

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

29th Sunday ~ Ordinary Time

19th October 2025

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Bernadette Rowe RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Welfare of Mario Van Elswijk

Sunday 11am Intention of PKM

Monday 10am Francis and Mary Winifred Bede-Cox

Tuesday No Mass here

Wednesday 6.30pm Fr Cyril Hastings RIP

Thursday 10am Deceased Members of the Bell family

Friday 10am John Henry Back RIP **Exposition until 11am.**

Saturday Vigil 6pm People of the parish **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Welfare of Louisa Rubin; **Sunday 11am** Adolfo Santa-Olalla RIP.

Life breakfast today.

Bar open after 11am Mass.

You can pay offertory or make a donation to the parish using this QR code or by using the link on the homepage of the parish website. The first time you use it you will be asked if you wish to Gift-Aid.



Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown, Brigid O'Donnell, 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, Michael Ogonovsky, Eileen Brockhurst, Trudy Kiely, John Cooksey, Geoff Wood, Margaret Long, Coral Hind, Freda Blade, Christi Cox, David Morling and all who are sick.

We remember departed loved ones especially

Tony McGowan RIP. (Uncle of Brian)

and all whose anniversary occurs this week.

THIS Sunday 2nd collection. Today is World Mission Sunday, a day of prayer for the Evangelization of the World. The Second Collection will be for Missio, the Church's official organ for the support of foreign missions. The money goes directly from this country to the bishops in the mission territories, local church helping local church.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. There will be Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from **2.45pm - 3.15pm**. This is a good opportunity for school parents and others before pick up time from school. Parking in church for those attending but please register. Cars can be left until children are collected.

Faithful departed - November Book.

During the month of November there will be a Book placed in our Church with the names of departed loved ones that you have submitted. Throughout the month a Mass will be celebrated every week and on all Souls Day, 3rd Nov, for all the names in the book. Please place your list of departed loved ones in the box provided in the centre aisle of the Church.

FAQ.

If people submitted a list in previous years do they need to do a new one each year ?

Yes. Composing your list of departed loved ones is part of your prayer for them and a way of bringing them to the Eucharist which is always offered for the living and the dead. It is fine to save lists on a computer file. They can be added to each year before printing for the church book.

SAVE THE DATE !

**St Aidan's Social Committee
Annual Winter Ball
will be held on Sat 6th December
Full details to follow soon.**

Taskforce is taking place next Saturday 25 October, 10am - 12 noon. Please come and do some jobs around the church and grounds.

Parish International Food celebration. Special social club event.

November 2nd, 12pm in the hall.

Celebrating our diverse St Aidan's community.

We invite everyone to join us for an informal social gathering.

There is no charge for this event but we ask everyone to bring a plate of your national dish to share.

Cherish Life

A one-day conference to help us build a culture of life will take place on 22 November 2025 at St John the Baptist Church Hall, Dale Road, Purley CR8 2EF, 11am-4pm. The conference is organised by the Croydon South Branch of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, who will be giving us more information about this important event, at all Masses next weekend.

New Altar Servers needed.

Team members will be outside after Masses today.

We are excited to invite new altar servers to join our team for all Masses. We welcome girls, boys, and adults who wish to serve at the altar. Children should be in **Year 4 or above** and have received their **First Holy Communion**.

A **training session** for new and current servers will take place on Sunday, 9th November. After the 11:00am Mass

If you or your child are interested in joining, or would like more information, please speak with the **altar server coordinator after Mass**, or contact: **Agnelo Braganza – 9:00am Mass**,

Email: agnelob@yahoo.com,
Phone: 07546 113700

We look forward to welcoming new members to our altar server team and thank you for considering this important ministry.

Marriage & Family Life

CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES

The Southwark diocesan Marriage and Family life team are seeking married couples who are practising Catholics to join their growing team to present courses for Marriage Preparation, Building a Better Marriage and other initiatives in 2026. Salary: £30,000 pro rata (£7,000) per annum for the couple. Mileage paid in addition. All training given. For a full job description and further details, please email liamgallagher@rcaos.org.uk Closing date for applications: October 31.

ROOTED IN LOVE

Want to grow closer as a couple while deepening your faith and meeting new people? All engaged and married couples are invited to a monthly online meeting where we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics and pray together as we grow in love rooted in Christ. Each gathering is monthly on Zoom: October 30 at 8:30pm, November 27 at 8:30pm, December 11 at 8:30pm.

Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to sign up or receive more information

Catholic school applications. Primary and secondary. Certificate of Catholic Practice. 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:
Thursday 23 Oct. .. 7 - 7.30pm

Primary certificates will be signed in November.

Retreat day for Readers and Special Ministers of Holy Communion.

St Aidan's parish Coulsdon are hosting a retreat day for Readers & Special Ministers of Holy Communion.

Saturday 22nd November 2025. 11am - 3pm.

The newly recruited Special Ministers are included.

All ministers in the Croydon Deanery are invited.

The day includes reflections with Canon Luke Smith on the theme of **'The Word became flesh'**. There will be a session on praying with the scriptures. Adoration and Benediction included.

Venue: St Aidan's Church Hall - Coulsdon, Chipstead Valley Road, CR5 3DD

Please bring a packed lunch, hot drinks provided.

Please see church noticeboard for the full programme.

Parking available – please register your car to avoid a parking penalty.

Sacrament of Confirmation at St Aidan's 2026.

Preparation begins on Sunday 16th November at 6pm in parish hall.

Care to Listen School of Counselling

Is running a basic skills counselling course starting in February 2026 further details of which are attached. **Our course is ideal for any staff or volunteers that manage teams or those that deal with vulnerable service users or have an interest in safeguarding and pastoral care.** The courses we run aim to further develop helping skills and establish strong communication skills which are advantageous in many environments. The course is taught on a Tuesday evening which is ideal for those who want to learn around other commitments. Please email adminctlsc@caretolisten.co.uk to register any interest for our next Level 2 course or visit our website at www.caretolisten.co.uk to find out more about Care to Listen and our courses.

**Comment on today's readings
by Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB.**

First reading.

Prayer can be exciting and uplifting, but it can also be boring and exhausting, with just that sinking feeling of exhaustion, 'I can't hold my hands up any longer'. That is when we need really get on and hang on in there, expressing that God is not just one Mr Fixit among many possibles, but is our only hope and dependence. Cupboard-love alone will not do, nor a last-minute turn to someone about whose existence we had practically forgotten.

Gospel.

We often think of prayer as mere asking, and this parable encourages us to pester God as the wronged widow pestered the Unjust Judge. Luke's parables are always lively, and the characters like to talk and explain themselves! The judge's fear of the widow can be translated that she will come and 'outface me', but it could also be translated 'hit me in the face'. But such persistence is only one aspect of Luke's teaching on prayer. He also shows us what our attitude in prayer should be, by the parable immediately following in the gospel, the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector: the tax-collector wins approval because he just stands there, admitting his sins. Most instructive, however, is Luke's teaching on Jesus at prayer: he reminds us that Jesus is always quietly at prayer to his Father. He needs to slip away to spend the night in prayer. Especially he prays at the most important moments of his life, at his Baptism, when he chooses his team, before he teaches them to pray, at the

approach of his Passion, finally forgiving and comforting others at his death. Paul tells us we should pray continually. The prayer of asking must be built on a relationship of love and dependence, just as the request of child to parents is built on that loving relationship. It does not matter if the child is naughty, as long as the relationship is one of love; so we do not need to be perfect to make our requests to our Father.

2nd Reading.

The inspired writer seems to be devoting much of his space to the use of scripture in preaching and controversy, but most of all the scriptures 'instruct you for salvation'. We have to receive the message, and take it to our own hearts before we can pass it on to others. This is by seeing the variety of ways in which God cares for us, his ever-present forgiveness in all our idiotic mistrust and shying away, our stubborn preference for our own search for happiness. Only by immersing ourselves regularly in the scriptures and growing to love these varied glimpses of God can we come to draw out their richness and sweetness. And there are plenty of difficulties to be overcome: the strangeness of language and ancient ways of thought, the barbaric primitiveness of the Chosen People of God, the boring instructions on sacrifice and purity. Don't rush it or gobble it up. Go your own pace, and remember that it began as God's Word to Abraham, Moses, David or whoever, or Jesus helping his contemporaries to understand about the Kingdom, or Paul responding to the queries of his half-instructed converts. But now it is God's Word to you.

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. Tinned peas, carrots, sweetcorn, packet soup containing several sachets, tinned meat meals such as stew, meatballs, hot dogs, 500g packets of long grain rice, small jars of honey, tinned dessert fruit, tinned rice pudding, packets of custard requiring only hot water, small bottles of squash, adult toothpaste

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME.

Cash £438, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £225

Total income: £1,254 of which £672 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

Today's Mass readings:

First reading Exodus 17:8-13

In those days: Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121(120):1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. R cf. 2

*Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

He will keep your foot from stumbling.
Your guard will never slumber.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

The LORD your guard, the LORD your shade
at your right hand.
By day the sun shall not smite you,
nor the moon in the night.

The LORD will guard you from evil;
he will guard your soul.

The LORD will guard your going and coming,
both now and for ever.

Second reading 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Beloved: Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, "Give me justice against my adversary." For a while he refused, but afterwards he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming." '

And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'