

# NEWSLETTER

## St Aidan's Catholic Church -



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

4th week of Easter - Good Shepherd Sunday

26th April 2026

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

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

**Sunday 9am** Mary Moss RIP

**Sunday 11am** Intentions and thanksgiving of Kunjo Mary Thomas

**Monday 10am** Joy and Samuel Palomares-Kearns **Confessions after Mass.**

**Tuesday** No Mass here

**Wednesday 6.30pm** Sarah Annie Coogan *St Catherine of Siena*

**Thursday 10am** Welfare of Eileen and John Joyce

**Friday 10am** **Exposition until 11am** *St Joseph the worker*

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

**Sunday 9am** Charlie Nizinskyj **11am** Hannah Cook RIP

**Life breakfast after 9am Mass.**  
**Bar open after 11am Mass.**

There will be an opportunity for those who want the sacrament of reconciliation - confession - after the Monday Mass, 27th April.

### Second collection today. Good Shepherd Sunday – training of our future priests

The priesthood has always been at the heart of the Church. This Good Shepherd Sunday, we pray for vocations and support the Priest Training Fund, which forms men for service across our parishes, schools, hospitals, and communities. We currently have 9 seminarians, each costing around £30,000 per year over six years of formation. Your generosity helps make their calling possible.

- Donate online: [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF)
- Or use the envelopes at the back of church

#### Leave a lasting legacy to the Church

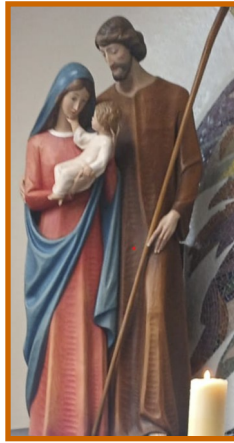
Please consider remembering our church or the Priesthood in your Will.

Find out more: [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy).

Thank you for your prayers and support.

**We remember in our prayers the repose of the souls of  
Rosie Longworth, Kathleen Spiteri and Nora Buggy.  
May Jesus the Good shepherd carry them to their home in heaven.**

**Our new statue at St Aidan's of the Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph will be blessed at the Vigil Mass this Saturday.**



For Catholics, using a statue as a prayer focus is not idolatry because we do not pray to an image and we do not worship Mary and the saints. All statues and sacred art are simply visual aids which should tell a story of the grace of God.

An image of the Holy Family is very inspiring because it reminds us of the humanity of Jesus, Son of God, in the context of his birth through Mary and his foster father Joseph.

As a spiritual focus it calls us to remember our own families, as we hold in prayer our loved ones living and dead.

Through our baptism we became sisters and brothers in God's family. Born of Mary Jesus became our brother.

Please be aware that the book for people to write petitions is on the black stand to the left of the statue.

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The suggested donation for a candle on the new stand will be 50p. The old candle stand beneath the Mother and Child statue remains at the suggested 20p donation.

**Candles on the new stand for the Holy Family statue are free this weekend for people to celebrate this new prayer focus in our church. Just one candle per person today.**

**St. Killian's candle system.**

*A briefing from the manufactures who are now global suppliers of modern votive candle stands and lights.*

The St. Killian glass system is a three pieces patented glass system. The colour glass is secured on the stand; the middle glass is used as a barrier to protect the colour from any excess wax. The candle then sits inside the inner glass. This flame is then isolated within secured glass to eliminate the fear of a candle falling over. After burning the candle is completely liquid, and falls through the hole at the end of the inner glass; extinguishing itself on the way down falling into a hidden water bath to completely guarantee quenching. By eliminating plastic cups from landfill, we are helping the planet; one candle at a time.

The candle itself uses no plastic/metal cups, helping the environment reduce its plastic consumption one candle at a time. It is self contained and burns within a glass. We also offer a full glass cleaning service to all of our St. Killians customers, once the glass has become dirty; we arrange for new glasses to be sent out as replacement and the dirty glass to be returned to us for cleaning.

As part of our service, we offer taper sticks for all of our candle stands. This eliminates the need to light candles off one another. As the candle sits inside a glass there is no room for wax to spill.

**Dear Sisters & Brothers,**

Thank you for your generosity with the Easter offerings. Thanks also to those who were away but brought their offerings to the Parish House. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who gave me cards, good wishes and gifts as well as assurances of prayers. Deacon Tony is also very grateful for the cards and gifts he received.

Thank you to the many parishioners who gave of their time and worked so hard to prepare the Church and assist at all the services and Masses over Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to the people who arranged the flowers, the Easter garden and other displays. It was also good to have our singers, cantors and musicians leading the music. I thank the altar servers for turning out with their usual loyalty and enthusiasm. There are many others, including readers, ministers, sacristans, cleaners, collectors and money counters who make a great contribution of their time and talent. As always there are several cleaners and office volunteers working in the background. Let us all enjoy the blessings that this Eastertide brings us from the risen Lord.

FR Peter

**Please pray for the sick and housebound.** Mary Archer, Jim Mons, Norah Johnson, Ed & Mary Mulhearn, Claire Longworth, Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown, Gill Lands, Eileen Mallows, Truda Hobbs, Terry Doman, Pat Kelly, Marion McCluskey, Charlie Hooke, Allen Reilly, Sarah Bell, Juliette Hinds, Veronica Lydon, Sammy McCarroll, Trudy Kiely, John Cooksey, Geoff Wood, Margaret Long, Freda Blade, Christi Cox, David Morling and all who are sick.

**Book and Jigsaw sale next Sunday May 3rd in the hall from 12pm.**

**CAKE SALE SUNDAY 26th APRIL - SUMMER BBQ 28th JUNE**  
From the St. Aidan's Social Committee: Thank you so much to everyone to everyone that joined us to make our St. George's Day celebration a success last Sunday. We are pleased to announce that the raffle raised £81 which has been donated to the Royal Marsden as part of Brig O'Donnell's fundraising campaign. For anyone that missed out we will be in the hall again on Sunday with the cakes that were left-over that can be exchanged for a donation!

**We will be holding the early Summer BBQ on Sunday 28th June; we will announce more details soon and we hope to see lots of you there!**

**At this time of year it is important to recall that two Church precepts (rules) concern the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) and the sacrament of the Eucharist - Holy Communion.**

**PRECEPT. "You shall confess your sins at least once a year"** This ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation (confession), which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.

**PRECEPT. "You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season."** This guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the feast of Easter, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy. (Easter season is between Easter Sunday and Trinity Sunday - 15th June.)

**OUR OFFERTORY INCOME.** Cash £367, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £199  
**Total income:** £1,157 of which £742 was gift-aided.

**Thank you.**

Please consider making a standing order for your offertory contributions. Contact Jed Murphy the GA coordinator to make arrangements.  
[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

**Afternoon Tea Friday 1st May** in the church hall, at 4pm, for a donation of £5.00.  
**Please note the change of time.**  
To book a place, please speak to Brenda Eydman after 9am Mass or telephone 01737 552610

**CELEBRATE YOUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**  
The popular annual Marriage Mass will take place at St George's Cathedral on July 11 at 3pm. Couples celebrating special anniversaries this year - their first, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or any later anniversary - are invited to apply for places. They will then receive a personal invitation to the Mass from Abp John Wilson and have an opportunity to renew their marriage vows. Apply to: [mflsw@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflsw@rcaos.org.uk)

**WIDOWED, SEPARATED & DIVORCED?**  
If so, Beginning Experience is there for you. They are organising a weekend on May 8-10 at Worth Abbey, West Sussex, to help you deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. Email [beginningexperience.soe@gmail.com](mailto:beginningexperience.soe@gmail.com) for details.

**BUILD A BETTER MARRIAGE**  
This is a one-day marriage-enrichment event on May 23 aimed at couples whether married five years or 55 years. There is no charge and no group sharing. Couples have the opportunity individually to explore their relationship and levels of communication, which is the key to relationship. It starts at 9am and finishes by 4.30pm. The venue is St Elphege's, Wallington. More details – T: 07983 524 727 or E: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

**RAISING TEENAGERS IN A CATHOLIC FAMILY**  
This webinar provides guidance to parents with adolescent children on how to encourage and help them to value and follow their faith and to navigate those difficult teen years by modelling the behaviour parents wish to see in their sons and daughters. The webinar, scheduled for June 2 at 8pm, is presented by a Catholic family ministry from the USA. Details: <https://>

**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.

### **Certificate of Catholic Practice for Catholic schools applications.**

Parents who will be making an application later this year for Catholic primary and secondary schools will need to sign in when they are at Mass on Sundays or Saturday evening. The priest is asked to provide a Certificate of Catholic Practice for those who attend Mass weekly. However, it is not appropriate or practical for a priest to monitor Mass attendance in order to issue a Certificate. Please see the briefing below concerning how things are done at St Aidan's parish.

Fr Peter will see secondary school parents in October and primary parents in November.

FR Peter

### **Catholic school applications for primary and secondary schools, for September 2027 intake.**

#### **Information for parents regarding the Certificate of Catholic Practice.**

The former 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.

Please note that St Bede's have a different system, they write directly to the priest for a reference.

*The following applies to St Aidan's parish only. People from other parishes must consult their own priest for guidance.*

Here at St Aidan's we have a sign in system each weekend for a set period of time. This means that IT IS THE PARENT WHO CREATES THEIR OWN ATTENDANCE RECORD not the priest.

#### ***Some questions and answers may help:***

##### **Are all Catholic schools oversubscribed with churchgoing Catholics ?**

In recent there have been no schools oversubscribed with Catholic applications. The exception to this was St Aidan's primary school for the 2026 intake, they were very oversubscribed with applications from practicing Catholics. Those with Catholic baptism certificates are always ranked ahead of those who are not Catholic.

##### **How do parents know when the signing in period begins and ends at church ?**

There are very clear announcements made at Masses and notices placed in the newsletter over several weeks. It is not possible to be at church and miss the announcements and publicity.

##### **What if parents are away on holiday or absent due to illness and miss the announcement ?**

The announcements at Mass and in newsletters are made loud and clear over several weeks to ensure no one who is regularly attending Mass can miss the information even if they are absent for a good reason. Publicity also continues on other weekends throughout the period.

##### **If the 'sign in' period is only for about six months, how can that cover the three year or one year period required by schools ?**

It is just an indication of a pattern of attendance. E.g. if someone says they were there every week for the past year but only signed in for 10 out of 20 'sign in weeks', clearly they have disqualified themselves from getting the rank of 'weekly'.

##### **What if parents feel that their indicated Mass attendance does not do justice to their particular situation ?**

They can enclose a letter to the school giving the information that they want to communicate.

##### **Why explain to the school and not the priest ?**

Because it is the schools that need to know in order to make decisions about admissions. The priest plays no part in that stage of the process. It is the schools that have to manage prioritising the admissions when they are oversubscribed. They need to be fair to everyone and make sure that regular church going Catholics are not excluded.

## Today's readings:

### First reading            Acts 2:14a, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

### Responsorial Psalm 23 (22)

*The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me;  
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,  
for the sake of his name.  
Though I should walk in the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear,  
for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the LORD's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending.

### Second reading 1 Peter 2:20b-25

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### Gospel                    John 10:1-10

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

# CALLED

## EXPLORE YOUR VOCATION

WHAT IS GOD CALLING YOU TO?



AN EVENING FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35



**6:30 PM**

Gathering Music (*Loretto*)



**7:00 PM**

Welcome followed by  
Eucharistic Adoration  
*Confessions available in  
confessionals and side chapels*



**Praise & Worship**

*led by Loretto &  
Fr Joseph Gulliford*



**Testimony on Marriage**

*Claudia Schmuckler &  
Diego Sarkissian*



**Testimony: Religious Life**

*Sr Stella Muia LSOP*



**8:05 PM**

Benediction  
*Fr Frazer Bellfield*



**8:15 PM**

Keynote Talk: Vocation & Priesthood  
*Bishop Gerard Bradley*



**8:40 PM**

Veneration of the Relic of  
St John Henry Newman



Music from the  
*Cathedral Lay Clerks*




**AFTERWARDS**

Social Gathering in the Hall

  
**SOUTHWARK**  
CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE

**STAY CONNECTED**

 @stgeorgesya

 [Linktr.ee/stgeorgesya](https://linktr.ee/stgeorgesya)



**ST.  
GEORGE'S**  
YOUNG ADULTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**BISHOP  
GERARD BRADLEY**

“ God has created me  
to do Him some definite service. ”

— St John Henry Newman

