

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



Parish Priest: Fr Peter Mansfield, Deacon: Rev. Tony Flavin

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

The Exaltation of the Cross

14th September 2025

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Staff and patients of Cane Hill Hospital **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Sunday 11am First Anniversary of Jean O'Boyle RIP

Monday 10am Shelia Sampson RIP

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Tuesday No Mass here

Saints Cornelius and Cyprian Bishop Martyrs

Wednesday 6.30pm Intention of PKM

Thursday 10am Marie and Thomas Hansard RIP

Friday 12pm Funeral Mass Patricia Donko RIP.

Saturday Vigil 6pm Michael Palmer RIP

Confessions after Mass.

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Sunday 11am Patricia Hassett RIP

Life breakfast today.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

Today's second collection: Catholic Education Service. The Catholic Education Service (CES) acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh Governments', sharing the aims of high academic standards for all, and increased parental choice. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of state schools. There are over 2000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 pupils. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

On Education Sunday, we give thanks to Almighty God for the vocation of all who work with the children and young people in the Catholic education sector: governors, school leaders, chaplains, teaching and support staff. In the academic year ahead, let us endeavour to give witness to our Saviour's message of hope in the Gospels, and to pray that our Catholic schools, colleges and universities will be beacons of hope in our local communities

NEXT weekend 2nd collection: Home Mission Sunday - Evangelli Gaudium This collection provides for resources to support 'Home Mission', the spread of the Gospel in our own country. The money collected enables a breadth of work to be done in support of evangelisation.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Elizabeth Hubbard -Brown, Claire Longworth, Eileen Mallows, 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.

If you know of anyone who should be on our parish sick list or needs Holy Communion at home please let Fr Peter know.

**Catholic school applications. Primary and secondary.
Certificate of Catholic Practice.**

The priest's reference form has been replaced with the Certificate of Catholic Practice. The certificate is signed by the priest if the applicant comes to Mass weekly. Previously the priest was required to indicate Mass attendance ranked as weekly, fortnightly, monthly, etc. Now all Catholic schools have adopted the new Certificate as proposed by the Archbishop. It means that where Mass attendance is less than weekly the priest is not permitted to sign the Certificate. There is no need to come to the appointment with the priest if you have not signed in weekly at church. Parents who attend Mass less than weekly can still apply to the Catholic schools and prove their Catholicity with the Baptism certificate.

For more information parents should pick up the cream information sheet from the tables at the back of the church.

Fr Peter will be available to sign secondary school certificates on the following dates and times:

Friday 3 Oct. .. 7 - 7.30pm
Thursday 9 Oct .. 3 - 3.45pm
Thursday 16 Oct .. 7 - 7.30pm
Thursday 23 Oct. .. 7 - 7.30pm

Primary certificates will be signed in November.

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.

Saturday 20 September – Annual Diocesan Day for Catechists. Registration now open! You are invited to join us for a day filled with teachings and prayer and a chance to meet fellow Catechists. Join us at St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HU from 10am. Registration and choice of workshops can be found at aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2025

If you help with parish programmes such as Confirmation, First Confession / Communion, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Children generally, adult catechesis, Baptism prep for parents. Anyone interested in Catechetics is welcome to go. Cost £10 payable by the parish. Please let Fr Peter know if you are attending.

Sacrament of Confirmation at St Aidan's 2026.

Year 9 pupils or older are now being invited to enrol for the preparation for Confirmation. Canon Gerard Bradley (the Archbishop's area vicar) will be coming to our parish on Friday 6th February 2026 to administer the sacrament of Confirmation at 7.30pm Mass. I would therefore like to invite our young people who are currently in year 9 or older to apply.

The Confirmation preparation programme will begin in the church hall on Sunday evenings beginning 12th October. The application forms will be available from Fr Peter after Masses today and for the next couple of weeks.

Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) Mass attendance is an essential requirement for any prospective applicant.

The young person applying needs to request the form personally, **NOT A PARENT.**

The St Aidan's programme is not open to people from other parishes.

On the application form the applicants are asked to write a short piece in their own words saying why they wish to be confirmed.

PURLEY FOOD HUB are always very grateful for our donations. Please leave food items in church porch. Tinned fish, packet soup containing several sachets, tinned meat meals, tinned baked beans, packets of savoury biscuits, 500g packets of pasta, small bottles of fruit squash, packets of custard requiring only hot water, unisex shampoo, small bottles of washing up liquid.

Weekly Mass in Croydon University Hospital

There will be Mass every Wednesday at 12 noon in the Chapel at Croydon University Hospital. All are most welcome.

Today's readings. Commentary by Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.

1st reading.

This reading from the Book of Numbers prepares for the gospel reading about Jesus bringing salvation by being lifted up. In the early patriarchal stories there are occasional passages which pick up on ancient superstitious rites or pagan religious features. Another example is the mysterious, haunting story of Jacob/Israel at the ford of the River Jabbok in Genesis 32.26-30, which makes use of some ancient story about a semi-divine river-sprite. Both these stories pick up some ancient pre-Hebraic religious rite and bring it under the aegis of the God of Israel. We should not expect the Hebrew religion to spring into existence immediately, utterly clear of all trace of other beliefs and rites – any more than Hebrew morality should be expected to conform from the first with Christian morals. In prayer the same is true, for Psalm 29 (Greek 28) probably takes over and applies what was originally a hymn to Baal, the god of storms and thunder. Similarly Psalm 104 (Greek 103).20-26 praises the Creator of nature in terms similar to those used in an Egyptian hymn to Ahkenaton, the sun-god.

The idea of the brazen serpent lifted up as a sort of charm may be connected with a sacred copper snake 4" long found in a temple of the ancient copper-mines of Timnah, in the far south of Israel, not far from the probable route of the Exodus. Some such idolatrous bronze serpent was destroyed in the reforms of Hezekiah (716BC).

2nd reading.

This is a wonderful hymn of Christ's self-emptying, and of his exaltation and vindication by the Father, probably an ancient Christian hymn celebrating the triumph of Christ, which Paul adopted and used for himself. It contrasts Christ, the Second Adam, with Adam (that is, humanity) who fell, who wanted to be like God, who tried to escape death, tried to exalt himself and was humbled. Christ did not see his godhead as his prize alone, something to be hugged to himself for his own advantage. On the contrary, he lowered himself to the status of frail and feeble humanity, of precisely that humanity which in Adam had failed.

The last verses are one of the clearest statements in Paul of the divine character of Christ. A verse from Isaiah 45.23 is applied to Christ. In Isaiah the verse describes the homage due to the Lord alone, and no one else. It is a strong statement of the uniqueness of God, drawn from that part of Isaiah written during the Babylonian exile, when Israel was faced with the many gods of Babylon, and against them insisted that there was one God alone, the Lord. In the hymn this homage due to God alone is paid to Christ. Far from being blasphemy, detracting from the glory of God, this is to the glory of God the Father. The concept of divinity is expanded to include Christ.

Gospel.

In this gospel-reading we are listening in to a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to Jesus by night (presumably because he did not want his colleagues to know. Do you mind your colleagues knowing that you are a Christian?). Jesus is talking about an incident during the Exodus journey, when the Israelites were struck by a plague of snakes. Moses hoisted a bronze snake on a pole as a recovery-totem. It sounds superstitious, but presumably to depend on it was an expression of trust in God. Jesus now says that this snake is to be seen as a promise of the salvation to be won by trusting in his Cross. The Cross remains our sign of victory. To wear it and welcome it is increasingly, in this increasingly material world, a statement of where our heart and our confidence lies. However, the Cross is not complete in itself. Some people find it 'morbid' or 'morose', but to Christians it contains also the victory and reassurance of the Resurrection. The Cross makes sense not by the crumpled figure on the wood, but by God's acceptance of that obedience. The triumph of the resurrection is too glorious to be represented by anything visible.

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME.

Cash £510, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £215
Total income: £1,316 of which £689 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. couldongac@rcaos.org.uk

**Parish Pastoral Council meets on
Wednesday in the Marian room
at 7.30pm.**

Members should send apologies to
couldon@rcaos.org.uk
if unable to attend.

Today's Mass readings.

First reading Numbers 21:4b-9

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.' Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 78(77)

Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Give ear, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and utter hidden lessons of the past.

When he slew them, then they sought him,
repented and earnestly sought God.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer.

Yet they deceived him with their mouths;
they lied to him with their tongues.
For their hearts were not steadfast towards him;
they were not faithful to his covenant.

Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave them their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger,
and did not stir up all his rage.

Second reading Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel John 3:13-17

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'