

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr Peter Mansfield,

Deacon: Rev. Tony Flavin

Pastoral Assistant: Oliver Abasolo - seminarian

Parish House: 1 Portnalls Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. CR5 3DD

Tel: 020 8660 2452

Email: coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Website: www.st-aidans-parish.org.uk

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

Safeguarding: Bridget Hanlon coulsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Alexandra Collins coulsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Church Hall enquiries: staidanshallbookings@gmail.com

Property maintenance, report issues: staidanspremisesteam@gmail.co.uk

St Aidan's School: 01737 556036

Parish banking details:

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

Year C

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 29th December 2024

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

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

Sunday 9am John Henry Back RIP

Sunday 11am Phillip's family thanksgiving (requested by Derrick RIP).

Monday 10am Teresita Abasolo RIP

NEW YEARS DAY - Mary Mother of God.

Wednesday 11am Erin and Ashley McKillop - 20th Wedding Anniversary.

Friday 10am Lesley King (Née Du Casse) RIP. Exposition until 11am.

EPIPHANY.

Vigil 6pm Sean O'Reilly RIP

Sunday 9am David Redcliffe RIP

Sunday 11am Celebrant's intention.

NO Life breakfast after 9am Mass
Bar open after 11am Mass.

Wednesday evening Masses
will not resume until 22nd
January as the funeral Mass for
Derrick Phillips is Wednesday
15th. at 12 noon.

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, Coral Hind, Freda Blade, David Morling and all who are sick.

Please remember the repose of the soul of
Norma Cordell RIP - Orford House care home.

NEXT week's second collection : Catholic Children's Society (CCS) - Crisis Fund.

We do not have a collection basket near our crib at St Aidan's for 'crib offerings'. Instead we will have a second collection next weekend. CCS Crisis Fund provides immediate financial support for families facing a crisis in their lives. This support can make a huge difference to families in desperate situations when they have nowhere else to turn. See website for more information:

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/crisis-fund/>

Archbishop John has written a Pastoral Letter for the Solemnity of the Holy Family today. His theme is the opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope. It will be read at all Masses.

Dear sisters & brothers,

Thank you to everyone who gave me cards and gifts this Christmas as well as your generous Christmas offerings. A combined figure for Christmas and Easter offerings is published in the annual accounts which the treasurer makes available in the spring. Deacon Tony and Br Oliver also wish to convey their gratitude to you for your generosity and kindness to them.

My thanks to the parishioners who gave of their time and worked hard to prepare the church and the liturgies for Christmas. Thank you to Brenda and Muriel for the flower arrangements and decorations. Many other parishioners played their part in the preparations including erecting the Christmas tree and the crib. Thank you to our choir and music leaders, singers and musicians. I thank our readers and ministers of Holy Communion for all they have done over Christmas and throughout the year. The lay ministry to the housebound is an important part of our parish life. Thanks to the servers who came to the Christmas Masses and to the welcomers. Sacristans, money counters, collectors and church cleaners are an essential part of every parish even though their help often goes unnoticed. Thank you to the volunteers involved in the parish admin tasks in the office. Before Christmas the volunteers in the shop ensured that the Christian Christmas cards, etc. were well promoted.

There are so many people who give of their time and talents to our parish. Recently I listed approximately 125 individual names of people who volunteer in one way or another at St Aidan's. Ultimately, it is the Lord we serve in his people and He who sees all that you do will reward you. (Mt 6:4)

With my thanks, prayers and every blessing for the coming year.

FR *Palas*

THANK YOU FOR THE HELP FOR THE HOMELESS:

A big thank you to the volunteers of all the Coulsdon churches who have provided sandwiches for Nightwatch to distribute in Croydon on Thursday evenings throughout November and December and to those who have taken on the job of driving them in to Croydon. Nightwatch regularly tell us how grateful they are for this help with their service to the homeless and vulnerably housed of Croydon and have reported an ever increasing need for food provision. A particular thank you must go to those volunteers who rose to the challenge on Boxing Day; I was proud on our behalf to be able to send in such a magnificent spread on what can be such a busy day for families.

We have been asked to continue providing sandwiches for a further six weeks and we now approach our forthcoming shift with an expanded team of volunteers on Friday nights in January/February.

Leonie

The funeral Mass for Derrick Phillips RIP.
will be 12 noon on Wednesday 15th January.
Everyone is welcome.

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.

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

Today's Gospel commentary:

This little incident, the only one told of Jesus' youth, has two attractive lessons for us. Firstly, it is a joy to see Jesus behaving just like any other twelve-year-old. He was a real child, and a child of that age goes off exploring, adventuring, frog-hunting, sure that the all-powerful, all-knowing parents will know where he or she has gone. Parents meanwhile worry themselves sick at the unexplained disappearance. Mary, the young mother, knows her son and the ways of the twelve-year-old. She does not scold or expostulate, but just accepts him with love and relief.

Secondly, Jesus' reply gives us a glimpse of his relationship to the Father. Whether the correct translation is 'in my Father's house' or 'on my Father's business' matters little. Just as his questions to the teachers showed his wisdom, no doubt as yet unsharpened, so his reply to Mary shows his total absorption with his Father, inarticulate also. Jesus' human mind needed to develop and become fully articulate. Even he needed to go on learning and clarifying to himself who and what he was. We learn only gradually who and what we are. A child's development – even a divine child's development – is not to be rushed.

© Dom Henry Wansbrough

Today's readings:

First reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.'

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.'

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10. Rcf. 5a

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the LORD.
My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed.

Second reading

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

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.**