

# NEWSLETTER

## St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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

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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)

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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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10th MAY 2026

Masses are streamed for the housebound on the parish YouTube channel: [St Aidans Coulsdon](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv11111111111111111111)

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

**Sunday 9am** Kathleen Gaffney RIP

**Sunday 11am** Yvonne Ireland RIP **First Holy Communions** 4pm Rosary and Benediction.

**Monday 10am** Maria Menezes RIP

**Ascension Vigil Mass - Wednesday 7.30pm** Martin Leonard RIP

**Ascension Thursday 10am** Baby Gloria Fernandes 2pm **School Mass** People of the parish

**Friday 10am** Francis and Beatrice Burgess **Exposition until 11am** *St John Stone*

**Saturday 6pm** Wilma Noronha RIP Confessions after Mass.

**Sunday 9am** Michelle Gent RIP 11am Florence Horrigan RIP **First Holy communions.**

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

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

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.

### **Ascension Thursday.**

This Thursday is a Holyday of Obligation, when you should attend Mass if you possibly can.

**Vigil Mass of Ascension Wednesday 7.30pm**

**Morning Mass Ascension Thursday 10am.**

**School Mass 2pm in church. Parishioners are welcome.**

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

**Churches Together in Coulsdon - CTC**  
**- Your views needed.**

St Aidan's has been asked to consult on the future of the CTC. This group of local Christian churches that has worked together since 1984 on shared worship and community outreach, including the Good Friday Walk of Witness and our Nightwatch collaboration. The CTC is finding its current structure hard to sustain, and a final decision on its future will be made at an open meeting at St Aidan's Hall on Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30pm. Please share your views with a member of the PPC or Fr Peter.

The CTC currently feels its way of working is no longer sustainable — meetings are poorly attended and it is difficult to fill leadership roles. All member churches have been asked to consult their communities before a final decision is made at an open meeting at St Aidan's Hall on Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30pm.

Three options are on the table:

- Keep things as they are — maintain the current structure despite its difficulties.
- Dissolve the CTC — bring the organisation to an end.
- Continue with a new way of working - keep the CTC going but with a lighter, more sustainable structure.

We'd love to hear your thoughts. You can share your views here, drop written comments into church at Mass in the box provided on the table at the back, speak to a member of the PPC, or have a word with Fr Peter.

**Please attend the open meeting in our hall on Tue 2nd June.**

**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.

**Next Sunday's Second Collection: Catholic Communications Network On World Communications Sunday.**

We are asked to keep those who work in the media in our prayers. Our Second Collection will be for the media office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, which supports the bishops, promotes the Gospel through the media, answers media enquiries, provides news releases, and trains spokespeople.

**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**

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

**Rosie Longworth RIP.** Tue 19th May 12 noon  
**Kathleen Spiteri RIP** Thurs 21 May 11am.  
**Nora Buggy RIP.** Thursday 28th May 11am.

**Praying Together – Wayfarer Afternoon**

At Purley Methodist Church. A quiet afternoon with inspiring installations and activities to help you hear God. Such as painting, reading, writing and action. Refreshments will be available.  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2-5pm at Whitethorn Avenue;  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2-5pm at Sanderstead.

**Car park.** Last Sunday after 11am Mass a red Suzuki Swift car was scratched on its back corner. It was parked at the Chipstead Valley Rd side of the church nr the fire door. If you suspect that you may have scratched that car as you drove by between the front and back sections of the carpark please make yourself known. You will not be in big trouble, you will just be appreciated for coming forward to help. Contact the parish office **coulsdon@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.*

## Ascension Thursday.

At St. Aidan's there will be a Vigil Mass at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 10am and 2pm on Thursday. The solemnity of the Ascension is celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday. Ascension Thursday is a Holy Day of obligation when Catholics are required to attend Mass if possible.

Having risen from the dead, Jesus had shown himself on many occasions to the disciples. The solemnity of the Ascension celebrates the return of Jesus to his Father in heaven having completed the work of our redemption. By ascending in his human body he shows that his humanity is eternally united with his divinity. After the Ascension the disciples no longer saw Jesus in bodily form, but they remembered his promise: you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses (Acts 1:8). They went back to the upper room accompanied by Mary the mother of Jesus. There they spent the following days in prayer waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. The period between Ascension and Pentecost is a special period of prayer for us who are disciples of Christ today.

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**I invited Archbishop John** to visit our parish this year. He has replied that he will be very pleased to come on Sunday 13th September. He will celebrate the 11am Mass and join us in the hall afterwards to meet people.

It is a very long time since an Archbishop of Southwark has been invited to St Aidan's. We look forward to it being a very happy occasion and a sign of the Archbishop John's pastoral care for us.

FR 

## Background on today's Gospel Reading.

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Today's Gospel is a continuation of last week's Gospel: Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. In today's reading Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples, who will soon see him crucified. He reassures them that even though he will leave them, he will not abandon them. Instead he will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus.

Jesus uses the term *Advocate* to describe the Holy Spirit, whom the disciples will receive. Another word used to describe the Holy Spirit is *Paraclete*, a legal term meaning "one who offers defense for another." Note that Jesus says that he will send "another Advocate." Jesus himself is the first advocate, interceding for his disciples with the Father.

In today's reading Jesus contrasts his impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

Today's reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of disciples, to whom God will reveal himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the disciples will receive. Only through the

## 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. 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.

## **Our Lady's month.**

### **Rosary and Benediction at 4pm for Sundays in May.**

The month of May in Catholic tradition is dedicated to Mary, mother of Christ and spiritual mother of us all. There will be Rosary and adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at 4pm every Sunday in May. Devotion to Mary is an important part of our spiritual lives as Catholics. Praying to Mary is of course not the same as offering prayer to God. When we pray to Mary we are not worshipping her we are asking her help as a loving Mother in the Christian family.

**OUR OFFERTORY INCOME.** Cash £477, Standing Orders £591, Card reader £406  
**Total income:** £1,474 of which £881 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)**

## **Today's readings:**

### **Not at first Communion Mass.**

#### **First reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17**

In those days: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city. Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

#### **Responsorial Psalm 66 (65)**

*Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.*

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!'

'Before you all the earth shall bow down,  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'  
Come and see the works of God:  
his wondrous deeds among  
the children of Adam.

He turned the sea into dry land;  
they passed through the river on foot.  
Let our joy, then, be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God;  
I will tell what he did for my soul.  
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,  
nor withhold from me his merciful love.

#### **Second reading 1 Peter 3:15-18**

Beloved: In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

#### **Gospel John 14:15-21**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.'