

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church -



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

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Acc no.: 01751182 Sort: 60-06-14

Year A

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

3rd MAY 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 Charlie Nizinskyj

Sunday 11am Hannah Cook RIP

Monday 10am Martin Rodrigues RIP *The English Martyrs*

Tuesday No Mass here

Wednesday 6.30pm Zia Gomes RIP

Thursday 10am Szymanski Family Intentions

Friday 10am Teresa Leonard RIP **Exposition until 11am**

Saturday 6pm Una Precious RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am Kathleen Gaffney RIP **11am** Yvonne Ireland RIP **First Holy communions.**

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

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.

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

Monday: Feastday of the English Martyrs.

We commemorate the English men and women martyred for their Catholic faith from 1535 to 1680 and beatified or canonized by the Church.

The first Holy Communion Masses here at St Aidan's will be at 11am on Sundays 10th and 17th May.

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

Book and Jigsaw sale this Sunday has had to be postponed.

Mary Archer died peacefully this Saturday morning. We hold her in love and prayer before the Lord. We ask Jesus the Good Shepherd to be close to her bereaved family at this time.

Mary did much apostolic work at St Aidan's over the years including SVP, Special Minister to the sick and housebound and at Masses. She started assisting Liz Moore in the sacristy and eventually took over that role when Liz stepped back. Apart from the parish Mary volunteered in the past with the chaplaincy team at Croydon hospital. Up to recently she gave one day a week serving in a charity shop in Banstead.

We will all miss Mary greatly, not only for what she did but for her warm, humorous and holy presence among us.

FR *Palao*

CELEBRATE YOUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The popular annual Marriage Mass will take place at St George's Cathedral on July 11th 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

Rosary For Life.

Archbishop John Wilson is calling on all of us to join him in praying the Rosary for Life this May (Month of Mary). Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, each one offered for the most vulnerable facing growing threats to life: unborn children at risk of abortion, victims of war and persecution, people with disabilities, and the elderly and vulnerable. For video, audio and written versions of the Rosary for Life, visit **rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife**.
Pray the Rosary. Encounter Christ. Defend life.

Requiem Mass for our deceased parishioners have been arranged as follows:

Rosie Longworth RIP. Tue 19th May 12 noon

Nora Buggy RIP. Thursday 28th May 11am.

Safeguarding Sunday 2026 is 3 May

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On 3 May 2026, we will once again mark Safeguarding Sunday.

This important day reminds us that safeguarding is a responsibility shared by us all. It is part of the Christian duty we owe to one another; especially to those who are most vulnerable. It calls us to help ensure that every person is safe, valued, listened to, and treated with the dignity which is theirs in Christ.

Safeguarding is not simply a matter of policies or procedures, necessary though these are. It is also an expression of our deepest moral and spiritual responsibilities. It asks of us a spirit of attentiveness, compassion, and courage: a readiness to recognise harm, to respond wisely to concerns, and to stand alongside those who are in need of care and support.

In this way, safeguarding is closely bound to the Church's social teaching, which places at its heart the God-given dignity of every human person, and calls us to uphold the common good by protecting the weak, the vulnerable, and those whose voice may too easily go unheard. To safeguard others well is, therefore, not only a practical responsibility, but also a work of justice, solidarity, and Christian love.

Safeguarding Sunday gives us, as an Archdiocese, an opportunity to renew our commitment to building communities in which dignity is honoured, concerns are taken seriously, and help is always available. It is also a moment for each parish community to strengthen its resolve to listen well, to act wisely, and to care faithfully for one another.

The Safeguarding team will provide the necessary information and resources to help parishes mark this day well.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this vital work, and for all that you do to help ensure that our parishes, chaplaincies, and communities are places of safety, trust and care.

+ *John Wilson*



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY



Background on today's Gospel Reading.

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The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

Pope Leo XIV. Friday sees the first anniversary of Pope Leo's election. May God bless, protect and guide him in the Petrine ministry for the service of the Church and the World.

The Hall will be in use on Thursday as a polling station for the London Borough of Croydon local elections.

No car reg necessary for parking.

PURLEY FOOD HUB are always very grateful for our donations. This month's priorities are: Long Life Whole Milk • Drinking Chocolate requiring only hot water • Tinned Plain Meat - Corned Beef / Chicken / Ham • Tomatoes in cartons (lighter for our clients to carry) • Pasta Sauce in cartons • Tinned Vegetarian Meals - eg, Princes plant based range • Concentrated Fruit Squash (in small plastic discs if possible) • Tinned Fruit • Small Bottles of Shampoo • Unisex Deodorant • Washing Liquid Pods.

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. Please see the full briefing for parents available at the back of the church on the table or if you are reading this newsletter on a device it is repeated on P 5

Westminster assisted suicide Bill has fallen

The assisted suicide Bill has failed to pass all stages in the House of Lords. This means that Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill has fallen and will not become law! This is a major milestone, but the battle is not over. Assisted suicide campaigners have said they are going to try to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session and use the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords.

To find out more about this significant milestone and what comes next, visit:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/LeadbeaterBillFalls>

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME. Cash £419, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £157
Total income: £1,167 of which £677 was gift-aided.

2nd Collection: Priest Training Fund £551

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

The Parish Pastoral Council meets on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Marian room.
If you wish to communicate anything to PPC you can use the parish email couldson@rcaos.org.uk

Today's readings:

First reading Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R22

*May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the LORD is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.
The LORD loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Second reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual

sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Gospel John 14:1-12

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

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.

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.

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.