

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

Support 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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

30th March 2025

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

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

Sunday 9am Eric and Donald Dourado RIP

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

Monday 10am People of the parish

Wednesday 6.30pm Necie McNamara RIP.

Thursday 10am Laura D'Souza RIP

Confessions after Mass.

Friday 10am **Funeral Mass for Mary Crehan RIP**

Vigil 6pm Dr Peter Rodrigues RIP

Confessions after Mass.

Sunday 9am Marie Sullivan RIP

11am Thanksgiving of Erin and Ashley McKillop

4pm Stations of the Cross.

**Life breakfast
after 9am
Mass.**

**Bar open
after 11am
Mass.**

A VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR PARISH MUMS !

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 them aside and they will be added next weekend.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the work and expenses of the Apostolate of the Fatima pilgrim statue that will be visiting us.

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, 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, Fr Simplicio D'Souza, Fr John O'Toole,

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

Help defeat the

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill.

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

Thank you to those who signed the petition to Chris Philp MP last weekend.

Archbishop John has written another pastoral letter to us on the subject of the Assisted Dying Bill which will have its next reading in the Commons around the end of April. A copy of the letter is attached to this newsletter. We will hear highlights from it at Mass this weekend.

Stations of the Cross this Sunday at 4pm will be extended to a Holy Hour for the intention that the bill may not succeed.

Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers.

This weekend our altar servers who have served continuously for at least a year will be enrolled in the Guild and receive the medal to be worn when serving.

Many of our servers receiving the medal have served for much more than one year. Two girls have been serving for eight years including at their previous parish. They have already received their medals but they will get a certificate today at 11am Mass which is awarded to those who have served at least for five years.

Fire Wardens for Masses.

Thank you to those who volunteered to be fire wardens. In the near future you will be contacted by the Premises Team to arrange training.

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!

TABERNACLE update.

The mock-up has been very useful in terms of judging size and space. Having investigated the feasibility of modifying the current tabernacle it would not be a satisfactory job. i.e. fixing black panels around it. If the decision is to go ahead with the proposal it will be best to leave the current one in situ and get another for the sanctuary.

Tabernacles become available when churches and chapels close. There is one available at present. We should have a photo by the next newsletter.

Thank you to those who already made donation pledges, no money will be accepted until after a decision is made by the parish.

FR 

Have you seen Dave ?

If you are a member of our Social Club or you wish to join, Dave Murray would like to see you. Why? It is time for the annual subscriptions - £5 - to be collected. If you drink regularly in our bar you should be a paid up member. Dave will be there after 11am Mass collecting the subs. Children are free.

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.

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



Also streamed on our *YouTube* channel: St Aidans Coulsdon

YOU'RE ALL INVITED!

The visit will be happening here at St Aidan's on Sat 5th and Sun 6th of April 2025.

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.

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
- 3.35 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.

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

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.

Free catechetical online 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 Franciscan University until Tuesday 30 September. 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 aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan

Gospel commentary by Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.

See back page for today's readings

Today's gospel reading gives us a particularly attractive Lukan story of forgiveness. The story of the Prodigal Son is told with all Luke's love, artistry and delicacy of character-study. The wastrel son goes back home not because he is repentant, but simply because he is hungry. The loving father is perpetually on the look-out, despite the fact that the boy has written his father off with his implied 'I don't care whether you are alive or dead, I want my money'. He runs to meet the son, interrupting the carefully-prepared speech and pampering the returned wastrel. A chicken would have made a good party, or perhaps a lamb; but a fattened calf will feed the whole village! When the father loves the elder son enough to leave his guests at the party and go out into the field, the disgruntled stay-at-home invents slanders about the other's 'loose women' and is gently corrected by his father's 'your brother'.

Luke's characters are always a bit like ourselves, good and bad at the same time. As here, they often reflect on their situation, 'What shall I do now?' (Build new barns to fit my harvest – ingratiate myself with my master's debtors – compose a pretty speech to soothe dad's anger)

An unforgettable picture of the overflowing love and forgiveness of God.

JUBILEE HOLY YEAR. Coach is around £25 per adult, children and teens go free, paid by parish. 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.

This 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.

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 £521, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £297

Total income: £1,409 of which £863 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

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 • Shampoo

Pastoral Letter on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Following my pastoral message in March 2024, I wish to speak to you again about the process by which Parliament is currently considering legalising assisted suicide through the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*. As I made clear previously, concerning this grave matter, as Catholics we maintain a principled objection to this change in law, because we recognise that every human life is sacred: a gift of God, bearing a God-given dignity. We are, therefore, clearly opposed to this Bill in principle, elevating, as it does, the autonomy of the individual above all other considerations.

The passage of the Bill through Parliament, as originally proposed, would lead to a vote in late April on whether it progresses further. This will be a crucial moment and I, together with all the Bishops of England and Wales, am writing to ask your support in urging your MP to vote against this Bill at that time.

There are serious reasons for doing so. At this point we wish not simply to restate our objections in principle, but to emphasise the deeply flawed process undergone in Parliament thus far. We wish to remind you that it is a fundamental duty of every MP to ensure that legislation is not imposed on our society which has not been properly scrutinised and which will bring about damaging consequences.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will fundamentally change many of the key relationships in our way of life: within the family, between doctor and patient, within the health service. Yet there has been no Royal Commission or independent inquiry ahead of its presentation. It is a Private Member's Bill. The Bill itself is long and complex and was published just days before MPs voted on it, giving them inadequate time to consult or reflect upon it. The time for debate was minimal. The Committee examining the Bill took only three days of evidence: not all voices were heard, and it comprises an undue number of supporters of the Bill. In short, this is no way to legislate on such an important and morally complex issue.

One consequence of this flawed process is that many vital questions remain unanswered. Can MPs guarantee that the scope of the Bill will not be extended? In almost every country where assisted suicide has been introduced the current scope is wider than was originally intended. What role, if any, will the judiciary have in the process? We were told that judicial oversight was a necessary and vital part of the process; now we are told it isn't needed at all. What will protect the vulnerable from coercion, or from feeling a burden on family? Can the National Health Service cope with assisted suicide or will it, as the Health Secretary has warned, cause cuts elsewhere in the NHS? Can MPs guarantee that no medical practitioner or care worker would be compelled to take part in assisted suicide? Would this mean the establishment of a 'national death service'?

In contrast to the provisions of this Bill, what is needed is first-class, compassionate palliative care at the end of our lives. This is already provided to many in our society but, tragically, is in short supply and underfunded. No-one should be dispatched as a burden to others. Instead, a good society would prioritise care for the elderly, the vulnerable, and the weak. The lives of our families are richer for cherishing their presence.

It is sad reflection on Parliament's priorities that the House of Commons spent far more time debating the ban on fox hunting than it is spending debating bringing in assisted suicide.

I am sure that you will share these concerns. Despite recent events, this measure is still being rushed without proper scrutiny and without fundamental questions surrounding safeguards being answered. This is a deeply flawed Bill with untold unintended consequences.

Every MP, and Government, has a solemn duty to prevent such legislation reaching the statute book. This, tragically, is what may happen. So, I appeal to you: even if you have written before, please make contact now with your MP and ask them to vote against this Bill not only on grounds of principle but because of the failure of Parliament to approach this issue in an adequate and responsible manner.

In his Letter to the Philippians, from which we heard in the Second Reading, St Paul reflects on the difficulties and responsibilities of life. He speaks of 'pressing on' and 'striving' for the fulness of life promised in Christ Jesus. Yet he is totally confident in his struggles because, as he says, 'Christ Jesus has made me his own'.

We too have many struggles. We too know that Christ Jesus has made us his own. So, we too press on with this struggle, so important in our times.

With an assurance of my continued prayers and blessing.

Yours devotedly in Christ ,

+John Wilson Archbishop of Southwark

Lent 2025

Today's readings:

First reading Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

In those days: The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R cf. 18b

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,
and rescued him from all his distress.

Second reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Brothers and Sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

'But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."'

'And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!" And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."'