

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

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

Year A

24th Sunday of Ordinary time

13th September 2026

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

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

Sunday 9am Welfare of Trevor Lewis (ill).

Sunday 11am People of the parish

Monday 10am Christopher Palmer RIP **Confessions after Mass. EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

Tuesday 11.30am Funeral Mass - Mary Crowe RIP.

Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday No mass Here

Saints Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

Thursday 10am Gail Smith RIP

Friday 10am Welfare of Trevor Lewis **Exposition until 11am**

Saturday 6pm Welfare of Tony and Eileen Fleming **Confessions after Mass.**

Sunday 9am People of the parish **11am** Thanksgiving of Neil Tharakan and family

Life breakfast after 9am Mass.
Bar open after 11am Mass.
Meet Archbishop John in hall.

This 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. 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,

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.

Autumn BBQ.

Let's all come together and say goodbye to summer together from midday next Sunday from 12pm. 20th September. Tickets are £5 for adults / £2.50 for kids. Tickets on sale after Masses.



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 six times a year usually on Wednesday evenings. The following extract from our PPC constitution will help to give a flavour of what the 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 as stated in our constitution.

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]

This 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.

Journey-in-Faith (RCIA) is an adult preparation programme for sacraments of initiation.

- Perhaps you have not received the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Maybe you would like to explore becoming a Catholic.
- Or you have received all the sacraments of initiation but want to renew your faith.

Please see Fr Peter today if you want to join the group starting Monday 21 September 7.30pm. Or email him: couldson@rcaos.org.uk

Date for diaries ... Mon 19th October.

Mass for stillborn babies, miscarried and any loss of a baby before, during or after birth prior to baptism.

Catholic secondary school references.

Certificate of Catholic Practice. The priest's reference form has been replaced with the Certificate of Catholic Practice. The certificate is signed by the priest only 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.

For more information parents should pick up the cream information sheet from the tables at the back of the church.

Fr Peter will be available to sign secondary school certificates on the following dates and times:
Wed 23 Sept. 7.30 - 8pm;
Friday 9 Oct. 3 - 3.45pm
Thursday 15 Oct. 7 - 7.30pm;
Thursday 22 Oct. 7 - 7.30pm

Primary schools certificates will be signed in November.

St Aidan's School - 50th anniversary of opening this month. Special Mass 10am in Church on Friday 25th September. All welcome.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our whole community to come together, reconnect, and celebrate five decades of our history. We look forward to welcoming parishioners to the Mass.

School celebration 3.30pm.

All warmly welcome you to St Aidan's School on Friday 25th September 3:30 - 7pm to for our 50th Anniversary family Celebration day. We have lots of fun in store for all the family including- Inflatables, face painting with Ellie, food on sale from Chef's Van, licensed bar, DJ, games, tombolas and much more. We look forward to welcoming you.

Open days coming up at St Aidan's Primary School, for September 2027 intake.

- Tuesday 29th September 9.30am
- Wednesday 7th October 9.30am
- Wednesday 4th November 9.30am
- Friday 4th December 9.30am

St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls.

September 2026 parents of Year 6 Students.
Open Mornings by appointment only.
Thursday 17th September, Tuesday 22nd September, Tuesday 29th September, Wednesday 30th September and Thursday 8th October.
St Philomena's is a hugely successful, Catholic, non-selective, comprehensive girls' school for students aged 11-18 years.
Email: enquiries@stphils.org.uk Website: www.stphils.org.uk
Telephone: 020 8642 2025

Today's Gospel.

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Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying

gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity - the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

PURLEY FOOD HUB are always very grateful for our donations. Please leave food items in church porch. Preferences for this month: Long life whole milk, tinned plain meat: corned beef / chicken / ham, pasta sauce in cartons please,

WEST CROYDON REFUGEE CENTRE.
Croydon Refugee Centre are always grateful for our donations. Leave in church porch.
Current needs: good quality shoes/trainers especially teenager's size, soap, shampoo,

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Today's readings.

First reading Sirach 27:30-28:7

Anger and wrath, these are abominations, and the sinful man will hold them fast. The one who seeks vengeance will be paid vengeance from the Lord, and he who keeps a record will have his own sins recorded. Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does one person harbour anger against another and yet seek for healing from the Lord? Does he have no mercy towards someone like himself and yet pray concerning his own sins? If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath, who will make atonement for his sins? Remember the end of your life and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High and overlook error.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 103(102)

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

He will not always find fault;
nor persist in his anger for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions.

Second reading Romans 14:7-9

Brothers and Sisters: None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'

'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'