

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Name of acc: RCAS Coulsdon.

Sort: 60-06-14

Year A

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7th December 2025

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

Saturday Vigil 6pm Peg Morrin RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Kevin Leavey RIP

Sunday 11am Maureen Boyle RIP

Monday 10am People of the parish

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday 10am Scott Abraham RIP.

Wednesday 6.30pm in Hall meeting room .Deceased loved ones Nov bk

Thursday 10am Adrian McManus RIP

Friday 12pm FUNERAL Eileen Brockhurst RIP. **NO 10am Mass.**

Saturday Vigil 6pm Intentions of the Newman famil **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Guile Pereira RIP

Sunday 11am Ann Lakes RIP

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

MANNA CENTRE - Homeless charity.

THIS weekend we will have the 2nd collection at Masses for the work of Manna. Every donation will be doubled by the Aviva Community Fund. You can also go to www.mannasociety.org.uk on a device and click on the red DONATE button which will enable you to DOUBLE your donation at no extra cost to you via the AVIVA COMMUNITY FUND.

Manna is a centre in our diocese for the homeless. Open 7 days a week, 51 weeks a year : Breakfast and lunch, hot showers and housing and welfare advice provided. You can also donate via www.mannasociety.org.uk on a device . Donations help to provide: £10 = breakfast and lunch for 6 people. £40 = bought food for 1 day. £70 = office costs and utilities for 1 day.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confessions.

Between now and Christmas.

Every Saturday at 12 - 12.30pm

and after 6pm Mass.

Every Wednesday 7pm (after 6.30pm Mass.

Christmas Eve Wed 24 Dec. 12 - 12.30pm.

Mass Wednesday 6.30pm. Please note that this Mass will be in the hall meeting room - Marian Room. Confessions will also be there after Mass. Chipstead Valley school are having their carol concert in the church.

Advent & Lent Extra has been discontinued. There is no obvious publication available in the same style. We will see if there is an alternative for Lent.

Children's party. Free.

The social committee will be hosting the annual Children's Party at **12pm on December 14th**. It's free to attend however we do ask that you book your place(s) with me to ensure we can cater for all. You can message Jenny Lehané at jennylehane@aol.com

or sign up on a sheet in the church porch - first name x number of children (eg Jenny x2 will be fine).

Music** Games** Lunch for kids** Special Guest..... who may have gifts

Adults bring some money as we have some wonderful prizes to raffle off in aid The Manna Centre for the homeless.

St Aidan's School Christmas Fair Friday 12th December 2025

4:30pm - 7:30pm

All are warmly invited to our 2025 Christmas Fair. Lots of fun and games for all ages, and our raffle with lots of lovely prizes. Food and drink aplenty and some festive tunes. We look forward to welcoming you!

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME.

Cash £458, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £212 Total income: £1,261 of which £615 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

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 note that church shop payments can now be made with a credit card using the card reader in the church porch.

Payment can also be made with a mobile phone using the QR code above or by using the same QR code displayed in the shop.

The Feast of The Immaculate Conception of Mary is on Monday 8th December.

It is not a day on which we are obliged to go to Mass but there will be Mass of Our Lady Immaculate at 10am on that day. The Immaculate Conception concerns the teaching that Mary was preserved from the wound of the sin of Adam - Original Sin - from the first moment of her being in her mother's womb. It should not be confused with the virginal conception which refers to Jesus in Mary's womb.

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS: Many thanks for the splendid response to the recent call for volunteers to make sandwiches for Nightwatch and to deliver them to Croydon. This initiative is going very well for our Thursday night duties in November and December.

We have now been asked to provide sandwiches for a further six weeks: this time on Tuesday nights starting on 6th January and finishing on 10th February. If you are a current volunteer you will be contacted direct about this. If you have not volunteered before but would like to do so, please do get in touch. Volunteers are needed to cover the following jobs:

1) To make about 15 rounds of simple sandwiches and deliver them to a specified Coulsdon address any time up to 7.00pm on Tuesdays between 6th January and 10th February (collection can be arranged if you are not able to deliver). About seven volunteers are needed for each week.

2) To collect all the batches of sandwiches from the Coulsdon address at 8pm on Tuesdays and deliver them by car to Nightwatch in central Croydon. The round trip takes about one hour. One volunteer is needed each week.

Detailed instructions will be available for both jobs when a rota is circulated. Volunteers are usually only asked to go once or twice on the rota.

If you are able to help out please contact Maureen Lee - maureenannelee213@gmail.com - by Thursday 11th December saying which job you would like to do and which dates you are available. A rota will be issued before Christmas.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Atticus Fletcher-Smith (baby), Claire Longworth, Terrence McColl, Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown, Brigid O'Donnell, 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, Trudy Kiely, John Cooksey, Geoff Wood, Margaret Long, 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.

For the benefit of those who were not here last weekend the notice below is repeated. Please note that the current mock up on the sanctuary is to show dimensions.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST AIDAN'S

Christmas Eve 6pm Vigil Mass;
11pm Carols and readings
followed by 11.30pm Night Mass ;
Christmas morning: 10am Mass.

Tabernacle update.

The Archbishop's Art & Architecture committee has considered the proposal for the Blessed Sacrament to be relocated to the apse of the sanctuary at St Aidan's. The committee members have approved the new place and Archbishop John has personally welcomed the move.

However, they have made some significant changes which I accept.

They regard the altar in front of the current tabernacle to be too low and too wide to be used as a plinth for a new tabernacle. They recommend a bespoke plinth which would be higher and slimmer than that altar. *Higher would allow the tabernacle to appear above the level of the main altar when viewed from down the church. The plinth would be in marble.*

The committee recommend that the new tabernacle should be of a modern design. They stipulated a small tabernacle that would be less wide than the gold one we had on display while being large enough to take the quantity of hosts that we need to keep in it.

A tabernacle which fits that criterion is available to buy new. It has a wheat and vine motif. See below. Modern tabernacles tend to be oxidised silver, i.e. silver with black lines like my chalice. The figures on our stations of the cross and the corpus on the cross above the altar are silver.

Given that the side altar is not considered to be a good size for a new tabernacle it will remain where it is permanently and not be moved. The moving of the side altar was a concern expressed by some people in their feedback, that is now no longer an issue.

The PPC think it would be a good idea to make another mock up to show the required dimensions, that will be done in due course.

There would be no net change in the parish account financial contribution. The money earmarked for moving the small altar would go toward the plinth instead. It is too soon to say if the required plinth is affordable from the 'pledged fund' or not at this time as that depends on feedback from enquiries to suppliers that have only just begun.

The Holy Family statue has also been approved but it will have to be put on hold for the time being due to cost considerations.

Thank you to those who have made a financial pledge. Anyone wishing to make a pledge should speak to me or email me at couldson@rcaos.org.uk

Thank you again to all those who participated in the consultation, it is evident that the diocese has considered all the views expressed.



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.

Priority Christmas food list: tins of plain meat - chicken, ham, packet & tinned potatoes, tinned peas & carrots, cartons of long life whole milk, tinned dessert fruit, puddings / jellies / packet custard, small bottles of squash, small packets of Christmas biscuits, children's chocolate / sweet treats, small bottles of washing up liquid

Christmas cards in packs of 10 are now on sale in the church shop.

Catholic 2026 diaries - £3; Catholic art calendars - £1

Sending a Christian Christmas card is a simple and prayerful way of witnessing to our faith in the God who become human for our salvation.

Today's Mass readings:

First reading Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm 72 (71)

*In his days shall justice flourish,
and great peace for ever.*

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth.

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy.

May his name endure for ever,
his name continue like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blest in him,
all nations shall call him blessed.

Second reading Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."'

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'