

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr Peter Mansfield,

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Year C

Second Sunday of Advent

8th December 2024

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

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

Sunday 9am Living & deceased members of Du-Casse & Kilkelly Families

Sunday 11am Hughie Clancey RIP

Monday 9.40am Eddie Aldridge RIP **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Tuesday No public Mass **2pm Funeral Mass of Bishop John Hine RIP. at the Cathedral.**

Wednesday No public Mass.

Thursday 10am Christian Clarke RIP

Friday 10am Lenny Fernandes RIP

St Lucy

Vigil 6pm Welfare of Sister Sheila

Confessions after Mass.

Sunday 9am Anne Walker RIP

Sunday 11am Martin Regan RIP

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

This week 2nd collection.

Manna Society - Homeless charity.

See P2 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.

- **There will be Confessions on Saturday 12 –12.30pm and after evening Mass.**
- **Please note the time of Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM on Monday is 20 minutes earlier than usual 9.40am.**
- **Wednesday evening Masses** will not resume until 15th January. This is due to several things happening in the parish, deanery and diocese between now and Christmas. Christmas and New Year also fall on Wednesdays with Masses in the morning.

The TASKFORCE session in December will NOT be on the last Saturday of the month. it will be next Saturday 14th December 10am - 12 noon. Please come and do some jobs around the church and grounds in preparation for Christmas. There will be a special festive 'tea break' !

The following excellent websites on prayer were mentioned during the recent day for readers and ministers of Holy Communion. They are very useful resources for everyone.

Guided prayer meditation <https://taketime.org.uk/>

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

<https://sacredspace.com/>

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/series/5-Imaginative+Contemplation+Exercises>

'Ways into Prayer' pack from the diocesan Spirituality Commission

<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/ways-into-prayer>

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.

The Feast of The Immaculate

Conception of Mary is on Monday

9th December, transferred from Sunday 8th for this year. It is not a day on which we are obliged to go to Mass but there will be Mass of Our Lady Immaculate at 9.40am on that day. The Immaculate Conception concerns the teaching that Mary was preserved from the wound of the sin of Adam - Original Sin - from the first moment of her being in her mother's womb. It should not be confused with the virginal conception which refers to Jesus in Mary's womb.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Tickets are FREE

The Children's Christmas Party will be on Sunday 15th December, 12pm to 2pm. This is a FREE event. Games, Music and Face painting, along with a special guest appearance!
Lunch will be provided for the children.

Please note this is a free ticketed event to manage numbers and avoid disappointment. You must book your place, with a committee member after mass / see poster on facebook page / email jennylehane@aol.com

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.

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

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. Could anyone help with a lady in Grove for 11am ? Please let us know by speaking to Fr Peter or emailing the parish office: coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk

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.

Parish safeguarding date for your diary if you have a DBS for voluntary work in our parish.

The Southwark diocesan Safeguarding team have introduced a compulsory training which consists of viewing a video entitled

‘Level 3 Safeguarding for Volunteers in the Catholic Church’

This requirement is in line with what other organisations have to do.

We will be holding an open morning on the 1st February 2025 to show the video and start DBS rechecks. We will start at 10am with coffee and registration; we will then confirm all the attendees to Southwark. If you're unable to attend please let one of the parish safeguarding reps know so we can make alternative arrangements for you to complete the training.

As part of Southwark's safeguarding policy, all active volunteers with a DBS, are expected to be rechecked every 3 years. (Even if you're on the update service.) This is essential to ensure you are able to continue in your current role uninterrupted. If your DBS is due to be renewed you will receive an email from one of the parish reps in the next few weeks to get this started,

couldsonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk or
couldsonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

You will have an opportunity to start your recheck on the 1st February. If you have any questions please speak one of the safeguarding representatives - Bridget Hanlon (sg1) or Alexandra Collins (sg3) or to Fr Peter.

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!

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

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,

The Holy Father Pope Francis announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years.

The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID pandemic, and a climate crisis.

Jubilee Year prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

The St Aidan's Listening Group

The St Aidan's Listening Group will be meeting at 10.30 in the Marian room on Friday, 13th December. This group is open to anyone who has experienced loss. For further information please email "listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com" or phone the parish office on 8660 2452.

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

Cash £478, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £25
Total income: £1,319
of which £820 was gift-aided.

2nd Collection: Catholic Youth Services £329
Thank you.

**1st Sunday of Advent -
Reflection on the readings.**

The Second Sunday of Advent calls us to make straight the paths for the Lord in our own hearts and in the world around us.

Reflection. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the fullness of God's presence. The readings this week call us to make straight the paths for the Lord in our own hearts and in the world around us. Baruch envisages God's people being led home in joy and peace, and John the Baptist invites us to clear the obstacles that prevent us from fully welcoming Christ into our lives and into our hearts.

Prayer. God of Peace, prepare our hearts this Advent. Help us to remove the barriers that prevent

us from experiencing Your peace. Teach us to share Your peace with those around us, becoming instruments of Your justice and reconciliation. Amen.

Action Steps. Key words or phrases – are there any key words or phrases from one or more of the readings that speak to you today? Ask God to lead you to their deeper meaning for you this week. Identify one way to be a peacemaker this week whether through reconnecting with someone you haven't spoken to or seen for awhile, offering a kind word, or taking part in a local social action project in your Parish.

Today's readings:

First reading Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God: 'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Responsorial Psalm 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6.

*What great deeds the LORD worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.*

Second reading Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters:

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your

partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."' '