

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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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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

25th May 2025

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Intentions of Maurice & Helen Symss **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Life breakfast today.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

Sunday 11am Angole family intentions. **4pm Rosary & Benediction for May**

Monday 10am Francis and Beatrice Burgess

St Philip Neri

Tuesday No Mass here

St Augustine of Canterbury

Wednesday. Ascension Vigil Mass 7.30pm Martin Leonard RIP

Thursday 10am People of the parish

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Friday 10am People of the parish

Exposition until 11am.

Saturday 12.30pm THE VISITATION of Our Lady.

Vigil 6pm Mary Crehan RIP

Confessions after Mass.

Sunday 9am Colin Hadley RIP

11am Maria and Juliette Angole (Twins 18th Birthday)

This weekend's second collection. Our Lourdes group led by Bridget Hanlon will again be taking a group of special needs adults to Lourdes at the end of July. Each year we do some fund raising in the parish and try to pay for at least one special needs person. This year the cost per person is £1,200, - this is a big increase due to rising costs of everything.

TABERNACLE CONSULTATION

see page 3. To read the responses for and against the proposal please visit the parish website <https://st-aidans-parish.org.uk/> scroll down to the latest news and read the Tabernacle parish consultation item or follow this link [click here](#). Hard copies available by request to Fr Peter .

Please pray for the sick and housebound. Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown, Angela Lambert, Claire Longworth, Marina Dormer, 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, Margaret Long, Coral Hind, Freda Blade, Christi Cox, David Morling and all who are sick.

Taskforce will be on Saturday 31st May 10am - 12pm.

We have a skip to fill and many hands make light work. Also please come with your hedge cutters. We have one here but it needs an operator!

Safeguarding Sunday 2025. Today is Safeguarding Sunday and Archbishop John has issued a pastoral letter. In his letter, Archbishop John said "Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. Each of us — clergy, volunteers, parents, parishioners — is called to remain vigilant, informed, and committed to the well-being of every member of our community". You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday, including accessing the full pastoral letter, at

rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday25

See page 5&6 of this newsletter.

Summertime 2025: 6th – 9th August: Altar Servers Trip to Westminster Pastoral Centre, £189. For aged 11-15. (NB not restricted to altar servers.)

We commend this excellent residential trip for altar servers and those who regularly attend mass on the weekend. It is an event that has now gone on for more than 20 years, it is a few days for deepening one's catholic faith, in a great social atmosphere, including football, sports and visit to Thorpe Park. For more details of how to get to the venue, with a coach laid on at St. Anselm's Dartford, see your parish priest for a form, or contact Fr. Stephen Boyle, chaplain to the Guild of St Stephen, Dartford@rcaos.org.uk, Tel:01322 220075.

Jubilee Year diocesan Pilgrimage to Aylesford. Saturday 7th of June. Now that a programme for the day is available we can say that our coach will leave St Aidan's at 10am and depart from Aylesford at 5pm. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop John and concelebrated by the priests of the diocese in the afternoon at 3pm. There are a few places left should anyone want them, - see or email Fr Peter.

Please bring your own lunch or a picnic. While there are eating places at Aylesford they will be oversubscribed on the day.

Aylesford is a Kent village. Outside it the Carmelite Friars have a shrine to Our Lady where people gather every day for prayer, Mass, devotions and relaxation. Please see their website for more information: thefriars.org.uk

Ascension Thursday.

At St. Aidan's there will be a Vigil Mass at 7.30pm on Wednesday and 10am on the feast of the Ascension is celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday, Thursday of this week. It is a Holy Day of obligation when Catholics are required to attend Mass.

Having risen from the dead, Jesus had shown himself on many occasions to the disciples. The Ascension celebrates the return of Jesus to his Father in heaven having completed the work of our redemption. By ascending in his human body he shows that his humanity is eternally united with his divinity. After the Ascension the disciples no longer saw Jesus in bodily form, but they remembered his promise: you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses (Acts 1:8). They went back to the upper room accompanied by Mary the mother of Jesus. There they spent the following days in prayer waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. The period between Ascension and Pentecost is a special period of prayer for us who are disciples of Christ today.

**2nd collection next weekend:
Church Communications Day.**

This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN) the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CCN seeks to be of service both to the Church and the world in offering professional channels of communication and provides support for the Bishops of England and Wales and the wider Church in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues. Its office is the focus for media enquiries on National matters and seeks to develop the public profile of the Church and its teaching. The CCN provides up to date news releases, features and podcasts, information from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and trains spokesmen and women.

Afternoon Tea Friday 6th June

In the church hall at 4pm for a donation of £5. To book a place please speak to Brenda Eydman after the 9am Mass or telephone 01737 5523610

**Last weekend's Priest Training Fund £559
Thank you.** Other figures not available.

Kivia Da Silva and Alali Dorencamp (adults) will be Confirmed next Sunday at 11am Mass.

We pray for them as they prepare for this great sacrament of mission.

Tabernacle consultation.

All responses have now been read and divided into Yes and No batches. 232 people participated. Thank you to everyone, it was a excellent response.

186 people said YES to the proposal and 46 people said NO. That is 80% - 20%.

The Parish Council will meet on 16th June to discuss the next steps.

It would be helpful at this stage to estimate a figure on pledges for the tabernacle. If you wish to donate please email me with a figure, even if you already mentioned it, write **pledge** in the subject box. Otherwise give me a note. Your name will only be ever known to me. Please do not give money at this stage.

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**Understandably, questions about money came up in recent conversations and in the responses, so I will address them.**

**Q1. Is the parish element of the money affordable at c £5,000 ?**

**A.** The parish funds have to be able to cover the big items that will be needed at a future time, such as a boiler, painting the church and the 'unforeseeable'. That money remains protected but there is money in addition to that. So, yes it is affordable.

**Q2. What about the deficit in our last financial report ?**

**A.** A deficit means that in a given financial year the expenditure exceeded the income. It is not a debt but it takes from reserve money which is undesirable.

**Q3 It is worth the money ?**

**A.** Understandably, if we don't see the point of something we will believe that not a penny should be spent on it, that is logical and makes sense.

For those who do want to spend around £5,000 of their parish funds, it is not out of proportion compared to the other expenses that the parish incurs. To give a sense of perspective: Canopy for parish cooker £2,200, new photocopier £2,500, new windows for back of hall £3,500; repair and paint of soffits and fascia boards of

hall c £5,000 (this summer). Water proofing and maintenance to outside of church back wall £5,500 (2024).

Saving to the parish by me doing the secretarial and admin work with the help of two volunteers c £8,500 per annum (salary for a part time parish secretary in a parish our size). Saving to parish funds by me not using the Archbishop's sanctioned amount to go to a monthly priests' support group, one day full board overnight at retreat centre, £1,000 per annum. (Actually, the reason I don't go is not because of the money but the impact it would have with regard to cancelling a weekday Mass each month for the regular parishioners). I don't take a post Easter break, mainly because of the cost to the parish of a supply priest, one full week is £450, if a priest can be found available. For my trouble I was admonished by the Archbishop for not taking time off !


**Q4. Some have asked: Cannot those who want to contribute towards the tabernacle or a statue be told to give their money to projects that help people instead ?**

**A.** Imagine someone telling you how you should spend your money and what good causes you should or should not support. What answer would you give them ? (rhetorical!). No one should judge anyone else regarding the range of good causes and charities they in conscience choose to support. Likewise, it is no one else's business if people want to have a new patio at home with money that could otherwise be given to the homeless. As for the priest telling them (as has been suggested), I would regard it as a form of clerical coercion.

In respect to parish generosity to the others, - last year we collected £11,600 for charities and church works outside of our parish. That does not include the vast number of parishioners who give by volunteering and with money to charities elsewhere. God bless your good work !

**And finally, ... if the parish runs out of money I shall play my tin whistle outside Waitrose !**

In the Lord,

FR 


**Saturday 31st May is the feast of the Visitation** when Mary with the child Jesus in her womb visited her cousin Elisabeth who was carrying John the Baptist in her womb.

**There will be Mass of the Visitation at 12.30pm (after Taskforce).**

**One of Mary's titles is 'Ark of the Covenant'.** In the Old Testament the presence of God was in the Ark of the Covenant which was the box which contained the ten commandments given to Moses. The box was in a **tent** which translated into Latin becomes 'tabernaculum'.

So, Our Lady was the first tabernacle. Jesus as a foetus lived in her womb for nine months, - in his body, blood, soul and divinity. The first one to reverence God in his humanity was John the Baptist at the Visitation while he was a foetus in Elizabeth's womb he leapt for joy at the presence of Christ in Mary's womb.

**Food for thought ... after we receive Holy Communion we too become tabernacles.**

FR 

**Gospel. commentary.     © Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.**

In these final discourses of Jesus at the Last Supper, as he sketches the outlines of his future Church, come four passages promising the coming of a Paraclete or Advocate, the Holy Spirit. 'Paraclete' and 'Advocate' mean the same: someone called to your side as a supporter, often in a legal situation. The Father will send this Paraclete, in the name and power of Jesus, so that the Paraclete will make Christ present in the Church, not physically but in a new way. The Paraclete will strengthen Jesus' disciples with Christ's own strength. The Paraclete will lead the disciples into all truth, so that they gradually come to a fuller understanding of all the implications of the teaching of Jesus. Like any legal advocate, the Paraclete will provide the followers of Jesus with power in teaching and argument to withstand opposition. This is the power which will guide the Church in ages to come, not only the official teachers of the Church, the successors of the apostles, but all the faithful who preserve and enrich the tradition of the Church by their prophetic office. The decree of Vatican II on the Church leaves no doubt that not only the call to sanctity but the prophetic office also extends to all the members of the Church, an inspiring and awesome responsibility.

**Today's readings:**

**First reading**

**Acts 15:1-2, 22-29**

In those days: Some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the Apostles and the elders about this question.

Then it seemed good to the Apostles and the elders, with the whole Church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers and sisters, with the following letter: 'The brothers, both the Apostles and the elders, to the brothers and sisters who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.'

**Responsorial Psalm     Ps 67(66):2-3. 5. 6, 8. R4**

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.*

May God be gracious and bless us  
and let his face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your salvation.

Let the nations be glad and shout for joy,  
with uprightness you rule the peoples;  
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
that all the ends of the earth may revere him.

**Second reading     Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23**

The angel carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed — on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

**Gospel     John 14:23-29**


At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

'These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I will come to you." If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.'



## SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

There are many people who may be able to help,  
IN AN EMERGENCY, CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mary-Jane Crowley<br>Head of Safeguarding<br>Safeguarding Office                                                                  | maryjanecrowley@rcaos.co.uk<br>safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk                        |
| Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency                                                                                            | admin@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk                                                     |
| Parish Safeguarding Rep.                                                                                                          |                                                                                       |
| Child Line                                                                                                                        | Telephone: 0800 1111<br>www.childline.org.uk                                          |
| Stop it Now Helpline                                                                                                              | Telephone: 0808 1000 900<br>www.stopitnow.org.uk                                      |
| Action on Elder Abuse                                                                                                             | Telephone: 0808 808 8141<br>www.elderabuse.org.uk                                     |
| Age UK                                                                                                                            | Telephone: 0800 169 6565<br>www.ageuk.org.uk                                          |
| National Domestic Violence Helpline                                                                                               | Telephone: 0808 2000 247<br>www.womensaid.org.uk                                      |
| Safe in Faith:<br><a href="https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/safe-in-faith/">https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/safe-in-faith/</a> |  |



# SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

# SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



RCAOS.ORG.UK/SAFEGUARDINGSUNDAY

"THE CHURCH, ENTRUSTED WITH PROCLAIMING THE  
GOOD NEWS, MUST BE A PLACE WHERE THE  
VULNERABLE ARE SAFE, THE WOUNDED ARE HEARD,  
AND ALL ARE WELCOMED WITH COMPASSION"

# WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding is a term that encapsulates the protection, safety & well-being of all, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities, to ensure that everyone is free from harm, abuse & neglect. It is a collective responsibility of individuals & the Church to prevent & respond to situations where people may be at risk. Within the Catholic Church, safeguarding is about creating safe environments, ensuring those that work with our children & vulnerable adults have gone through safer recruitment & to offer a compassionate response to all that have been harmed by abuse.

## WHAT IS SAFER RECRUITMENT

### AND WHY DO OUR CLERGY & VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS?

Safer recruitment is a set of practices to help make sure our Clergy, volunteers & staff are suitable to work with children & vulnerable adults. It's a vital part of creating a safe & positive environment, demonstrating our commitment to keeping everyone safe from harm. Safer Recruitment includes a suitability interview, references & a DBS check. All our volunteers are also asked to sign a code of conduct & complete safeguarding training. All volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults in the parish cannot start their role until Safer Recruitment & the DBS process has been completed. If volunteers are moving or adding an additional role, checks must be made that their current DBS covers any new role. DBS' are re-checked every three years. All our Clergy also hold a current DBS check.

## Types of ABUSE

This list is not exhaustive, abuse also includes Domestic Abuse, Spiritual Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Modern Slavery & more, please follow QR code for more details.



**Emotional/Verbal abuse**  
Non-physical behaviours such as threats, insults, screaming, constant monitoring, or isolation.



**Physical abuse**  
Any intentional use of physical touch to cause injury, fear, or assert control, such as hitting, shoving, & strangling.



**Financial abuse**  
Exerting power and control through access to finances, such as taking or withholding money from a partner, or prohibiting a partner from earning.



**Sexual abuse**  
Any sexual act that occurs without willing, active, or meaningful consent, such as unwanted touching, sexual assault (rape), & coercion.



**Stalking**  
Being repeatedly watched, followed, monitored or harassed, such as unwanted phone calls, texts, or unwanted gifts.



**Using technology**  
Digital abuse, such as online harassment, social media monitoring, digital sexual threats, GPS tracking, etc.

# DUTY TO REPORT

There is a duty to report all safeguarding concerns, allegations & disclosures to your **Parish Priest, PSR or the central safeguarding team. Clergy, PSR's & volunteers must refer all concerns raised to the safeguarding office.** Failure to do so, may lead to the abuse continuing, escalating or the complainant not reporting the matter again.

## PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

Your Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) is vital in supporting the embedding of a robust safeguarding culture within your Parish. They are an integral part of the safeguarding team & should be fully supported by your parish priest, parishioners, & the central safeguarding team. It is imperative that they are able to complete their role in a respectful environment, where the importance of their role is valued & recognised by all. If you have any concerns, please speak to them & if they ask you to complete safer recruitment, please assist them by completing the steps prior to your starting your role.

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Our Clergy complete safeguarding training every two years & our PSR's receive training quarterly & in-person training annually. Our volunteers complete the CSSA national online training package, which is available for everyone to view. Please follow link & sign up [catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)

## COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN HARMED BY ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Southwark prioritises that those harmed by abuse, their family & friends, will receive a compassionate & prompt response if they wish to raise a concern & recognises the impact of abuse on individuals & their families. All those that represent the Church, must offer a compassionate response to anyone who discloses abuse. All disclosures must be referred to the central safeguarding team, so that appropriate support, referrals & signposting can take place. If you are approached by someone who has been harmed by abuse, ensure at the outset, they are aware that you must refer the information to the SGT.

## THE CENTRAL SAFEGUARDING TEAM (SGT)

The central safeguarding team has vast expertise & support our Clergy. Volunteers & staff to embed a safe & compassionate safeguarding service, responding to all concerns, disclosures & allegations raised. Please contact the team if you have any questions about safeguarding, wish to raise a concern or report abuse or are affected by the subject matter highlighted within this leaflet. The Team's contact details are on the rear of this leaflet, along with other organisations that offer support.