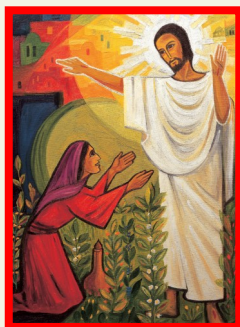


NEWSLETTER

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: staidanspremisteam@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

Easter Sunday

20th April 2025

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

SAT VIGIL 8.30pm Easter Vigil Mass. People of the parish (NO 6pm Mass)

Easter morning 6.00am Sunrise Easter Service. Coulsdon Christians gather on Farthing Downs

EASTER SUNDAY 9am Mary Moss RIP **11am** Eddie Aldridge RIP

Monday 10am Canon Gary Pierce RIP

Tuesday No Mass here

Wednesday 6.30pm Welfare of Maria Comway

Thursday 10am Funeral Mass Jose Carlos Cabreiro Fernande RIP

Friday 10am Fr. Tim Buckley RIP **Exposition until 11am.**

Vigil 6pm Christine & Pat White RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of the parish **11am** Intention of Kunju Mary Thomas

NO Life breakfast today.
Bar open after 11am Mass.



To the left is the altar of repose where between Mass and midnight on Holy Thursday we watched and prayed with Jesus. Spring flowers are from the parish house garden.

Easter garden on the right. A big thank you to Bernadette Hallett who after many years has handed over the garden to Kivia Da Silva. Thank you to her for taking it on.



Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Marina Dormer, 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.

Parish Easter Egg Hunt.

An Invitation from some parish families to all parish families.

Join Us for an Easter Egg Hunt!

Hop on over after the 10am Mass on Easter Monday for a fun-filled **Easter Egg Hunt** in the Parish Hall and grounds at the back.

Bring your children and a few chocolate Easter eggs to share for the hunt.

Please note that to comply with safeguarding requirements children must be accompanied by a parent or another adult designated by their parent.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Divine Mercy Devotion.

In October 1937, in Cracow (Poland), Lord Jesus instructed Sister Faustina to venerate the hour of His death and to connect with Him in prayer referring to the value and merits of His Passion.

“At three o’clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion...” (Diary, 1320)

3 O'clock Prayer

You expired, O Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and the whole world. Jesus, King of Mercy, we trust in You!” (*Repeat 3 times*)

Jesus, I trust in you! Amen.

19 - 26 April - Recite the 3 O'clock Prayer.

Divine Mercy Sunday, 27 April - Chaplet of Divine Mercy after 9am Mass

Next Sunday 27th April at 11am Mass, Rose Page and her children Stanley, Albert and Iris will be baptised and receive the sacraments of initiation.

2nd collection next weekend.**Cathedral Maintenance**

St George’s Cathedral, Southwark, is the mother church of the Diocese. This collection helps to meet the cost of the upkeep of our Cathedral.

Easter Offerings.

The collection at the Easter Masses is the main source of personal income for priests. This is the system adopted in Catholic parishes throughout England. Catholic priests do not receive a salary in the way that ministers of other denominations do. They are therefore dependent on the Christmas & Easter offerings for personal income.

At the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday morning Masses the offertory basket collection, the card reader, ‘Just giving’ and BACS are designated as ‘Easter offerings’.

Parishioners’ responsibility is to the priest of their own parish, not the parish they may be visiting at Easter. If you are going away you may wish to put your contribution in an envelope and post it through the Parish House letterbox or leave it in the sacristy marked ‘Easter offering’. Any cheques should be made payable to the parish bank account ‘RCAS Coulsdon’ for banking purposes. If you are in the Gift Aid scheme, please use the relevant envelope. The parish benefits from the GA not the priest.

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD’s Myanmar Earthquake Appeal. You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10. Anything given at church marked MYANMAR will be forwarded to CAFOD.

Afternoon Tea Friday 2nd May at 4o'clock in the church hall for a donation of £5.00
If you would like to book a place, please speak to Brenda Eydman after 9 o'clock Mass or ring 01737 552610

Easter Vigil Homily 2022 - Pope Francis.

On this night, brothers and sisters, let us allow the women of the Gospel to lead us by the hand, so that, with them, we may glimpse the first rays of the dawn of God's life rising in the darkness of our world. As the shadows of night were dispelled before the quiet coming of the light, the women set out for the tomb, to anoint the body of Jesus. There they had a disconcerting experience. First, they discovered that the tomb was empty; then they saw two figures in dazzling garments who told them that Jesus was risen. Immediately they ran back to proclaim the news to the other disciples (cf. *Lk* 24:1-10). *They saw, they heard, they proclaimed.* With these three verbs, may we too enter into the passover of the Lord from death to life.

The women saw. The first proclamation of the resurrection was not a statement to be unpacked, but a sign to be contemplated. In a burial ground, near a grave, in a place where everything should be orderly and peaceful, the women "found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body" (vv. 2-3). Easter begins by upsetting our expectations. It comes with the gift of a hope that surprises and amazes us. Yet it is not easy to welcome that gift. At times – we must admit – this hope does not find a place in our hearts. Like the women in the Gospel, we are overtaken by questions and doubts, and our first reaction before the unexpected sign is one of fear: "They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground" (v. 5).

All too often we look at life and reality with downcast eyes; we fix our gaze only on this passing day, disenchanted by the future, concerned only with ourselves and our needs, settled into the prison of our apathy, even as we keep complaining that things will never change. In this way, we halt before the tomb of resignation and fatalism; we bury the joy of living. Yet tonight the Lord wants to give us different eyes, alive with hope that fear, pain and death will not have the last word over us. Thanks to Jesus' paschal mystery, we can make the leap from nothingness to life. "Death will no longer be able to rob our life" (K. RAHNER), for that life is now completely and eternally embraced by the boundless love of God. True, death can fill us with dread; it can paralyze us. But the Lord is risen! Let us lift up our gaze, remove the veil of sadness and sorrow from our eyes, and open our hearts to the hope that God brings!

In the second place, *the women heard.* After they had seen the empty tomb, the two men in dazzling garments said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen" (vv. 5-6). We do well to listen to those words and to repeat them: *He is not here!* Whenever we think we have understood everything there is to know about God, and can pigeonhole him in our own ideas and categories, let us repeat to ourselves: He is not here! Whenever we seek him only in times of trouble and moments of need, only to set him aside and forget about him in the rest of our daily life and decisions, let us repeat: He is not here! And whenever we think we can imprison him in our words and our customary ways of thinking and acting, and neglect to seek him in the darkest corners of life, where people weep, struggle, suffer and hope, let us repeat: He is not here!

May we too hear the question asked of the women: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" We cannot celebrate

Easter if we continue to be dead; if we remain prisoners of the past; if in our lives we lack the courage to let ourselves be forgiven by God who forgives everything; if we fail to change, to break with the works of evil, to decide for Jesus and his love. If we continue to reduce faith to a talisman, making God a lovely memory from times past, instead of encountering him today as the living God who desires to change us and to change our world. A Christianity that seeks the Lord among the ruins of the past and encloses him in the tomb of habit is a *Christianity without Easter*. Yet the Lord is risen! Let us not tarry among the tombs, but run to find him, the Living One! Nor may we be afraid to seek him also in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the stories of those who hope and dream, in the pain of those who we suffer: God is there!

Finally, *the women proclaimed.* What did they proclaim? The joy of the resurrection. Easter did not occur simply to console those who mourned the death of Jesus, but to open hearts to the extraordinary message of God's triumph over evil and death. The light of the resurrection was not meant to let the women bask in a transport of joy, but to generate missionary disciples who "return from the tomb" (v. 9) in order to bring to all the Gospel of the risen Christ. That is why, after seeing and hearing, the women ran to proclaim to the disciples the joy of the resurrection. They knew that the others might think they were mad; indeed, the Gospel says that the women's words "seemed to them an idle tale" (v. 11). Yet those women were not concerned for their reputation, for preserving their image; they did not contain their emotions or measure their words. Their hearts were enflamed only with the desire to convey the news, the proclamation: "The Lord is risen!"

How beautiful is a Church that can run this way through the streets of our world! Without fear, without schemes and stratagems, but solely with the desire to lead everyone to the joy of the Gospel. That is what we are called to do: to experience the risen Christ and to share the experience with others; to roll away the stone from the tomb where we may have enclosed the Lord, in order to spread his joy in the world. Let us make Jesus, the Living One, rise again from all those tombs in which we have sealed him. Let us set him free from the narrow cells in which we have so often imprisoned him. Let us awaken from our peaceful slumber and let him disturb and inconvenience us. Let us bring him into our everyday lives: through gestures of peace in these days marked by the horrors of war, through acts of reconciliation amid broken relationships, acts of compassion towards those in need, acts of justice amid situations of inequality and of truth in the midst of lies. And above all, through works of love and fraternity.

Brothers and sisters our hope has a name: the name of Jesus. He entered the tomb of our sin; he descended to those depths where we feel most lost; he wove his way through the tangles of our fears, bore the weight of our burdens and from the dark abyss of death restored us to life and turned our mourning into joy. Let us celebrate Easter with Christ! He is alive! Today, too, he walks in our midst, changes us and sets us free. Thanks to him, evil has been robbed of its power; failure can no longer hold us back from starting anew; and death has become a passage to the stirrings of new life. For with Jesus, the Risen Lord, no night will last forever; and even in the darkest night, in that darkness, the morning star continues to shine. Christ is risen!

PRECEPT. "You shall confess your sins at least once a year" This ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation (confession), which continues Baptism's work of conversion and

PRECEPT. “You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.” This guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the feast of Easter, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy. (Easter season is between Easter Sunday and Trinity Sunday - 15th June.)

First reading Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Responsorial Psalm 118(117):

Give praise to the LORD, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.
Let the house of Israel say,
‘His mercy endures for ever.’

The LORD's right hand is exalted.
The LORD's right hand has done mighty deeds.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Second reading Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel **John 20:1-9**

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going towards the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on the head of Jesus, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

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,

PURLEY FOOD HUB are always very grateful for our donations. Please leave food items in church porch.
Preferences for this month: Tin Openers - we have given out our last one, tinned meat meals (other than hot dogs & meatballs), tinned carrots, cartons of long life full fat milk, tinned sweetcorn, jars of peanut butter and meat & fish paste, tins of dessert fruit, tins of rice pudding, small bottles of shampoo, bars of soap, sanitary pads, laundry washing capsules