NEWSLETTER

St Aidan's Catholic Church - Coulsdon

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
Parish Website: www.st-aidans-parish.org.uk
Support in times of loss: listeningtoyou.staidans@gmail.com
Safeguarding: Bridget Hanlon *coulsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk*
Alexandra Collins *coulsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk*
Church Hall enquiries: staidanshallbookings@gmail.com
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Parish banking details: Name of acc: RCAS Coulsdon.
Acc no.: 01751182 Sort: 60-06-14

Year A **26th Sunday of Ordinary time** **27th September 2026**

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

Saturday 6pm Yolanda Sapsford RIP **Confessions after Mass.**
Sunday 9am People of the parish; **Sunday 11am** Daria Mascarenhas RIP
Monday 10am John Henry Back RIP
Tuesday 10am Tracy-Anne Earl RIP *Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael Archangels*
Wednesday 6.30pm *St Jerome*
Thursday 10am Michael Palmer RIP *St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the church*
Friday 10am Anthony Vincent Cota RIP Exposition until 11am *The Holy Guardian Angels*
Saturday 6pm Welfare of Cynthia **Confessions after Mass.**
Sunday 9am Jean Kelly RIP **11am** Yvonne Ireland RIP

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

The annual Mass count takes place today and the next three weekends.

NEXT WEEKEND Second collection. CAFOD Family Fast Day

Support Family Fast Day in your parish Family Fast Day will be on Friday 2 October 2026.
The idea of the CAFOD fast days is that we eat less on Friday and give the money saved to the people who are needy in our world.

This Family Fast Day, we are sharing a story of our work from northern Zimbabwe, where drought has left communities facing severe food and water shortages. Twelve-year-old Tayla told us she often arrived at school hungry and tired after fetching water for her family. Without enough to eat and drink, she struggled to concentrate and feared she would fall behind in her studies.
But thanks to the generosity of parishes like yours, our local Caritas partners worked with Tayla's school and community to build a solar-powered water system. Now the school has safe water for drinking and for growing vegetables, meaning they can provide nutritious meals to the children all year round, helping them to stay in education and develop their God-given talents.

Your parish's support this Family Fast Day will help more children like Tayla stay in school.

FINAL day for enrolment forms to be returned. **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 tern 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.
Current 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.

200 Club Winners for August and September
The 200 Club winning number for August is number 72 belonging to Marcella Touray.
The winner receive a cheque for £200.

The 200 Club winning number for September is number 121 belonging to Emma Sinclair.
The winner receive a cheque for £200.

If you are interested in joining the 200 club, please contact Sarah Martin-Loat by email at staidans200club@gmail.com.

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.

More information next week.
If you can help with teas /coffees afterwards please let Fr Peter know.

Afternoon Tea Friday 2nd October is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS:
Once again we will be collaborating this autumn with Nightwatch in the provision of sandwiches for distribution to the homeless and vulnerably housed in the evenings in central Croydon. We have pursued this initiative for several years now and Nightwatch have reported on the ever-increasing need for food provision on a nightly basis. We, the Churches Together in Coulsdon, have agreed take on sandwich provision on Thursday evenings in November and December.
Previous St Aidan's volunteers will be contacted direct for their availability but new volunteers are also very welcome indeed. A lot of food is needed so please do respond to this if you can. Volunteers are needed to cover the following jobs:
1) To make about 15 rounds (approximately 2 loaves) of simple sandwiches and deliver them to a specified Coulsdon address any time up to 7.00pm on Thursdays in November and December (collection can be arranged if you are not able to deliver). About seven volunteers are needed for each week.

2) To collect all the batches of sandwiches from the Coulsdon address at 8pm on Thursdays in November and December and deliver them by car to Nightwatch in central Croydon. The round trip takes about one hour. One volunteer is needed each week.

Detailed instructions will be available for both jobs when a rota is circulated. If we have enough volunteers you should only be asked to be on the rota once or twice.

If you are able to help out please contact Maureen Lee - **maureenannelee213@gmail.com** - by Tuesday 20th October saying which job you would like to do and which Thursdays in November and December you are available. A rota will be issued in the last week of October.

Please pray for the sick and housebound. Bridgit Haran, Trevor Lewis, Kit Gralton, Jim Mons, Norah Johnson, Brian Fernandes, Ed Mulhearn, Claire Longworth, Eileen Mallows, Truda Hobbs, Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown, Gill Lands, 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.

We welcome Fr James back
for a couple of weeks until he returns to Nigeria on 9th October.

Catholic secondary school references. At the Parish House , 1 Portnalls Rd, CR5 3DD.

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. 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:

Friday 9 Oct. 3 - 3.45pm
Thursday 15 Oct. 7 - 7.30pm;
Wednesday 21 Oct. 7.30 - 8pm

Primary schools certificates will be signed in November.

Parish Pastoral Council news …

We are pleased to announce that four people received the required four nominations to join the PPC. They are:

Heather Archer, Justina Jez, Leonora Gouveia, Sabine Ward and Ann Batson.

We thank them for their willingness to serve a four year term of office.

The next meeting of the PPC is Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm in the Marian Room.

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

Day for Catechists 3 October 2026
St George's Cathedral - Amigio Hall
Truth and Beauty in Catechesis in the Age of AI

Archbishop John Wilson will be accompanying us.
Matthew Harvey Sanders will deliver the keynote.
See booking and full programme on the link.
https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2026?mc_cid=16d77459e6&mc_eid=29588c5045
Or email Fr Peter coulsdon@rcaos.org.uk
Cost of the day can be reclaimed from the parish.

PPC Activity – Called to Bear Fruit Results and new group A Feast for All Peoples
Last year, members of the parish met together in small groups to work through the Called to Bear Fruit project; this helped the Diocese to focus on areas of importance to parishioners as they contemplated the evolving nature of Church within its communities. Following on from this, the Diocese has developed a new small group course, A Feast for All Peoples, which aims to consider synodality ('walking together' as a community) and how we listen to each other and interact with each other to pray, meditate, converse, decide and act out our lives as baptised Catholics.

We would like to encourage everyone who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit groups, and anyone else who would like to be involved in small group sessions to think about our lives as part of the Church community and what our faith means for us in that context. Meetings will take place weekly, in person in the Church hall or in peoples' homes, or online, whatever suits you best.

If you would like to take part, please contact Alexandra Collins (alexandraecollins@outlook.com) and let her know what would be most convenient for you – Weekdays? Evenings? Weekends? and whether online or in person is preferred. She will bring groups together, and ensure that resources are provided for each group.

The PPC would like to start the process by mid October, aiming for 4 or 5 sessions, before we wrap up the process and have each group feedback their concluding thoughts. We aim to bring these outcomes into the Parish Plan, which was recently developed with your help, to ensure that our Parish keeps listening to our community.

Autumn BBQ and
Winter Warmer November 15th
The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who attended last Sunday's Autumn BBQ and helped make it such a success. We loved seeing you and your support is very much appreciated. We're pleased to announce the raffle raised £162 and this has been donated to the Royal Marsden.

A date for your diary; Sunday November 15th after 11am Mass for our Winter Warmer, more details to follow!

OUR OFFERTORY INCOME.

Cash £459; Standing Orders £810,
Card reader £301
Total income: £1,570

2nd Collection: Home Mission £346

Thank you.

To Gif Aid your offertory contact Jed Murphy the GA coordinator to make arrangements.
coulsdongac@rcaos.org.uk

Altar Servers Recruitment.
We are excited to invite new altar servers to join our team for all Masses. We welcome girls, boys, and adults who wish to serve at the altar. Children should be in **Year 4 or above** and have received their **First Holy Communion**.

A **training session** for new and current servers will take place on: **Date:** Sunday, 15th November, **Time:** After the 11:00am Mass.

If you or your child is interested in joining, or would like more information, please speak with the **altar server coordinator after Mass**, or contact:
Agnelo Braganza – 9:00am Mass
Email: agnelob@yahoo.com
Phone: 07546 113700

We look forward to welcoming new members to our altar server team and thank you for considering this important ministry.

Today's readings.

First reading Ezekiel 18:25-28
Thus says the Lord: 'You say, "The way of the Lord is not just." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm 25(24)

Remember your compassion, O LORD.

Second reading Philippians 2:1-11

Brothers and Sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." And he answered, "I will not", but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, "I go, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.'