

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

Supp

ort 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

First Sunday of Lent

9th March 2025

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Mary Crehan RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Sunday 11am Sean Kiely RIP

Monday 10am Lydia Moniz RIP

Wednesday 6.30pm Deceased relatives of Maria Noronha

Thursday 10am Helen Octavia West

Friday 10am Margaret Janz RIP **Exposition until 11am**

Vigil 6pm Welfare of Aurielia Sewell **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of the parish. **11am** Veronica Beecheno RIP. 1st anniversary. **4pm** Stations of the Cross

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

Stations of the Cross - Sundays of Lent 4pm.

Join us in the church in Lent to pray the Lenten devotion of the way of the cross. We recall Christ on the day of his Crucifixion, and make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of Our Lord's Passion. If you can't attend in person, please join us via the livestream.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown, Angela Lambert, Barbara Wood, 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.

Afternoon Tea NB change of date.

Friday 14th March at 2pm in the church hall for a donation of £5.00. If you would like to book a place, please speak to Brenda Eydman after the 9am Mass or ring 01737 552610.

Please note the change of date.

Altar servers wanted!

We are looking to recruit new altar servers for all masses; girls, boys and adults are welcome. Children need to be from year 4 upwards and have made their first holy communion.

There will be a training session for new and current servers on Sunday 16th March after the 11am mass.

If you or your child are interested or would like some further information, please speak with the altar server coordinator outside at the end of mass, or contact PJ on these contact details.

peterodonnell83@gmail.com 07767 836 394

Grief in Loss: Hope in Christ.

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 March.

This weekend retreat for the bereaved in Aylesford Priory, Kent, takes place away from the pressures of day-to-day life to help begin one come to terms with bereavement. It is a time for quiet, prayer, talking, and acceptance.

The residential cost is £260 for a single room and £230 for a shared room. Places are limited and by application: please call 01622 717 272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk.

Building a Better Marriage day for married couples in the Croydon deanery

Saturday 12th April 2025 9.30am – 4.30pm

St Mary's / Our Lady of Reparation, 70 Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 2AR

This day is a day in which married couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to the married. May we humbly suggest that this day is a great Lenten observance for married couples to be involved in as the couples move through a journey of recognising the good in their marriage as well as facing some of the challenges, saying sorry and receiving healing. There is no charge for this course. Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Look us up on the diocesan website: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life/building-a-better-marriage/>
Booking is essential - please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or phone 07983524727

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME

2nd March 2025.

Cash £393, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £170
Total income: £1,154 £262 was gift-aided.

2nd Collection: Clergy support fund £658

Thank you.

Friday: CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day and next Sunday's Second Collection.

Will your family join Catholics across the country to fast this Friday?

The idea is that you put the money you save by fasting - eating less - this Friday in next Sunday's second collection. You can also donate online at cafod.org.uk.

This Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has called on us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This is CAFOD's mission: to bring your love for your neighbour to people suffering the impacts of war, global debt, and climate change and to give them the support, skills, and tools they need to find their hope for the future.

For prayers, resources, and inspiration for your family, please visit

cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day.

ASH WEDNESDAY CAR PARKING AT CHURCH.

If anyone receives a penalty notice for parking in the church car park on Ash Wednesday, please do not pay it but you must forward the PCN number to the parish office
couldson@rcaos.org.uk

St Patrick's Day

The social committee would like to invite you all to celebrate St Patrick's Day on Sunday 16th March from 12pm until 4pm. There is no charge for attending, just please bring a plate to share. Craic, ceoil agus cairde guaranteed !



There will also be a charity raffle (any donations for this will be appreciated!) and games for the kids. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Liz Moore is now home and enjoying a visit from one of her sons from Australia. She wishes to thank the parishioners for all their card, good wishes, prayers and Masses.

'Turning Tables':

A new social action resource The Bishops have produced a new toolkit called Turning Tables to help Catholics use Scripture and their faith to inspire effective social justice action. Visit tinyurl.com/cbcewturningtables

The annual social committee AGM will take place today on 9th March at 12.30pm in the hall. All members should make every effort to attend.

The social committee is a vital part of Parish life and needs your support. We are actively recruiting new members and I'm happy to speak to anyone who has any questions about what being part of the social committee entails, email me jennylehane@aol.com

Remember 'Many hands make light work'.

It is a statutory requirement to have a social committee in accordance with the constitution in order for the bar to be opened. That is a condition of the bar license.

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. Preferences:

Jars of Honey • Jars of Meat and Fish Paste • Boxes/Packets of Tea Bags • Drinking Chocolate requiring only hot water • Cartons of Long Life Full Fat Milk • Tinned Meat Meals - but not hotdogs thank you! • Tins of Corned Beef • Vegetarian Meals • Tinned tomatoes •

Commentary on today's readings - with Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.

The first readings during Lent each year are wonderfully arranged to lead us from the very beginnings to the immediate preparation for Christ, each Sunday working further forward in the history of God's promises to his People. This year begins with the profession of faith about God's care of his People, which Israelite priests had to make when presenting their offering. Surprisingly it begins not with the promises to Abraham but with the wanderings of the nomadic tribes down to Egypt. It was first in Egypt that God made them his people, rescuing them from slavery. In this version of the history of Israel the decisive moment was not the call of Abraham but the exodus from Egypt. But in the next Sundays we will work forward through the call of Abraham, the call of Moses, the first Passover in Canaan and the promise of a New Covenant at the return from the Babylonian Exile. It is a record of God's constant care as he prepares the People for the coming of his Son at the incarnation, and the full revelation at the Cross and the Resurrection of Easter.

In these chapters of **the Letter to the Romans** Paul is struggling with the problem of the salvation of the Jews: how is it that the People so carefully nurtured for so long should refuse to acknowledge that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's plan of salvation? To Paul, himself a fervent Jew, it was agonizing that so many of his own people should refuse to acknowledge Jesus. But he saw that their refusal opened the door to the gentiles. The Christian community at Rome was composed of both Jews and gentiles. It was important for Paul to show that even scripture proclaims that the door is open to all who profess their faith in Christ, not one party to the exclusion of the other: so, no distinction between Jew and Greek. This is, however, a very different profession of faith from the profession in the first reading: that was a belief in a Lord God who rescued from Egypt. This is a belief that the Lord God raised Jesus from the dead, and raised him to the status of LORD. Paul never uses the word 'God' of Jesus, but does call him by the special personal name that is so sacred that it is never pronounced in Hebrew. The word used then and now is 'LORD'.

To remind us that Lent is a time when we are tested out **the gospel reading** of the First Sunday of Lent is always about the testing of Jesus. But our fasting or whatever the extra little offering we make to the Lord during Lent may be, we enter into solidarity with the hardship undergone by Jesus in his Passion. Of course Lent is not a matter of testing out how far we can push ourselves (a sort of macho self-torture). Rather it is a period of preparation for the Passion and Resurrection, like the forty years of Israel in the desert, preparing for the Promised Land, or the prophet Elijah's forty-day preparation, or the forty days during which Christ prepared the apostles between Easter and the Ascension. The point of Jesus' forty-day fast is to give some force to the devil's first taunt. To each of the devil's taunts Jesus replies with a word of scripture: if you rely on God's word you are unshakably safe, for God has created and arranged everything. Matthew and Luke have a different order for second and third temptations: Matthew climaxes with Jesus as the Second Moses, like Moses seeing all the territories from a high mountain. Luke ends the scene as he begins and ends his gospel, at Jerusalem, the turning-point of the gospel.

Visit of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima with the Relics of St Jacinta and St Francisco.

The visit will be happening here at St Aidan's on the 5th and 6th of April 2025.
Details to follow.



The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was blessed by the Bishop of Fatima at the closing of the Jubilee Year on 13 May 1968. It was crowned at Walsingham, the National Shrine of Our Lady on 13 May 1971, with a crown specially blessed by Pope St. Paul VI for the occasion. When Pope John Paul II came to England in 1982, he blessed the National Pilgrim Virgin statue while at the Apostolic Nunciature in Wimbledon. The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and Relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco travelled around the country, visiting various Cathedrals and churches in 2017, the Centenary year of the Fatima apparition. This year 2025, is the Jubilee Year and is also the Centenary of the Pontevedra apparition of the Blessed Virgin to Sr. Lucia on 10th December 1925, requesting the Five First Saturday Devotion of Reparation.

Also at St George's Cathedral on the 17th - 18th May 2025 with Archbishop John Wilson.

THE NOTICE BELOW IS REPRINTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANYONE WHO WAS NOT AT MASS LAST WEEKEND.

The season of Lent is a time to renew our Christian faith, - the faith in which we are baptised. In Lent we are called to unite ourselves more closely to Christ in his passion and death through acts of penance, in order to share more fully in the joy of his Resurrection at Easter. In Christian spirituality 'penance' comprises of

PRAYER FASTING ALMSGIVING.

PRAYER - You could try to go to a Mass on a weekday during Lent.

There will be Stations of the Cross on Sundays of Lent at 4.00pm.

FASTING & ABSTINENCE - This can mean eating less at certain times or on particular days. (Care should be taken not to damage your health, especially if sick or elderly.) It can mean refraining from a particular thing that you like such as sweets, biscuits, tea or coffee. It need not be restricted to food, it can be less TV, cigarettes or alcohol. There are days throughout the year when Catholics are still required to abstain from meat, these are: every Friday and Ash Wednesday.

ALMS-GIVING - You may have a favourite charity to which you would like to make a special Lenten donation. Our CAFOD Fast Day will be on the second Friday of Lent. 'Giving' can also be interpreted in a wider sense: e.g. the giving of some of our time to others; time to listen to members of our family or a lonely neighbour.

Guidelines on what we might do as a Lenten penance:

Below are some ways in which the obligation of Penance may be fulfilled :

- By abstaining from some form of food like sweets, deserts, etc. Clearly no point in substituting with luxurious alternatives !
- By abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of entertainment.
- By making the special effort involved in family prayer, attending a weekday Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross.
- By fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps by giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad:
- By making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or Lonely or in any kind of need.

The purpose of 'penance' is to enable us to grow in our love of God and one another and thereby grow in our own humanity. It is not intended to make us miserable but rather enable us to enter more fully into the joy of our risen Lord at Easter

Daily Lenten Prayers for Eucharistic Adoration.

The Southwark Spirituality Commission is producing daily prayer videos to help you pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Watch the videos on the diocese's YouTube channel:
[youtube.com/@RCSouthwark1](https://www.youtube.com/@RCSouthwark1).

Today's readings:

First reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses spoke to the people: 'The priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. And you shall make response before the LORD your God, "A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labour. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me." And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91(90):1-2. 10-11. 12-13. 14-15. R cf 15b

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
and abides in the shade of the Almighty,
says to the LORD, 'My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!'

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach your tent.
For you has he commanded his angels
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread,
and trample the young lion and the serpent.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him,
protect him, for he knows my name.
When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in distress;
I will deliver him, and give him glory.

Second reading Romans 10:8-13

Brothers and Sisters: What does Scripture say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For, 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Gospel Luke 4:1-13

At that time: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were over, he was hungry.

The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone."'

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, 'To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."'

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." ' And Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."'

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.