

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr Peter Mansfield,

Deacon: Rev. Tony Flavin

Pastoral Assistant: Oliver Abasolo - seminarian

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Name of acc: RCAS Coulsdon. Acc no.: 01751182 Sort: 60-06-14

Year C

Third Sunday of Advent

15th December 2024

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Welfare of Sister Sheila **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Anne Walker RIP

Sunday 11am Martin Regan RIP

Monday 10am Maria Mafalda Cota RIP

Tuesday 10am No Public Mass

Wednesday No public Mass.

Thursday 10am Dennis Kelleher (Foundation int).

Friday 10am Mario Almeida RIP

Exposition until 11am

Vigil 6pm Madge Bullock RIP

Confessions after Mass.

Sunday 9am Kathleen Nockles RIP

Sunday 11am People of the Parish

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

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.

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.

Christmas gift bags, for wine bottles and other sizes are available on the tables at the back of the church.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
In the Hall Tickets are FREE

The Children's Christmas Party will be this 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.

We pray for the repose of the soul of
Fr. Wenna Henry Tiku RIP. - parish priest of Holy Cross parish, Carshalton.

ST AIDAN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - COULSDON
CHRISTMAS 2024

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Confessions

Friday 20 Dec. 7pm - 7.30pm;
Saturday 21 Dec. 12 noon to 12.30pm. & 7pm;
Monday 23 Dec. 10.30am;
Tuesday 24 Dec. 12 noon to 12.30pm.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

SUN 24 DEC. 6PM VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS

SUN 24 DEC. 11 PM CAROLS AND READINGS

THE NIGHT MASS BEGINS AT 11.30PM.

CHRISTMAS MORNING: 10.00AM.

Thursday 26 Dec. 11am Mass of St Stephen;
Friday 27 Dec. no Mass in church;
Sat Vigil Mass 6pm, Sunday morning 9am & 11am.
Mon 30 Dec. 10am; Tuesday no Mass;
New Year's Day Wednesday 1st Jan. 11.00am;
Thursday no Mass; Fri 3 Jan. 10am.

**Please join Churches Together in Coulsdon
for carols and mince pies**

**in Coulsdon Library, 167, Brighton Road,
Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 2NH.**

Saturday 21st December 2024 10-11am

Archbishop John Wilson's Christmas Message

In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said in a divided world, filled with conflict, it can be tempting to lose hope. But in times of darkness, division and pain "we must turn to our one, great living hope - the Lord Jesus. In Him, and in His message of Good News, we see the possibility of a different and better world". This, Archbishop John said, "is what the truth of Christmas is all about. It's a story of hope triumphing over darkness. It is the story of our salvation. It's God's love story towards our world and each one of us".

Looking ahead to next year, the Archbishop encourages us to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, as prayer, he said, "is the most active expression of our love and hope. And there is no more hopeful and active prayer than when we place ourselves before the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples to remain with Him, and keep watch with Him. This is what He invited us - me and you - to do. To stay with Him in prayer". You can watch the full message here

<https://tinyurl.com/Christmasmessage2024>

Christmas offerings.

The collection at the Christmas and Easter Masses is the main source of personal income for priests. This is the system adopted in Catholic parishes throughout England. Catholic priests do not receive a salary in the way that ministers of other denominations do. They are therefore dependent on the Christmas & Easter offerings for personal income.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day the offertory basket collection, the card reader, 'Just giving' and BACS are designated as 'Christmas offerings'. The priest is also allocated one quarter of December standing orders.

Parishioners' main responsibility is to the priest of their own parish, not the parish they may be visiting at Christmas. If you are going away you may wish to put your contribution in an envelope and post it through the Parish House letterbox or leave it in the sacristy marked 'Christmas offering'. Any cheques should be made payable to the parish bank account 'RCAS Coulsdon' for banking purposes. If you are in the Gift Aid scheme, please use the relevant envelope. The parish benefits from the GA not the priest.

Listening group.

The group was formed one year ago in order to provide a place once a month where people from the parish and the wider community who have suffered bereavement or any kind of loss can come for tea /coffee and a bit of sharing of their story with people ready to listen.

Recently the group reviewed the past year and concluded that the service they are offering has not generated much interest or demand as only one person has come regularly and only about two others on single occasions.

There is little point in continuing to offer the service in the coming year. The group will remain in touch with the person who has been coming. They will also respond to any requests made by email or via the parish office or Fr Peter email: listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com
The response will be appropriate to the request such as a home visit or tea and a chat at the parish house.

We would like to thank Sara Waite, Ineke Van Der Sanden, Lesley Leavey and Norin Lomasney who volunteered for this pastoral initiative and have been faithful to the monthly sessions in the Marian room.

In the church shop:

- New Sunday Missals @ £15
- Christian Christmas cards.
- A large variety of rosaries are now available in the church shop.
- 2025 Catholic diaries with order of Mass are now available @ £3.

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.

PURLEY FOOD HUB are always very grateful for our donations. Please leave food items in church porch.
Tins of plain meat - chicken, ham packet & tinned potatoes, tinned peas & carrots, tinned dessert, fruit puddings, jellies, packet custard, small bottles of squash, jars of strawberry & raspberry jam, small packets of christmas biscuits, children's chocolate / sweet treats, washing powder tablets

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.**

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.

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>

This Gaudete Sunday begins with a resounding 'Rejoice!': a joyful and energising call for jubilation that echoes throughout the readings. We are full of joy in the Lord because he is very near. Our Advent journeying and anticipation is nearly over. We are preparing to celebrate both the coming of the Christ Child into our world, and the wonderful promise of the Good News that God is always close at hand.

The prophet Zephaniah (**First Reading**) proclaims a jubilant God already in our midst: a God who saves, strengthens, calms and protects us with love; a God who dances and sings alongside us.

This joyful image of God is so fundamental to our Advent hope and longing that a responsorial prayer from the prophet Isaiah replaces the **Psalm**, encouraging us to: '*Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!*'

Paul's letter to the Philippians (**Second Reading**) opens by encouraging us always to be joyful in the Lord. Through prayers of thanksgiving, we will come to know the true peace that rests in Christ Jesus.

John the Baptist (**Gospel**) was grounded in his certain belief of the coming saviour who would bring, joy, peace and justice. He dedicated his life to calling people to repentance, so that they might be better able to respond and believe in the Good News. John was so rooted in Gospel values that many thought he himself was the Christ.

Let us pray this week for the grace to be like John, to proclaim Christ and the joyous Good News to a world that desperately needs it. As a community of prayer, we know we are loved by a joyful God. With that same joy, let us share this love with others.

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Today's readings:

First reading Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
'Fear not, O Sion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. R3

*Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Behold, God is my salvation!
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD is my strength and my praise,
and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second reading Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.