

# NEWSLETTER

## St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Name of acc: RCAS Coulsdon.

Acc no.: 01751182 Sort: 60-06-14

**Year C**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**12th January 2025**

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

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** Rosana Rodrigues RIP

**Sunday 9am** Gemma Devonish RIP

**Sunday 11am** Welfare of Giammaria Di Santo

**Monday 10am** People of the Parish

**Wednesday 12 noon Funeral Mass** - Derrick Phillips RIP.

**Thursday 10am** Intentions of Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown

**Friday 10am Exposition until 11am** *St. Anthony, Desert Father*

**Vigil 6pm**

**Confessions after Mass.**

**Sunday 9am** People of the Parish

**Sunday 11am** Thanksgiving for Gemma Brusadelli and family

**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.

**Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,**  
takes place from 18th to 25th January.

In Coulsdon and Old Coulsdon we are blessed with very good relationships between our Christian churches. We have a Covenant of pastoral cooperation and prayer. There are regular meetings of clergy as well as the enabling group which is made up of members from all our Christian communities. I would like to thank Leonie Wilding and Lesley Leavey for their commitment and support in their capacity of St Aidan's ecumenical representatives.

**Service for Week of Prayer  
for Christian Unity.**

Saturday 18th January  
Old Coulsdon Congregational Church  
Coulsdon Rd., Old Coulsdon CR5 1EH

Refreshments at 10am  
Service at 10.30am

Followed by the **Annual Assembly (AGM)**  
This is optional and people are free to leave  
after the service.

**A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with CAFOD - the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development:** 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: [cafod.org.uk/jubilee](https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee)

Please see our [[cafod.org.uk/jubilee](https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee)] Jubilee page for more resources and information around the Jubilee.

### **ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING & MODERN SLAVERY**

St Mary's RC Church, 70 Wellesley Road Croydon, CR0 2AR Wednesday, 29 January 2025 6.30pm-8.30pm  
The evening will focus on the work of the Santa Marta Group and how the Church is working to combat these crimes and support victims.

### **Purley Food Hub. 4,000 December meals...2024 total tops 41,000**

With huge thanks to our **volunteers, donors and supporters**, we provided food for just over **4,000 meals for 445 people in December** - our second busiest month of the year (after August in the school summer holidays). December took our total to **41,778 meals in 2024** - our third busiest year on record.

At four of the month's seven sessions we supplied food for more than 70 people across the southern half of the borough.

And at the busiest of these, on Wednesday 18th December, clients who were due deliveries on Christmas Day and New Year's Day instead received increased food and also an Aldi gift card for £25-£70 depending on the size of the family.

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

**January priorities:** Hot Drinking Chocolate requiring only hot water • 500g Bags of Sugar • Boxes/Packets of Dried Potato • Cartons of Long Life Full Fat Milk • Tinned Tuna • Jars of Peanut Butter • Jars of Meat & Fish Paste • Tinned Dessert Fruit • Tinned Rice Pudding • Small Bottles of Washing Up Liquid • Bars of Soap • 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.

### **Called to bear fruit.**

Next weekend, there will be a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop John about the next phase of the 'Called to Bear Fruit' journey in the Archdiocese. The letter will introduce consultation booklets for parishioners. The booklets highlight six key themes for discussion in small groups before Sunday 6 April, by when reflections should be submitted.

Groups need not meet on parish property or require formal coordination. Instead, each group will be invited to share its reflections. He hopes this will ensure every voice is given the opportunity to be heard. The question being asked is essentially: how do we grow as communities of missionary disciples?

### **Free online catechetical workshops.**

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Archbishop's Appeal, every parishioner, as well as teachers and parents in our schools, now has free access to workshops created by the Catechetical Institute at the world renowned Catholic Franciscan University of Stubenville, Ohio USA. The website is available while the diocesan subscription is valid, i.e. until 30th September 2025.

From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For more information and instructions to access the workshops, please visit [HERE](https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan)  
[aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan](https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan)

**Readings for the Baptism of the Lord,  
Year C, 12th January 2025**

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**‘Here is my servant whom I uphold’**

With the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we reach the end of Christmastide, and the Gospel readings begin to follow Jesus in his teaching and public mission. This feast is another ‘epiphany’: a manifestation of God as Father, Son and Spirit.

The **First Reading** from Isaiah is joyous. God will save his people. Like a shepherd he will care for them, and bring them home from exile.

The **Psalm** is a prayer of praise to the God of creation, who nourishes his people and pours forth his Spirit upon them.

In the **Second Reading** we are told that we have been saved through rebirth in water and the Spirit: not through any merit of our own, but thanks to the loving kindness of our God.

In the **Gospel** we hear God’s voice proclaiming Jesus as his beloved Son, and the Spirit descends upon him as he is baptised by John.

As Pilgrims of Hope in this **Jubilee year**, let us consider the glories of our universe, created through and for Christ, who brings all things to perfection. Perhaps pondering on the waters of baptism will lead us to a greater and deeper appreciation of this wonderful element, and encourage us to help and pray for those deprived of life-giving water

**Catholic Union Catholic Young Writer award.**

The competition’s theme in this Jubilee Year is ‘Jesus Christ, Son of God’. Students are asked to imagine that a friend has said to them that Jesus was a great man, and wonderful moral teacher, but that they did not accept that he was God. They are encouraged to write a handwritten essay in response, drawing on the Scriptures and showing evidence of having studied the Catechism of the Catholic Church and some papal teachings. The award is open to young Catholics and pupils at Catholic schools in Years 8–11. There is a cash prize of £50, plus runner-up book prizes. The deadline to enter is Friday 30 May. To find out more and how to enter, please visit [HERE](https://catholicunion.org.uk/2025/01/catholic-young-writer-award-2025/)  
<https://catholicunion.org.uk/2025/01/catholic-young-writer-award-2025/>

**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, Christi Cox, David Morling and all who are sick.

**If you know of anyone who should be on our parish sick list or needs Holy Communion at home please let Fr Peter know.**

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

**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.**

## Today's readings:

### First reading            Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go on up to a high mountain,

O Sion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

'Behold your God!'

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

### Psalm 104(103):1b-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-28. 29-30. R1

*Bless the Lord, O my soul!*

*My God, how great you are!*

O Lord my God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and honour,  
wrapped in light as with a robe!  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

On the waters you lay the foundation  
for your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind.  
You make the winds your messengers,  
flame and fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your creatures.  
Vast and wide is the span of the sea,  
with its creeping things past counting,  
living things great and small.

All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up;  
you open wide your hand, they are well filled.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;  
you take away their breath, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, and they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.

### Second reading            Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, bringing  
salvation for all people, training us to renounce  
ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-  
controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present  
age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of  
the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself for us to redeem us from all  
lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for  
his own possession who are zealous for good works.  
But when the goodness and loving kindness of God  
our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of  
works done by us in righteousness, but according to  
his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and  
renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on  
us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that  
being justified by his grace we might become heirs  
according to the hope of eternal life.

### Gospel                            Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

At that time: 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.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the  
Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and  
was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy  
Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove;  
and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved  
Son; with you I am well pleased.'