

NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon



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Year A

23rd Sunday of Ordinary time

6th September 2026

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

Saturday 6pm Siobhan Crowley RIP. **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of the parish

Sunday 11am Yvonne Ireland RIP.

Monday 11am FUNERAL MASS OF BENEDICT McHUGO

Tuesday No Mass here. *The birthday of Our Lady.*

Wednesday 6.30pm Past staff and patients of Cane Hill hospital - living and dead.

Thursday 10am Eva Fernandes RIP *Votive Mass for Birthday of Our Lady.*

Friday 10am Santana Gomes RIP. **Exposition until 11am**

Saturday 6pm Chris McGirr RIP **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of the parish **11am** People of the parish

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

Next Sunday .. Second collection will be for the Catholic Education Service.

The Catholic Education Service (CES) acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh Governments', sharing the aims of high academic standards for all, and increased parental choice. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of state schools. There are over 2000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 pupils. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

Tuesday 8th September is Our Lady's birthday. There is no Mass here that day and Fr Peter is conducting a funeral in another parish. We will designate Thursday's Mass as a votive Mass of the Nativity of Mary.

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Trevor Lewis, Kit Gralton, Jim Mons, Norah Johnson, Brian Fernandes, Ed 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.

Sacrament of Confirmation at St Aidan's 2027.

Year 9 pupils or older are now being invited to enrol for the preparation for Confirmation. . Bishop Gerard Bradley will be coming to our parish on Friday 5th February 2027 to administer the sacrament of Confirmation at 7.30pm Mass.

We would like to invite our young people who are currently in year 9 or older to apply.

The Confirmation preparation programme will begin in the church hall on Sunday evenings in term time beginning on Sunday 11th October at 6pm. The application forms will be available from Fr Peter after Masses today and for the next two weeks.

Mass attendance is an essential requirement for any prospective applicant.

The young person applying needs to request the form personally, **NOT A PARENT.**

The St Aidan's programme is not open to people from other parishes.

On the application form the applicants are asked to write a short letter in their own words saying why they wish to be confirmed.

There new members are required for the Parish Pastoral Council - PPC. Please see the notice board in church to write nominations. Closing date is Sunday 21st Sept.

Four parishioners have to nominate a suitable person. Those nominating have to be at least 16 years old. Those being nominated have to be over 18 years old. You can approach someone you think suitable and ask their permission for you to nominate them. Or if you think you would like to serve on the PPC for a term of four years you could ask four people to nominate you.

The PPC meets about five times a year usually on Wednesday evenings. The following extract from our PPC constitution will help to give a flavour of what a PPC is about.

The Parish Pastoral Council, comprises a group of members who act in partnership with the parish priest in his leadership of the parish. The PPC is a consultative body.

"In this council, which is presided over by the parish priest, ... those who ... are engaged in pastoral care in the parish, give their help in fostering pastoral action." [Code of Canon Law 536.1]

Aims of the PPC.

Within the context of increasing the involvement of the laity in pastoral affairs the aims of the PPC are: to work with the parish priest in all matters relating to the administration, general welfare and development of the parish; to facilitate, through the representative role of the members, the rights of the members of the parish as expressly stated in the law of the Church – the Code of Canon Law – namely - "... to make known their needs, especially their spiritual needs, and their wishes to the Pastors of the Church" [Can. 212.2] and "... to make their views known to others of Christ's faithful..." [Canon 212.3]

Next Sunday - Archbishop's visit.

In our Archdiocese of Southwark we have an Archbishop and two auxiliary or assistant Bishops. Bishop Gerard is our local area bishop. The reason we have three bishops is because we are a big diocese comprising of south London and Kent. The person who is at the head is Archbishop John Wilson. These days the Archbishop comes to parishes for special occasions or by invitation. We invited Archbishop John as it is decades since an archbishop was invited to St Aidan's he was very pleased to accept.



Social time.

After celebrating the 11am Mass Archbishop John will join us in the hall. Please come together to celebrate. There will be an international themed buffet in the Church Hall following the 11am Mass. **Please bring your favourite sharing dishes whether it be your grandma's quiche or your favourite family party go-to...** You can drop any dishes in the church hall before the 11 am Mass. We look forward to this special parish celebration.

Many young people are preparing to begin or return to university this month. Others are taking up further education in new colleges or have started in their new school. We ask God to bless them in this time of transition in their lives.



The Back to School BBQ

Let's all come together and say goodbye to summer together from midday on Sunday 20th September.



Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for kids.
Tickets on sale after Mass.

Archbishop John sent a message to mark World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation which was on 1st September. Here are some extracts:

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. ' (Ps. 24:1) Creation is a gift we receive from God. We do not worship creation; we worship the Creator. Creation bears the marks of God and points beyond itself to the Creator. Contemplating the beauty of creation, St Augustine asks: 'Who made them if not the Beautiful One who is not subject to change?

When our relationship with God becomes disordered, so do our relationships with one another. The greed, waste, violence and selfishness that push us away from God not only harm creation, but also have damaging consequences for people who are poor and vulnerable and, so often, amongst the first to suffer.

This is why care for creation cannot be reduced simply to policy, technology, or good intention. It calls first for conversion, for us to remember that we are creatures - not the Creator - and that the world is a gift, not a possession.

To mark the occasion of the London march for life Archbishop John included some reflections on LIFE issues also:

We are a people of life. Life is sacred and a gift from God. The measure of a humane society cannot be how readily it removes those whose presence it regards as a burden, but how generously it protects and accompanies them.

To defend the unborn child cannot mean abandoning or condemning a mother who is frightened or in difficulty. Both lives matter. Our defence of life must always be accompanied by compassion, practical help, friendship, forgiveness, and hope. We want to care for a mother and child together, support fathers and families, and offer healing to those who carry the pain of abortion.

May the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, renew the face of the earth, renew our hearts, and make us faithful witnesses to the dignity, beauty, and goodness of all that God has made.

Today's Gospel.

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Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word *church* in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

PURLEY FOOD HUB are always very grateful for our donations. Please leave food items in church porch.

WEST CROYDON REFUGEE CENTRE.
Croydon Refugee Centre are always grateful for our donations.

How do we pray? How do we build a better, more fulfilling relationship with God?

You are warmly invited to join an experiential programme called Teach Us to Pray facilitated by Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission. The programme will be online on Tuesdays, starting 6th October from 7pm to 8.15pm. Following 4 online sessions, there is an invitation to conclude the programme with an in-person Reflection Day in a Diocesan Retreat Centre on 5th or 12th December. There is no commitment to attend all sessions – join us whenever you can.

For details/ to sign up see <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/tnpn4hqd> or email for further information spirituality@rcaos.org.uk

Our church boiler.

It has become necessary to install a new church boiler and supporting parts immediately. We have known for some years that the boiler was coming to the end of its life as it is around twenty years old. When it had its recent annual service we were told it would cost £3,000 for parts just to keep it going for the coming year and even with that expenditure it may not last the winter. It left us with no choice but to make plans for the installation of a new one.

In consultation with the diocese we got the three required estimates and have now chosen one of them at a cost of £25,000. The parish bears the full cost of this expenditure. We hope to have the work completed by early to mid October.

Today's readings.

First reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

Thus says the Lord: 'So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95(94)

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

Second reading Romans 13:8-10

Brothers and Sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit

adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet', and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'