

# 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](mailto:coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk)

Parish Website: [www.st-aidans-parish.org.uk](http://www.st-aidans-parish.org.uk)

Support in times of loss: [listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com](mailto:listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com)

Safeguarding: Bridget Hanlon [coulsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:coulsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Alexandra Collins [coulsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:coulsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Church Hall enquiries: [staidanshallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:staidanshallbookings@gmail.com)

Property maintenance, report issues: [staidanspremisesteam@gmail.co.uk](mailto: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 A

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8th March 2026

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

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** Mary Monahan RIP Confessions after Mass.

**Sunday 9am** People of the parish

**Sunday 11am** Yvonne Ireland RIP

**Monday 10am** Welfare of Rebecca Samuals

**Tuesday NO MASS**

**Wednesday 6.30pm** Lydia Moniz RIP

**Thursday 10am** Nora Folen RIP

**Friday 10am** Helen Octavia West **Exposition until 11am**

**Saturday Vigil 6pm** William McCarroll RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

**Sunday 9am** People of the parish

**Sunday 11am** Chris Atkins RIP

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

**Stations of the Cross this Lenten  
Sunday at 4pm.**

### **Please pray for the sick and housebound**

Mary Archer, Mary Murray Norah Johnson, Claire Longworth, Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown, Brigid O'Donnell, Gill Lands, Eileen Mallows, Truda Hobbs, Terry Doman, Pat Kelly, Marion McCluskey, Charlie Hooke, Allen Reilly, Sarah Bell, Juliette Hinds, Veronica Lydon, Sammy McCarroll, Rosie Longworth, 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.**

### **At this Easter Vigil Mass Neil Watson will be Baptised, Confirmed and receive his first holy Communion.**

He will receive a blessing today at his usual 6pm Vigil Mass in our parish. Last Saturday he joined 590 others from around our Archdiocese at the Rite of Election with Archbishop John. See here for some of their testimonies.

<https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/jesus-has-come-into-my-heart-and-my-life-has-changed/>

### **Pope Leo's prayer intention for March. For disarmament and peace**

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence. Join him in prayer on this link.

<https://pravasvougo.org/pope-prayer/2026-03>

**AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH SHOP.  
ST PATRICK'S DAY CARDS £1  
EASTER CARDS 50P**

**St. Aidan's Church Coulsdon.**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**7.30pm - 9pm**

**John 9**

**The healing of the blind man.**

*To see is to believe.*

*At a time of year when many people ask themselves 'what can I do for Lent?', - here is a great opportunity to delve into a Lenten gospel, a few days in advance of hearing it at Mass.*

**The Gospels will be read in parts, using the style of the Passion reading.**

**Fr. Peter will give a talk on the texts with special reference as to why these readings are linked to Baptism and the Easter mystery in our liturgical / catechetical tradition.**

**We will include time for discussion.**

**Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage**

**Bishop Paul Hendricks** warmly invites you to join him on this year's SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21 to 28 August 2026

A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers.

Bishop Paul Hendricks' words: "I have also found it a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled."

Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocesan-pilgrimages/diocesan-ca/>

We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026>

For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera ([edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)) or Deacon John Fogarty ([johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)) or Bishop Paul Hendricks ([paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk))

**Tabernacle update.** There has been a delay with the delivery of the roof of the new tabernacle. Our suppliers are in Italy but the manufacturers are in Spain. The hold up was at the Spanish end. They have said we should have it in the next couple of weeks. You will notice that the sanctuary lamp holder has been modified and is looking very good, it is now on the current blessed sacrament altar.

**Parish Plan**

We have been asked by the Diocese to produce a Parish plan. As we received a lot of insight and ideas through both the Synod process and the Call to Bear Fruit consultation, we are reaching out and asking you to help us validate what we have already, suggest improvements or highlight anything that is missing.

This week we are asking you to:

- Validate our current mission statement or tell us how it could be improved or what a new statement could look like?

Next two weeks, comment on the statements on the following themes of Evangelisation (proclaiming our faith to others), Catechesis (sharing our faith with our youth and families) and Formation (deepening our faith).

Over the next three weekends there will be boards set up and you will be given sticky dots and post it notes. You can use the sticky dots to tell us if you agree with what is already written and the post it notes if you would like to add anything.

Thank you, *Erica Thurbon*

**Social Club subscriptions now due.**

If you are a member of our Social Club or you wish to join, please see Dave Murray in the hall after 11am Mass. It is time for the annual subscriptions - £5 - to be collected. If you come regularly in our bar you should be a paid up member. Children are free.

**Thank you to Jenny Lehane** the outgoing chair of the Social Committee for all her hard work in recent years. She will remain a committee member.

We welcome Wendy Winton as the new chair and thank her for agreeing to serve.

Thank you to all the Social Club committee members for all they do.

*FR Peter*

**Bishop Bosco MacDonald, Catholic Bishop of Clifton (Bristol & Gloucester), has issued the following statement regarding the war in Iran (edited extract below).**

The widening war involving Iran is a grave cause of sorrow and alarm. After the long agony of Ukraine and the appalling suffering in Gaza, the world now faces another conflict whose consequences are unpredictable, and whose cost is already being paid first by ordinary people. Families are displaced, the fearful live in uncertainty, and the vulnerable once again carry the heaviest burden.

In these days of Lent, I renew my call to prayer across the Diocese for peace, for restraint, and for the protection of human life. I ask especially for prayers for children, the sick, the elderly, refugees, and all who have no safe place to go, in Iran and throughout the region. I also ask prayer for those serving in our armed forces, that they may be kept safe and act with integrity, and for those working for humanitarian relief, for diplomats, and for political leaders, that they may choose the hard work of dialogue over the terrible ease of escalation.

Pope Leo XIV has spoken with urgency, warning of “a tragedy of enormous proportions” and appealing for an end to the “spiral of violence” before it becomes “an irreparable abyss.” He reminded the world that stability and peace are not achieved through threats, nor through the use of weapons that sow destruction and death, but through responsible dialogue. I echo the Holy Father’s appeal with all my heart.

Catholic teaching on war does not pretend the world is simple, but it does insist on the protection of the innocent, and on moral boundaries that cannot be crossed, even in times of fear and anger. Whatever arguments are made between governments, civilians must never be treated as instruments, or made to carry the punishment of decisions they did not take. We pray for leaders to have the courage to step back from escalation, for negotiators to find a path that does not humiliate, and for the clamour of weapons to give way to the patient work of dialogue, so that peace, once lost, may be found again.



**Celebrating St Patrick.**



On Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
there will be a  
St Patrick's Day Celebration in the hall  
from 12pm to 4pm.

*Craic, Ceoil agus Cairde guaranteed.*

Beef & Guinness Stew with Potatoes &  
Soda Bread will be available to purchase for £5.



Charity Raffle will also be held.  
Admission is free. All are welcome!



**MASS IN CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL** every Wednesday at 12 noon in the Hospital Chapel.

**The following excellent websites on prayer are very useful resources for everyone.**

Guided prayer meditation

<https://taketime.org.uk/>

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

<https://sacredspace.com/>

[https://pray-as-you-go.org/series/5-](https://pray-as-you-go.org/series/5-Imaginative+Contemplation+Exercises)

[Imaginative+Contemplation+Exercises](https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/ways-into-prayer)

<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/ways-into-prayer>

**OUR OFFERTORY INCOME.**

Cash £538, Standing Orders £591,

Card reader £368.

Total income: £1,497 of which £829 was gift-aided.

**2nd Collection: CAFOD £1,117 Thank you.**

Please consider making a standing order for your offertory contributions. Contact the GA coordinator to get the details. [coulsdongac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:coulsdongac@rcaos.org.uk)

**PURLEY FOOD HUB** are always very grateful for our donations. This month’s priorities are: Cartons of Long Life Whole Milk • Jars of Peanut Butter • Jars of Meat & Fish Paste • Boxes of 40 & 80 Tea Bags • Tins of Plain Meat - Corned Beef, Ham Chicken • Tinned Vegetarian Meals such as Princes plant based range • Packet Dried Potatoes • Tinned Dessert Fruit • Unisex Shampoo • Unisex Deodorant

**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.

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.



**Today's Mass reading:**

**First reading Exodus 17:3-7**

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

**Responsorial Psalm 95**

*O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'*

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;  
let us hail him with a song of praise.

O come; let us bow and bend low.  
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,  
for he is our God, and we the people,  
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your forebears put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

**Second reading Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Gospel**

**John 4:5-42**

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'