

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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Support in times of loss: listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com

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Church Hall enquiries: staidanshallbookings@gmail.com

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St Aidan's School: 01737 556036

Parish banking details:

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

Year C

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22nd December 2024

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Madge Bullock RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Kathleen Nockles RIP

Sunday 11am John Philpot RIP

Monday 10am Maria Jesus La Porte RIP

CHRISTMAS.

Tuesday 6pm VIGIL CHRISTMAS MASS People of the parish

11pm CAROLS AND READINGS

11.30pm NIGHT MASS

Wednesday 10am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Thursday 11am Maria Lia Irving RIP *St Stephen*

Friday No Mass *St John, Apostle and Evangelist*

Vigil 6pm Stanley Almeida RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am John Henry Back RIP **Sunday 11am** Phillip's family thanksgiving (Derrick's intention).

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.

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Derrick Phillips in the past week, at his care home in Kent. Derrick and his late wife Sheila were very active members of St Aidan's for about sixty years. A couple of days before his death we received Derrick's Christmas card to 'all the people of St Aidan's', - happily he had also received our parish Christmas card to him.
May Derrick enjoy the of light of his risen Lord in heaven. He firmly believed that Christ came on earth so that we may go to heaven !

**Southwark diocesan directories 2025
are now available in the shop @ £6.50**

**ST AIDAN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - COULSDON
CHRISTMAS 2024**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Confessions
Monday 23 Dec. 10.30am;
Tuesday 24 Dec. 12 noon to 12.30pm.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

TUE 24 DEC. 6PM VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS

TUE 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.

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>

Afternoon Tea

Afternoon Tea Friday 3rd January at 2pm in the church hall for a donation of £5. If you would like to attend please contact Brenda Eydman 01737 552610 to book a place.

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

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.

Volunteer Fire Wardens Needed for Christmas Masses

The Christmas Vigil and Christmas Morning Masses tend to be very busy with many children in attendance and additional candles around the altar. We are looking for parishioners to volunteer to be nominated Fire Wardens for these two Masses. No qualifications or previous experience is necessary and a full briefing will be given.

If you can help, please speak to Fr Peter or email the premises team on staidanspremisesteam@gmail.com.

Of course we request all parishioners, especially parents, to be extra vigilant at these traditionally very busy services.

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

15th December 2024

Cash £550, Standing Orders £591,

Card reader £227

Total income: £1,368

Thank you.

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.

200 Club – December 2024 Draw Winner

The December draw for the 200 Club took place last Sunday. The winning number was 3, 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

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.

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

'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'

Christ is coming! With their themes of obedience to God's will and faith in God's promises, today's readings are full of expectant hope.

The prophet Micah (**First Reading**) foretells the birth of the Messiah. Jesus will come from the small town of Bethlehem: he is the new king who will reunite and rule all the people, as a shepherd guides his flock.

The **Psalm** reminds us to call on God as our shepherd, placing our trust in his power and strength, especially when we face struggles.

The **Second Reading** highlights the obedience of Jesus to God's will. In offering himself as a sacrifice, Jesus brings salvation from sin to all who have faith in him.

The **Gospel** describes Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, and their mutual greeting. Jesus is recognized as the Messiah even before his birth. Elizabeth sings Mary's praise because Mary bears the Lord, and Elizabeth's own unborn child, John the Baptist, 'leaps for joy'.

As we draw closer to Christmas, we may like to pray: 'Lord, help us, like Mary, to be humble and obedient to your will. Help us to see your presence in our daily lives. May we recognize and welcome you in every moment.'

Today's readings:

First reading Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the LORD: You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. R4

*Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'