

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Year B

33rd Sunday - Ordinary Time

17th November 2024

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Intentions of Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Aine Kennedy RIP

Sunday 11am Deceased loved ones – November book

Monday 10am Steve Carter Rumsey RIP

Tuesday No public Mass People of the parish

Wednesday 6.30pm Maurice Nockles RIP

Thursday 10am People of the parish **SOLEMNITY OF THE CONSECRATION OF ST AIDAN'S CHURCH
and the Presentation of Our Lady.**

Friday 10am Francis and Mary Winifred Bede-Cox

St Cecilia

Vigil 6pm Deceased loved ones – November book

Confessions after Mass.

Sunday 9am Welfare of Fernanda Da Garma Rose

Sunday 11am Paul McCarrol RIP

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

We pray for those who have died recently

especially Ann Thurbon RIP. (Mother of Richard Thurbon).

May they enter the fullness of eternal life in Christ.

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.

Next weekend 2nd collection.

Catholic Youth Services

Collection taken on National Youth Sunday to support Youth Work in our Diocese and beyond.

The TASKFORCE sessions in November and December will NOT be on the last Saturday of the month. They will be Saturday 23rd November and Saturday 14th December. 10am - 12 noon.

Please come and do some jobs around the church and grounds on this coming
Many thanks.

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:
coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk

Confirmation preparation.

The first session for the young people who have applied to join the preparation programme will be Sunday 17th November at 6pm.

There is a 10 minute grace period for dropping off and picking up in the car park. If you are parked longer than that you must register your car in the foyer on the screen or via the QR code with your mobile phone. Please err on the side of caution - DO NOT GET CAUGHT OUT BY INCURRING A PENALTY NOTICE. THIS IS PROCESSED BY A COMPANY NOT THE CHURCH.

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:

Thursday 21 Nov. 3.15 - 4.45pm.

Friday 29 Nov. 7.15 - 8pm.

2025 Catholic diaries with order of Mass are now available in the church shop @ £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.

200 Club – November 2024 Draw Winner

The November draw for the 200 Club took place last Sunday. The winning number was 31, the winner will receive a cheque for £200. If you are not a member of the 200 Club and wish to join, or would like more information before you decide, please contact Erica Thurbon – email: eathurbon@btinternet.com

Reintroducing the chalice.

Since the Covid pandemic the chalice has not been offered to the people at Mass. In 2023 the bishops of England & Wales permitted the chalice to be reintroduced at the discretion of parishes. At that time, in consultation with our Parish Council we decided not to offer the chalice for the time being.

Recently some parishioners requested that we take a fresh look at it with a view to allowing those who wish to receive from the chalice to do so.

Having consulted all the Special Ministers of Holy Communion it has been decided by the Parish Council to make the chalice available at the 6pm and 9am Sunday Masses as from next Sunday. Only those ministers who have agreed to do it will be on the rota. It will not yet happen at 11am Mass as currently we do not have enough ministers available.

Making the chalice available to people is not an indication that it is safe with regard to Covid or any other contagious virus. It is the teaching of the Church that even though it is the 'precious blood of Christ' there is no change in the physical properties good or bad than when it was wine. Those who receive from the chalice do so knowing the risk and taking personal responsibility for what they are choosing to do.

Gauging the right quantity required in the chalices will take time as we will need to see what the uptake will be. Please be patient if in the first few weeks we do not have enough in the chalices as we will have to begin with a small quantity so as not to have too much left over.

Please remember that when receiving from the chalice only a small sip is necessary.

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.

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

Cash £413, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £200 **Total income: £1,204**

of which £720 was gift-aided

2nd Collection: Archbishop's Appeal £386

Thank you.

**Catholic Bishops of England & Wales,
and Scotland:
Statement concerning the Bill
on assisted suicide**

Be compassionate

As Catholic Bishops in England and Wales, and in Scotland, we believe that genuine compassion is under threat because of the attempts in Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. 'Compassion' means to enter into and share the suffering of another person. It means never giving up on anyone or abandoning them. It means loving them to the natural end of their life, even if and when they struggle to find meaning and purpose. Compassion means accompanying people, especially during sickness, disability, and old age. This kind of genuine compassion is witnessed through the care and respect we show to people with terminal illness as they complete their journey in this life.

We appeal to those who share our Catholic belief in human dignity and sanctity of life, including fellow Christians, other religious people, and people of reason and good will, to join with us in defending the weakest and most vulnerable who are at risk through this proposed legislation.

Life is a gift to be protected, especially when threatened by sickness and death. Palliative care, with expert pain relief, and good human, spiritual, and pastoral support, is the right and best way to care for people towards the end of life. More adequate funding and resources for hospices and palliative care teams authentically serve and honour our shared human dignity. In the discussion around assisted suicide, so much is made of freedom of choice and autonomy; but autonomy is not absolute and must always be placed within the context of the common good of society as a whole. People who are suffering need to know they are loved and valued. They need compassionate care, not assistance to end their lives.

Assisted suicide raises serious issues of principle. The time given for Parliament to consider the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which will permit assisted suicide is woefully inadequate. Although the Bill indicates safeguards will be in place, the experience of other countries where assisted suicide has been introduced shows that such promised safeguards are soon forgotten. In Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, and parts of the USA, the criteria for assisted suicide have been expanded significantly, in law or in practice, often

Cards are available today for you to contact your MP.

For most parishioners that is Chris Philp .

to include people with mental illness and others who have no terminal diagnosis. It is not always easy to predict the length of time a person with a terminal illness has to live, making this Bill unworkable.

We are alarmed by the impact that legalisation will have on the most vulnerable members of our society. The option to end life can quickly, and subtly, be experienced as a duty to die. Some may well feel their continued existence is a burden to others, and, implicitly or explicitly, be pressured into assisted suicide. This includes people who are elderly, infirm, and living with disabilities. The protection of such people is the foundation of civilised society. It is at the heart of good government.

We are also concerned that this Bill will fundamentally damage the relationship between medical practitioners and their patients. It will potentially lead to pressure on medical staff to recommend or facilitate such procedures. Will the right to conscientious objection for individuals and institutions be guaranteed? The impact on hospices, care homes, and those who work in social and community care cannot be underestimated. It will radically alter the ethos of trust and support which underpins our service to those in need and their families.

We urge all people of good will to oppose this legislation and, instead, to advocate for better funded palliative care which is consistently available to everyone in need in England, Wales, and Scotland. Please inform yourself and others about this issue and contact your Member of Parliament to make your opposition known, asking him or her to oppose or not support the Bill.

As Catholic Bishops, we call upon all Catholics, and invite all those who share our Christian faith, to turn in prayer to God our Father. Please pray that the dignity of human life will be protected and defended. On the cross, Christ united Himself to every form of human suffering and every person who suffers. In Him, life is changed, not ended. He shows us, in His own crucified and risen body, that love is always stronger than death.

Anniversary of the consecration of our Church.

This week on Thursday 21st November we will celebrate the anniversary of the consecration of St Aidan's Church. It is designated as a solemnity which is the highest rank of Liturgical celebrations.

Our church and altar were consecrated in 1986 almost 20 years after the opening. It was usual in the past for there to be a time gap between the opening and the consecration because it used to be the rule that a church could not be consecrated until any debt on building was paid. Celebrations of church anniversaries are normally done in relation to the consecration date.

The consecration of a church is not primarily about a building, it is about the church community of which the building is a symbol. Catholics celebrate three anniversaries of church dedications during the year. They are: 1) St John Lateran Basilica, Rome - 9th Nov; 2) our diocesan Cathedral - 7th Nov; 3) the parish church. By pure coincidence all the dates occur in November. These three celebrations are about our Catholic Christian identity. They express the truth that our 'belonging' is not limited to a local parish community. We are connected to all other catholic communities in our diocese of Southwark with the Archbishop and our cathedral at the centre. Through him we are connected to a family of parishes and Catholic communities in South London and Kent. Our identity as belonging to a universal Church is symbolically expressed when we celebrate the dedication of St John Lateran, Rome, on 9th November. It is the cathedral church of Rome, officially the Pope's cathedral and therefore the 'mother church' for Catholic Christians. It signifies that our 'belonging' is to the universal body of Christ. As with our family identity, 'belonging' has more than a present dimension. It has an historical dimension. We share in the faith and ministry of the Apostles, the Bishop being a symbol of the unbroken line between the early apostolic church of Pentecost and the Church of today, - including all the generations in between. In the creed we profess our faith in 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church'.

As we mark the consecration of our parish church this week we are mindful that the church of St Aidan, Coulsdon, is not primarily bricks and mortar. It is US, the Body of Christ. St Paul sums up the Christian understanding when he writes: You are God's building. For the foundation, nobody can lay other than the one which has already been laid that is Jesus Christ. Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you ? The temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. (1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17) The prayer over the people at the end of the Mass for the consecration of a church seems a suitable blessing to invoke on our parish and on all those beyond our physical parish who join in our streaming.

May God, who has willed that all his scattered children be gathered in his Son, grant that you become his temple and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMEST ST AIDAN'S

Christmas Eve 6pm Vigil Mass

11pm Carols and readings followed by 1.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas morning: 10am Mass.

A Day With Mary at St George's Cathedral, Southwark Saturday 14 December 2024

A Day With Mary is taking place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on Saturday 14 December (10.15am to 5.15pm). Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Southwark Diocese, John Wilson. Further information is available at <https://www.adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

World Day of the Poor

Today is the eighth World Day of the Poor, with the theme from Sirach 21:5: 'The prayer of the poor rises up to God.' In his message for the day, Pope Francis reminds us that this year is dedicated to prayer in anticipation of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025.

Christian hope, the theme of the Jubilee Year, is grounded in the certainty that our prayer reaches God's presence, 'not just any prayer but the prayer of the poor.'

Please visit csan.org.uk to learn more about the diocesan Caritas agencies and independent charities that are members of Caritas Social Action Network. These charities are engaged in different ways in tackling the causes of poverty, promoting justice and restoring dignity. You will find much inspiration from them as you continue to 'do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8).

200 Club monthly draw with annual subscription. Volunteer needed.

The parish needs a volunteer to run this fundraising activity. Peter McFall ran it for many years and Erica Thurbon has done it since Peter left. Erica needs to hand it on to a new person due to her other commitments. Currently we have 136 members. It is a fundraising activity which raises around £1,000 for the parish annually.

The job description for a volunteer consists of the following:

- Organise the monthly draw.
- Inform the winner and inform the treasurer to pay the monthly prize.
- Collect the subscriptions in the spring. Some pay by Standing Order.
- Expand the membership.

Weekly Mass in Croydon University Hospital

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

Today's readings.

© St Beunos Outreach.

'You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence.'

As we approach the end of the Church year, the readings challenge us to reflect on the 'End Times' and judgement that follows; our own death; and the hope we have in Christ. Today's Scripture reveals the fidelity of our God who stays with us through it all, encouraging us to remain faithful to God's love, even in difficult times.

The poetic, symbolic language of the **First Reading** offers hope to those facing persecution. It includes one of the earliest Old Testament references to resurrection, where the faithful will rise from the dust to 'shine as bright as stars for all eternity'.

Jesus uses similar imagery in the **Gospel** to describe a world beset by turmoil and distress, just like our own. Jesus nevertheless assures his disciples (including us) of his constant presence and his ultimate victory. God's promises will be fulfilled: we can be confident in knowing that we will rejoice with Christ forever.

The Letter to the Hebrews (**Second Reading**) was written to Jewish Christians who were struggling with their faith. It speaks of Jesus as the perfect high priest who offered himself as the final sacrifice for our sins. Through Jesus, we are forgiven and made holy.

The **Psalms** is a hope-filled song of trust that God will offer deliverance from death. It praises God for his care and protection.

This week, let's pray for each other. We ask to follow the Lord's path of life closely, showing it to others through the way we live our own lives.

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

Today's readings:

First Reading DANIEL 12:1-3

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

PSALM 15(16):5,8-11

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

Second Reading HEBREWS 10:11-14,18

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. He, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place forever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

Gospel MARK 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

HEADTEACHER Required for September 2025.

£69,238 - £76,111 Salary L12-16 (Outer London)

ST AIDAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Portnalls Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3DE

www.staidansschool.co.uk CONTACT: Executive Headteacher, Mark Hannon

mhannon1.303@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk

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, small (500ml or less) used bottles which can be filled with shampoo, bowls and spoons.