

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr Peter Mansfield,

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Parish banking details:

Name of acc: RCAS Coulsdon.

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

Year C

Third Sunday of Lent

23rd March 2025

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

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

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Sunday 11am Thanksgiving of Zarah Tharakan **4pm** Stations of the Cross

Monday NO MASS HERE.

Tuesday 10am

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Wednesday 6.30pm PKM intention

Thursday 10am Welfare of Agnes McManus **Confessions after Mass.**

Friday 10am Charles Spiteri RIP **Exposition until 11am**

Vigil 6pm Maire Harrison RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Eric and Donald Dourado RIP

11am Samara Tharakan - Thanksgiving. **4pm** Stations of the Cross with Exposition.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Confessions.
Thursday 10.30am.

Tuesday 25th March - The Annunciation. This is a central event in Christianity, recounted in the Gospel of Luke, where the angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will conceive and bear a son, Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, marking the beginning of the incarnation.

Mgr Richard Madders MBE, retired naval chaplain, will celebrate the 10am Mass. There is no Mass here on Monday.

Next weekend 2nd collection. Poor Parishes of our diocese.

This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

Unfortunately the date on the GA envelopes are incorrect. Those who gave them already there is no problem as we have taken put them aside and they will be added next weekend.

The funeral Mass for Mary Crehan RIP will take place on Friday 4th April at 10am here at St Aidan's, on Friday 4th April 10am. Afterwards to St Margaret's Cemetery Chipstead.

**Taskforce is taking place next Saturday
10am - 12 noon, 29 April.**

Please come and do some jobs around the church and grounds. Many thanks.

Help defeat the assisted suicide bill.

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

This 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

Afternoon Tea Friday 4th April at 4pm

In the church Hall for a donation of £5.00. Please note the change of time as the clocks will have gone forward and we return to summer time. If you would like to book a place please speak to Brenda Eydman after the 9am Mass or telephone 01737 552610

Join Br Oliver's gardening team at St. Aidan's

Are you passionate about plants and want to make a difference in our parish? Regardless if you're a novice or a seasoned gardener, your help is very much needed and welcomed. The team will also help maintain our existing memorial garden! We will look at creating "Our Lady's Garden". Please speak to Br. Oliver to sign up or email him on abasolo35@gmail.com for more information. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make our parish greener and more beautiful!

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.

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.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Fr John O'Toole, 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, 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.

**Holy Hour for Human Life Sunday 30 March
4pm. with Stations of the Cross.**

There will be a national Pastoral Letter from the Bishops coming soon concerning the assisted suicide bill in parliament. The Bishops have requested a Holy Hour in every parish to pray that human life might be respected. In our parish it will be an extended Stations of the Cross with Exposition at 4pm on Sunday 30th March

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.

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

Dear sisters and brothers,

Today you will be given a copy of a consultation paper regarding the location of the Blessed Sacrament in our church. I have already presented it to the Pastoral Parish Council and had an initial discussion.

Please take time at home to read, reflect and pray about it. There will be opportunities to discuss it over the next couple of months, formally and informally. I also encourage you to make your own opportunities.

I would ask that everyone engage with the consultation. Being involved does not mean agreeing with the proposal or agreeing with one another. It means seriously thinking and praying about it and listening with respect and understanding to views and experiences that might be different to yours.

The discussion will inevitably include issues such as parish tradition, financing, architecture, aesthetics as well as theological and liturgical considerations. I would want to say that while these aspects are all very important they are not at the heart of my thinking. My attention with regard to the issue is cantered on:

“ ... how we focus on the reserved Blessed Sacrament in our church which as Catholics we believe is the presence of the glorified and risen Lord Jesus who is alive and always present sacramentally even when Mass and the sacraments are not happening.”

I ask that this be your primary consideration also. I am not against the idea of tabernacles being in a place other than the centre of the sanctuary. There are many variations around, some work well others do not. Working well means that they achieve the purpose that the Church intended, namely, that devotional prayer and adoration of Our Lord in the Eucharist is highlighted and that His presence is given the greatest possible honour. I have given some reasons as to why I think that this is not achieved in tSt Aidan's. If we change the location there is only one choice as the design of our church does not offer other compromise option.

Today you will see on the sanctuary a mock-up of the proposed arrangement. It will stay for two weekends. Although a replica of our tabernacle has been put in place, there is no guarantee, without expert advice, that it can be used. The black front in the real tabernacle is just an exterior façade. Most of the tabernacle is a metal box like a wall safe. It could not be made visible without a modification of a veneer added on all its sides matching the front. If that proved impossible we would need to look at another tabernacle.

Please feel free to ask me any questions.

Yours in the Lord,



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.

There are boxes for those who put envelopes in the basket. There are pink envelopes for those who pay by Standing order but need envelopes for second collections.

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.

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 Sat 5th and Sun 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 in the grounds.

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.

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. Cash £486, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £197

Total income: £1,274 of which £719 was gift-aided.

2nd Collection: CAFOD £819 **Thank you.**

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

JUBILEE HOLY YEAR.

Saturday 7th June Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at Aylesford Friary. This is the centerpiece event of the Year of Jubilee 2025 in the Archdiocese of Southwark. Led by Archbishop John Wilson, we will gather as an Archdiocese at The Friars, Aylesford, for a day of prayer, Mass, reflection, celebration, and fun. There will be lots of activities for children and adults. The event is free except for the coach.

Next weekend Parish Council members will be taking names for the parish coach from those who wish to register an interest. Confirmation of places will be required later when we have the full schedule. The coach will leave here around 9am and depart Aylesford around 4.30pm.

A brief summary of the story of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal.

The story of Fatima centres on six apparitions of the Virgin Mary to three shepherd children near the village of Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, during which she revealed messages of prayer, penance, and peace, culminating in the "Miracle of the Sun".

Key Events and Details:

The Apparitions:

From May to October 1917, the Virgin Mary, whom the children called the "Lady of the Rosary," appeared to Lucia dos Santos (age 10), and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto (ages 9 and 7) on the 13th day of each month.

The Messages:

The Virgin Mary delivered messages to the children, emphasizing the importance of prayer, penance, and reparation for sins, and she revealed a "secret" (later revealed to be three parts).

The Miracle of the Sun:

On October 13, 1917, the final apparition took place, and a crowd of 70,000 gathered to witness the promised miracle. Witnesses reported a dramatic solar phenomenon, with the sun appearing to spin and change colors, an event known as the "Miracle of the Sun".

The Children:

Lucia dos Santos lived to a ripe old age and became a nun. Francisco and Jacinta Marto died young, during the Spanish flu epidemic, as Mary had predicted. They were all beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 13, 2000, and canonized by Pope Francis on 13 May 2017.

The Catholic Church's Recognition:

The Roman Catholic Church officially recognized the Fatima events as "worthy of belief" in 1930.

The Sanctuary:

A small chapel was built at the exact site of the apparition, and a statue of the Virgin Mary was installed.

The Message of Fatima:

The message of Fatima is often summarized as an invitation to prayer, penance, and reparation for sins, with a focus on the importance of the Rosary and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Three Secrets of Fatima:

The first secret was a vision of hell and the suffering of sinners.

The second secret was a prediction of the end of the Great War and the beginning of another.

The third secret, which was kept hidden for many years, is a vision of the death of a Pope. Later identified as the assassination attempt on the life of Pope St John-Paul II.

Pontevedra apparition of the Blessed Virgin to Sr. Lucia on 10th December 1925, requesting the Five First Saturday Devotion of Reparation.

Today's readings:

First reading Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you." ' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R8a

The LORD is compassionate and gracious.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

The LORD does deeds of justice,
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
and his deeds to the children of Israel.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '