy and are supported throughout their recovery.

Lepra promotes inclusion and wellbeing. By educating communities on symptoms and dispelling myths surrounding leprosy, prejudice is lessened and people affected are more likely to be accepted by family and neighbours.

Christian Christmas cards are now available in the church shop.

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.

Next weekend's second collection.

Archbishop's Appeal Second Collection Sat 9th / Sun 10th November.

The Archbishop's Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation.

Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and Schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve.

Please be generous to the Archbishop's Appeal 2023. Every gift is welcome.

Find out more, or donate online:

www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal

Cash / Cheque – please use the Archbishop's Appeal envelopes at the back of church. Thank you for your generosity of heart.

or Scan QR Code - right- using telephone camera.



Catholic primary school references.

Those needing a priest's reference accompanying an application for a Catholic primary school can come at the following times in November without an appointment:

Wednesday 6 Nov. 7.30 - 8pm.

Thursday 14 Nov. 7.15 - 8pm.

Thursday 21 Nov. 3.15 - 4.45pm.

Friday 29 Nov. 7.15 - 8pm.

The Saying Goodbye Service at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Sun the 24th of Nov 2024, 3.30pm.

The Saying Goodbye Services are for people who have lost a child at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in infancy, whether the loss be recent or 80 years ago. In addition anyone who has never been able to have children for whatever reason, is most welcome.

Please visit: <https://www.sayinggoodbye.org/>

Weekly Mass in Croydon University Hospital
There is Mass every **Wednesday** at 12pm in Croydon University Hospital Chapel. All are most welcome.

Afternoon Tea

Friday 1st November at 3pm in the church Hall for a donation of £5.00.

If you would like to book a place please contact Brenda Eydman after 9am Mass or telephone 01737 552610. Please note the change of time due to the clocks going back for winter time.

St Aidans Listening Group

They will be meeting at 10.30am in the Marian room on Friday, 8th November. This group is open for anyone to join who has experienced loss of any kind.

Please email: listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com or phone the parish office on 020 8660 2452, should you wish to learn more.

SVP Meeting.

The next meeting of the parish SVP group will take place on the evening of Monday 4th November 2024 at 8:15pm in the Marian Room.

WINTER BALL

Save the Date! Winter Ball 7th December 2024.
More information and tickets on sale soon.

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

Cartons of long life whole full fat milk, tinned meat meals: meat balls, mince, stew, boxes/packets of dried potato, tinned plain meat: corned beef, ham, chicken, tinned vegetarian meals, small bottles of fruit squash, tinned tomatoes, tins of fruit & rice pudding, packet/tinned custard, toilet rolls.

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,

Notice to Churches for Newsletters and Noticeboards

PURLEY FOOD HUB, together with local churches, will once again be supporting the local community this Christmas with two projects - '*Come Dine with Jesus*' and '*Toys for Joy*'.

Come Dine with Jesus

We will be giving Aldi supermarket gift cards to local families who are in crisis so that they can purchase the ingredients for a Christmas meal. The gift cards cannot be used for alcohol or the lottery and are intended for those who may not be able to afford a traditional Christmas meal. Nominations will be made by Purley Food Hub's ticket partners. Accompanying the gift card will be some booklets with a Christian message.

Toys for Joy

We will be purchasing a toy and chocolate for each child nominated by ticket partners, and families will be invited to an event at the end of November when they can enjoy crafts and refreshments, as well as selecting a toy for each child. **Please note we are not accepting toys – financial donations only please.**

How to Donate

The value of each Aldi voucher for a family is £75 and £50 for a single person. The cost of a toy and chocolate for each child is approximately £15. If you would like to make a financial contribution to either of these Christmas projects you can donate online by the following link or use the QR code below:

www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/PKCTChristmasProjects2024

If you prefer to send a cheque, please make this payable to 'Purley Food Hub' and write 'Christmas Projects' on the reverse. Send to Joanna Walker, Treasurer, Purley Food Hub, c/o Purley Baptist Church, Banstead Road, CR8 3EA.

How to Offer Help

We will need help delivering the gift cards to clients early in December and also with 'Toys for Joy' during the afternoon of Saturday, 30th November at Purley Baptist Church, when parents will be picking up toys for their children. If you can help with either of these projects, please contact me on the email or telephone number below.

Jean Ludlow. Purley Food Hub
T: 07546 635295 E: christmasprojects@pfoodhub.org.uk

A RAINBOWS group meet in our hall on Mondays after school. They are not a parish organisation but we support them by making the hall available free of charge for the benefit of the children in our community.

Sarah-Jane Ward is the leader. She would appreciate adult help on a regular basis. If anyone in the parish would like to get involved please let me know. Please contact Fr Peter if you can help.
couldson@rcaos.org.uk

The readings this week remind us that the love of God and the love of other people lie at the core of our lives as Christians.

In the **First Reading**, Moses reminds the people of Israel, who are about to enter the promised land, that they must love God with all their heart, soul and strength.

The **Psalm** expresses our love for God, who is our rock and our refuge. It praises the God who has done so much for us.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews (**Second Reading**) speaks of Jesus as the ideal high priest. Unlike previous high priests, he lives for ever, and can 'intercede for all who come to God through him'.

Answering the question posed by a scribe in the **Gospel**, Jesus goes beyond the exhortation of Moses. We are indeed to love God, but we must also love our neighbour. Love of God, the greatest commandment, is inseparable from love of neighbour.

This week, we might want to focus our prayer on the people around us, near and far, that they should know and love the Lord, and live in peace.

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Today's readings:

First Reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

Second Reading Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each

one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

Gospel Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.