

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Year C

**22nd Sunday ~ Ordinary Time
Feast day of St Aidan.**

31st August 2025

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Mohan Galot RIP. **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Thanksgiving for twins, aged 2 yrs - Chukwubiiken Lawrence
& Chukwuelozoenam Lauren Neziannya

**Life breakfast today.
Bar open after 11am Mass.**

Sunday 11am Intentions Neil Tharakan

Monday 12 noon Funeral Mass Win Jordan RIP. All are welcome

Tuesday No Mass here

Wednesday 6.30pm Intentions of the Moniz family

Thursday 10am Intentions of the Moniz family

Friday 10am Aine Kennedy RIP. **Exposition until 11am.**

Saturday Vigil 6pm 50th Wedding Anniversary Marina & Steven Dormer **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Margaret Almeida RIP. **Sunday 11am** People of the Parish

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Elizabeth Hubbard -Brown, Claire Longworth,
Marina Dormer, Jean Bleach, Truda Hobbs,
Terry Doman, Eileen Darville, Pat Kelly,
Marion McCluskey, 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.

THIS WEEKEND is the annual appeal for the Foreign Missions.

We welcome Fr Innocent Odiaka MSP - Missionaries of St Paul - who will be preaching at all Masses. The second collection will be for the MSP's work in spreading the Gospel.

The funeral Mass for Win Jordan RIP will be at 12 noon on Monday 1st September.

There will be a Catholic funeral service for Kevin Leavey RIP on Monday 29th September at 11.30am. in church. There will be a Mass at a later date.

This weekend we celebrate the feast of St Aidan, patron of our parish. The date of St Aidan's feast day is 31st August. All three parish Masses this weekend will be in honour of St Aidan.

Aidan was a native of Ireland. He became a monk and travelled to Iona in Scotland. When the Christian King Oswald returned from exile on Iona to his kingdom of Northumbria, he invited the monks of Iona to provide missionaries to instruct his people in Christianity. After initial difficulties, Aidan was consecrated bishop and sent with a group of Irish monks to begin this task. He established a monastery on the island of Lindisfarne which became the centre of a major missionary effort in the North of England.

From Lindisfarne Aidan journeyed throughout Northumberland, usually on foot, and working closely with King Oswald who found him to be a wise adviser and a good personal friend. After Oswald's death in 642, Aidan continued this work under his successor, Oswin, but when Oswin himself was killed nine years later, Aidan did not long survive him and died two weeks later in 651.

According to the Venerable Bede, a renowned church historian, Aidan was a man of great gentleness and moderation, outstanding for his energetic missionary work. His influence on the North of England was enormous, and his wise promotion of Christian education among the native English laid the solid foundation for the spread of the Gospel in the centuries which followed his death



The weekday missal with the new ESV translation for the readings will be available from the end of September. Please let Fr Peter know if you want one ordered for you. They are priced at £50.

"SVP Meeting"

"The next meeting of the parish SVP group will take place on the evening of Monday 1st September 2025 at 8:15pm in the Marian Room".

Join March for Life UK on Saturday 6* Sept in London! The right to life underpins every other right we have and without it every other right is rendered meaningless. Abortion denies the most vulnerable in our society their most basic right, the right to life, which is why this year's theme is 'Human Rights for All Humans'. Unite with thousands of others at this family-friendly event where we recognise the value of life from conception and stand up for all those who have been impacted by abortion. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk or email info@marchforlife.co.uk

Afternoon Tea Friday 5th September at 4 o'clock in the church hall for a donation of £5.00. If you would like to attend please book a place by speaking to Brenda Eydman after 9 o'clock Mass or ring 01737 552610

CAFOD: Response in Gaza

Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East.

The Gospel on Palm Sunday relates ...

And some in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." And when he drew near Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and he said, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!" Luke 19:39-42.

Dear sisters and brothers,

For some time now we have seen atrocities against humanity in Israel, Gaza & the West Bank. On 7th October 2023 we recall the horror of the mass shootings and capture of innocent Israeli citizens including the very elderly as well as children & young people. We continue to hold in prayer the hostages who are still held captive in inhumane conditions and we pray for their loved ones. We remember those who have died without mercy in captivity and those who grieve for them. There is no denying the provocation that ensues from such evil intent.

Now before the eyes of the world the lives of innocent people in Gaza including innocent Palestinian children are being tortured by the slow death of hunger, dehydration and disease brought about through man made famine. We actually see very little because independent journalists are not given access to Gaza to tell the story.

Who will cry out ? The voice of the world seems lethargic and timid. The countries which said 'never again' after World War II speak now with muffled speech, if they speak at all. Why has the EU and UK (government and other political parties) lowered their voices in condemning the extinction of the innocent especially children ? Credit is due to Ed Davey for his human effort as to make a symbolic gesture. It is difficult to see how our world will not look back in shame that we did not raise our voices on behalf of the innocent in 2025. The opposition of many to injustice and oppression has proved to be partial. The authority to speak out against other man inflicted atrocities present and future appears already compromised.

On Wednesday in St Peter's Square Pope Leo declared:
"I appeal for

- all hostages to be freed,
- a permanent ceasefire to be reached,
- the safe entry of humanitarian aid to be facilitated,
- humanitarian law to be fully respected, especially
- the obligation to protect civilians
- the prohibitions against collective punishment,
- the indiscriminate use of force,
- the forced displacement of populations."

The Pope's words have been endorsed by our Bishops in England and Wales. His message appeals to human values and international law, addressed to people of all faiths and none.

The point Jesus makes in the passage above about the stones crying out is that if God has to use stones in the absence of human voices to speak His prophetic word, they will cry out not only against the original injustice but will bear witness to the absence of human condemnation of sinful acts.

May Mary, Queen of Peace and daughter of Abraham, intercede for the people of the land made holy by God and blessed by Jesus her Son through his tearful prayer.

FR Peter

A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN GAZA AND FOR THE STARVING CHILDREN

Heavenly Father,
Source of all life and love,
We lift our hearts to You with sorrow and hope,
As we remember Your children in Gaza—
Innocent souls who hunger not only for bread,
But for safety, for kindness, and for peace.

Lord Jesus,
Who said, "Let the little children come to me,"
Hold close in Your tender arms
Every child who suffers from the pains of hunger,
Who sleeps beneath the echo of bombs,
Who cries with no one to comfort them
May their tears stir the hearts of the world.

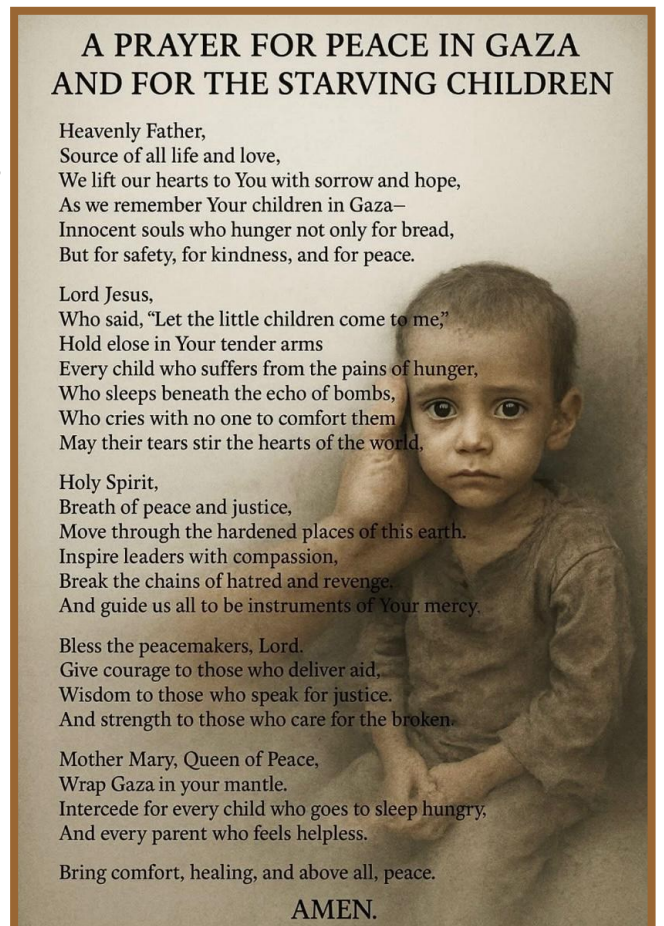
Holy Spirit,
Breath of peace and justice,
Move through the hardened places of this earth.
Inspire leaders with compassion,
Break the chains of hatred and revenge.
And guide us all to be instruments of Your mercy.

Bless the peacemakers, Lord.
Give courage to those who deliver aid,
Wisdom to those who speak for justice.
And strength to those who care for the broken.

Mother Mary, Queen of Peace,
Wrap Gaza in your mantle.
Intercede for every child who goes to sleep hungry,
And every parent who feels helpless.

Bring comfort, healing, and above all, peace.

AMEN.



Today's Mass readings.

First reading Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord. For great is the might of the Lord; he is glorified by the humble. The affliction of the proud has no healing, for a plant of wickedness has taken root in him. The mind of the intelligent man will ponder a parable, and an attentive ear is the wise man's desire.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 68(67)

*In your goodness, O God,
you provided a home for the poor.*

The upright shall rejoice at the presence of God;
they shall exult with glad rejoicing.
O sing to God; make music to his name.
The LORD is his name.

Father of orphans, defender of widows:
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the desolate a home to dwell in;
he leads the prisoners forth into prosperity.

You poured down, O God, a generous rain;
when your heritage languished, you restored it.
It was there that your flock began to dwell.
In your goodness, O God, you provided for the poor.

Second reading Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Brothers and Sisters: You have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

But you have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the

assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am gentle
and lowly in heart.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, "Give your place to this person", and then you, with shame, will take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher." Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'

He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends, or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'