

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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Email: coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk

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Safeguarding: Bridget Hanlon coulsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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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

Second Sunday of Lent

16th March 2025

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

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

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Sunday 11am Clare Veronica Beecheno RIP. 1st anniversary.

Monday 10am Intentions of Dolly Back *St Patrick*

Tuesday 10am PKM intention.

Wednesday 6.30pm Welfare and intentions of George and Maria Noronha *St Joseph - Solemnity*

Thursday 10am Welfare of Liz Moore

Friday 10am Oscar Cesarina Alimenti RIP **Exposition until 11am**

Vigil 6pm Madge Brown RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of parish. **11am** Thanksgiving of Zarah Tharakan **4pm** Stations of the Cross

Life breakfast after 9am Mass

Bar open after 11am Mass.

Confessions on Monday after 10.30pm Mass.
There is a Mass on Tuesday this week.

Today's second collection.

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day.

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

A typical story about where your money goes ...

Lokho lives in the Marsabit region of Kenya. When her animals died in a drought, she could not feed her family. So Lokho reached out to local expert Wakera, a CAFOD partner. Wakera shared his skills for growing food in harsh climates. He provided Lokho with seeds, tools, and shade nets to protect her plants from the Sun, while still allowing every drop of precious rain through. By selling the produce she grows, Lokho is saving for when there are no more rainy days. She's gained resilience and hope, knowing she can feed her family.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Colin Garvey, 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.

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

Help defeat the assisted suicide bill.

At the end of April, MPs will vote again on the assisted suicide bill currently before Parliament.

Next weekend (22/23 March) at all Masses, you will have an opportunity to sign a petition asking Chris Philp, MP for Croydon South, to vote against this dangerous bill. He voted in favour at the last reading.

Disabled, elderly and sick people will be at risk if assisted suicide is legalised. For more information please contact Antonia Tully on 07926 007175

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.



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.

The 200 Club winning number for March is number 70 belonging to Diane Elliott.

The winner will receive a cheque for £200. If you are interested in joining the 200 club, please contact Sarah Martin-Loat by email: staidans200club@gmail.com

Gift Aid Envelopes are ready for collection.

The new sets of Gift Aid Offertory envelopes are now available from the table at the back of church. liv

If you want to donate by standing order instead of using cash, please contact our Gift Aid coordinator Clive Fernandes coulsdongac@rcaos.org.uk

You can also make a donation using the Card Reader at the back of church (opting for GA on the first occasion and it will remember your card after that as GA donation).

If you have any questions, please contact Clive or the parish office.

If you are a Gift Aid donor, please collect your envelopes at the end of Mass today. Thank you for all your contributions.

Signing in at Mass for the school attendance certificate commences today.

Will you be requesting a priest's signature accompanying an application for a Catholic school this autumn, for entry in 2026 ? If so, please write your child's name and sign in the place indicated on the clipboard provided in the church porch. There are separate sheets for primary and secondary schools.

Please beware that all Catholic schools in our Archdiocese have adopted a new system in their admissions policies as follows.

Only those who are **weekly at Mass** will get a certificate of attendance signed by the priest. Those who are less than 'weekly' can still apply to Catholic schools and are likely to get a place unless a particular school is oversubscribed with 'weekly' applicants.

There will be no need and no point in asking the priest to sign if you are less than weekly as the schools will no longer be providing a reference form as was previously the case.

To avoid the usual disputes about what 'WEEKLY' means: it is Sundays (including Saturday evening) **every seven days** except when sick.

'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

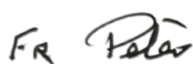
St Aidan's Social Club Committee.

I would like on behalf of the parish to thank the members of the committee for the work they have done in the past year including the events, especially the BBQ and Winter Dinner & Dance. The outgoing members are: Vince and Rose Doran, Kelly Fitzgerald, Nicki Langford.

Those who have volunteered for another year are: Jenny Lehane (Chair), Suzanne O'Sullivan (Vice Chair), Heather & Simon Archer, Erin McKillop, Dave Murray (subscriptions), Grace Misra, Laura Lakes (Bar manager).

Newly appointed to the committee are:

Wendy and Chris Winton
(Treasurer) and Jean Bell.



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.

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

WEST CROYDON REFUGEE CENTRE.

Croydon Refugee Centre are always grateful for our donations.

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

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 5th and 6th of April 2025.



Saturday, 5 April 2025

1 pm to 6 pm

1 pm- Reception of Our Lady of Fatima & Holy Rosary
1.45 pm- Docu-film on Fatima
2.30 pm- Talk on Fatima
2.35 pm- Chaplet of Divine Mercy
4 pm- Holy Hour & Confession
5 pm- Enrolment & Investiture of the Brown Scapular
5.30 pm- Veneration of the Relics of Ss Jacinta & Francisco
6 pm- Vigil Mass

Sunday, 6 April 2025

8 am to 12 noon

8am- Recitation of the Rosary
9am- Holy Mass
10am- Veneration of the Relics of Ss Jacinta & Francisco
11am- Holy Mass
12 noon- Procession of the Pilgrim Statue of Fatima & the Relics of Ss Jacinta & Francisco outside the Church

YOU'RE ALL INVITED!

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. 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.

First reading. There are different stories of exactly how God's pact with Abraham (or Abram) was made. There is no doubt that it was a promise of lasting protection for Abraham and his descendants. This version takes the form of an ancient sacral covenant, of a kind known from other ancient Near Eastern sources. The offerings are cut in half, and the parties making the pact pass between the halves, as a symbol that they will observe the pact faithfully until the two halves come together again. Such covenants were frequent between equals, or between overlord and vassal, but no such covenant is known between a deity and a human being. It perhaps marks the inequality that only the awesome symbols of God here pass between the halves of the offering: Abraham cannot impose conditions on God! Nor can Abraham do anything to earn or justify this promise: he can only trust in God, for he himself remains a nomad without a settled territory to call his own. Only his descendants will inherit the land and become as the stars of heaven. The awesome mystery of the scene is increased by the deep sleep (the same sleep as fell on Adam for the creation of Eve) and by Abram's terror.

Gospel. Luke stresses that Jesus went up the mountain to pray. He frequently stresses Jesus' constant need for prayer, and many of Luke's parables are about prayer (the Importunate Widow and the Unjust Judge, the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector). Luke also details that Jesus, Moses and Elijah were conversing about his journey up to Jerusalem, a journey which is the theme of the latter half of Luke's gospel.

Today's readings:

First reading Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Ps 27(26):1. 7-8b. 8c-9c. 13-14. R1a

The LORD is my light and my salvation.
The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer me.
Of you my heart has spoken,
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD; be strong;
be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!

Second reading Philippians 3:20-4:1

Brothers and Sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Gospel Luke 9:28b-36

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.