

# 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](mailto:listeningtoyou.staidans@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**

**3rd Sunday - Ordinary Time**

**26th January 2025**

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

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** Miriam Fernandes RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

**Sunday 9am** Lesley 'Susie' King (Nee Du Casse) RIP

**Sunday 11am** People of the Parish

**Monday 10am** Maria De Jesus RIP *Votive Mass of St Thomas Aquinas*

**Wednesday 6.30pm** Intention of PKM

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

**Friday 10am** Intention of PKM **Exposition until 11am** *St John Bosco*

**Vigil 6pm** Intention of PKM **Confessions after Mass.**

**Sunday 9am** David McCleave RIP **Sunday 11am** People of the parish

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

**The Confirmation preparation session today** begins half an hour earlier to allow a period of 'social time' before the teaching period. We will begin at 5.30pm and end at 7pm.

**Sunday Missals with the new translation of the readings, now on sale in the church shop - £15**

### Afternoon Tea Friday 7th February

At 2pm in the church hall for a donation of £5.00. If you would like to attend, please speak to Brenda Eydman or phone 01737 552610 to book a place.

### **Please pray for the sick and housebound.**

Angela Lambert, Jean Bell, 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.**

### ***Called to Bear Fruit***

At Mass last weekend, we heard a pastoral letter from The Archbishop of Southwark outlining the Archdiocese's renewal process. We were invited to read about the 'Called to Bear Fruit' process which asks parishes to share their own experiences, reflect on issues affecting our parish and suggest solutions that can be fed back to the Archdiocese.

The Parish Pastoral Council met this last week and discussed how we can take this process forward here at St Aidan's. We would like to invite all Parishioners to participate over the next few weeks in small discussion groups to address the themes outlined in the Consultation document. This will involve a short series of group gatherings, each lasting about an hour between now and the end of March. These meetings may be in someone's home, on Church premises or even online at a time to suit your availability. The Parish Council is willing to help coordinate the groups.

This is a diocesan exercise but we hope that this might enable our Parish to focus on what we want and need from each other and that we might be able to identify opportunities for parish communities to work effectively together.

A member of the PPC will speak at each mass this weekend, and will be calling for volunteers to join with us to work through Archbishop John's themes together over the next few weeks.

**Please do express your interest at Mass this weekend – or if you want to register interest by email, contact [alexandraecollins@outlook.com](mailto:alexandraecollins@outlook.com) and let us know whether you would prefer an evening, daytime, weekend or online group. Please also indicate if you would welcome a small group to meet in your house. Let us know if you can take part. We will try to facilitate everyone in accordance with their circumstances.**

Please take a blue book 'Called to Bear Fruit' from the tables at the back of the church if you did not get one last week.

### **OUR OFFERTORY INCOME**

Cash £459, Standing Orders £591,  
Card reader £120 **Total income:** £1,368  
of which £700 was gift-aided

**Thank you.**

Please consider making a standing order for your offertory contributions. Contact the GA coordinator Clive Fernandes to get the details.

[coulsdongac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:coulsdongac@rcaos.org.uk)

**This week is 'Sunday of the Word of God'. This is an annual celebration focussing on the gift of scripture.**

Our ministers of the Word - parish readers - will renew their commitment at all Masses.

Pope Francis wrote: "*Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.*"

**NEW date is Saturday 8 March.**

**Safeguarding morning POSTPONED.** Due to unforeseen circumstances the Safeguarding training morning and DBS rechecks on 1st February, has had to be postponed. We will contact individuals directly if you need your DBS recheck now. Please refer back to the newsletter for a new Safeguarding date. Any problems please contact:

Bridget [coulsdongsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:coulsdongsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
or Alexandra [coulsdongsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:coulsdongsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

**Croydon Churches' Floating Shelter and Nightwatch.** The annual review (2024-25) of our support for the homeless through the Croydon Churches' Floating Shelter and Nightwatch is available on the noticeboard at the back of church.

**Today's readings.**

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This 'Sunday of the Word of God' celebrates the gift of Scripture, encouraging us to listen to and live by God's word. In two of the readings, the word of God is proclaimed publicly to the people.

The Jewish people, recently returned from captivity, listen attentively as the high priest Ezra reads from the Book of the Law (**First Reading**). Ezra then helps them to understand what they hear. Though moved to tears, he bids them rejoice: 'for the joy of the Lord is your strength'.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah when he reaches the synagogue at Nazareth, his hometown. He sets before the people a new way of life, announcing that he is God's anointed one. His mission is to bring good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives and freeing the downtrodden.

Paul (**Second Reading**) uses the image of the body to explain how we are joined together through the Spirit at our own baptism to form the body of Christ. Just as each part has a unique function, each person's gifts and responsibilities are needed and respected.

The **Psalm** highlights the beauty of God's law, providing guidance, refreshing the soul and bringing joy to the heart.

As Pilgrims of Hope in this **Jubilee Year**, we pray for all who long for joy and refreshment, especially the oppressed and those caught up in modern-day slavery. We give thanks for the generosity and courage of all who work to support and liberate those held captive.

**Holocaust Memorial Day -  
Monday 27th January.**

**PRAYER.**

Eternal God, you hold all of our days in your hands. We come before you to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of other genocides.

May our minds be clear and attentive to their memory and our hearts be moved to bear witness to their lives.

Today, help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image.

One day, we pray that genocide and hatred will be no more, and that love will triumph over evil.

In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world today. *Amen.*

**Volunteer needed.**

**200 Club monthly draw with annual subscription.**

The parish needs a volunteer to run this fundraising activity. Erica Thurbon is the current organiser but she needs to hand it on to a new person due to her other commitments. Currently we have 136 members. It is a fundraising activity which raises around £1,000 for the parish annually.

The job description for a volunteer consists of the following:

- Organise the monthly draw.
- Inform the winner and inform the treasurer to pay the monthly prize.
- Collect the subscriptions in the spring. Some pay by Standing Order.
- Expand the membership.

**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.

**Somebody loves you and you don't know it !**

This is the last day we will leave the Christmas cards in the porch. People leave them there for their friends to collect. But many don't look as they are not expecting a card for them to be there.

It sounds like a great idea as a way of posting Christmas cards but in practice it's not.

**200 Club – January 2024 Draw Winner**

The January draw for the 200 Club took place last Sunday. The winning number was 88, 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](mailto:eathurbon@btinternet.com)

**Volunteers needed to act as Fire Wardens**

The Premises Team have identified the need for a pool of volunteers to act as Fire Wardens during Mass. No previous experience is necessary, full training will be given. It is hoped that with a group of parishioners we could establish a rota similar to other ministries.

If you are interested in helping the parish in this way please email the Premises Team [staidanspremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:staidanspremisesteam@gmail.com)

**Meal train volunteers needed!**

We are currently running a meal train for a family who are new to the area, have just had a baby and are also taking care of their niece. There are still some days available where a volunteer is needed. If you would like to volunteer to cook one meal for a family of three (two adults and a child) over the next 10 days, please go to [www.mealtrain.com/87e2q4](http://www.mealtrain.com/87e2q4) and sign up ASAP for a day that suits you. All the details can be found on that page. Please speak to Katie Stockermans [katharine.stockermans@gmail.com](mailto:katharine.stockermans@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

If you would like to cook a meal in future but weren't able to do so this time, please email Katie and your name will be added to the list of volunteers to be notified next time we host a meal train.

**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

**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.

## Today's readings:

### First reading **Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

In those days: Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it, all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Ezra and the Levites read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, 'Go on your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

### Ps 19(18):8. 9. 10. 15. R John 6:63c

*Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.*

The law of the LORD is perfect;  
it revives the soul.

The decrees of the LORD are steadfast;  
they give wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right;  
they gladden the heart.

The command of the LORD is clear;  
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
abiding for ever.

The judgements of the LORD are true;  
they are, all of them, just.

May the spoken words of my mouth,  
the thoughts of my heart,  
win favour in your sight, O LORD,  
my rock and my redeemer!

### Second reading **1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

Brothers and Sisters: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say,

'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honourable we bestow the greater honour, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first Apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

### Gospel **Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'