

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

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St Marks Church West Wickham

11 August 2024

9th Weeks of Ordinary Time (B)

There's the door!

Any priest or deacon who commends a homily by his bishop runs the risk of being thought as a 'Goody Two-shoes' but sometimes it's worth the risk. In February 2022 the Archbishop of Southwark preached a very powerful homily for Racial Justice Sunday in St George's Cathedral; His full text is on the porch noticeboard but you can watch the whole thing on YouTube ('Racial Justice Sunday 2022: Homily by Archbishop John Wilson', <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN4dw16AVjk>). At one point Archbishop John said:

Our archdiocese is marvellously diverse. People in our parishes and in our schools represent a rich variety of culture and of ethnic and racial backgrounds from every country across the world. There is a place for everyone in our Church. And if you don't like it, there's the door!

As he said those words he pointed to the doors of the cathedral. In nearly forty years of ordained ministry in the Church of England and the Catholic Church, I have never heard such a forceful sermon from any bishop, saying what many of us might never dare to say.

The Catholic Church teaches that racism, in whatever form it is found, is gravely sinful. Witnessing against it, all over the world, has become an important part of our moral teaching – not only for our own people but as a way of setting an example for wider societies. This witness is also at the heart of the ways in which the Church worldwide tries to support refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, victims of slavery and trafficking and others – men, women and children who are not only often trying to escape from racial discrimination and hatred but who also encounter similar hatred in the countries where they seek refuge. The riots which have followed the killings in Southport (one of the children killed was a Catholic child of Portuguese heritage) are not in any way legitimate expressions of political views about migration – they are simply racism and thuggery; what is particularly shameful is the way in which this sinfulness has been stoked by unscrupulous politicians and the gutter press. We don't collude with this sort of twisted mentality and sinfulness or make concessions to it: we are called to encourage sinners to repent, and to protect and support the asylum seekers who have been objects of attacks and indeed attempted murder by arson. As far as Catholics are concerned the strong words of our archbishop (who comes from Yorkshire, a part of the country where some of the riots have taken place) are opportune for all of us, along with the statements from Cardinal Nichols and other faith leaders last week ('Cardinal joins faith leaders to condemn riots', <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/50373>). We should pray particularly at this time for the girls who were killed and their families, and asylum seekers who are so frightened; and for the police and emergency services.

Psalm response

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
And my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!

Pastoral Review

Most of you are aware that for about two years I have been editor of a quarterly journal known as the Pastoral Review. This journal, now owned by the only weekly printed Catholic newspaper left in England, The Tablet, was originally founded in 1931 as the Clergy Review. It now exists to provide support for those working in pastoral ministry in Catholic parishes (not just clergy) and in Catholic schools and universities. It is not a 'high-brow' academic journal: we aim to provide theological reflection which is pastoral and practical. We are actively recruiting more younger writers and writers from parishes and schools. The new issue for July-September is available in the porch: it contains a number of pieces relating to pastoral work and the right response by Catholics to the General Election, together with homily reflections and book reviews. We do need more subscribers, and you can find out how to sign up from thetablet.co.uk/pastoral-review. Sometimes we are all apt to complain about how online publications and social media, often unverified and unaccountable, are replacing traditional papers and journals. To some extent we have to live with changes which have happened, but it's no use complaining unless you support good printed papers and journals (the journal and The Tablet also organise very important webinars). You can get four issues of the Pastoral Review for £27 a year, less than many spend on one visit to a supermarket, and a loss less than we spend on one visit to a petrol station.

Repository and Catholic Truth Society

We are fortunate to have at St Mark's a good, well-stocked repository which is open after all Masses. You can buy cards and gifts for First Holy Communion children and Confirmation candidates, and we also have material from the Catholic Truth Society (including some new titles – booklets about Pope Benedict XV and Freemasonry). Money for purchases should be put in the special wall safe.

St Mary's Primary School

St Mary's School in Westgate Road, Beckenham, is our parish school which we share with Beckenham and Hayes parishes. For details of the school's life and how to apply for a place go to their website; www.st-marys-catholic.bromley.sch.uk

St Mary's OFSTED

As some of you know St Mary's school recently had an OFSTED inspection, and it is great to be able to report that the school was deemed OUTSTANDING by the inspectors. Our congratulations to our parishioner Isobel Vassallo, the Head, the staff, governors and children. A summary of the OFSTED report is on the noticeboard in the porch.

Society of St Vincent De Paul Summer Raffle

This annual raffle is a big fundraising event for our local SVP conference and increases awareness of its activities – and new entrants have the chance to win fantastic cash prizes. Tickets are £1 each and prizes are: 1 at £5000, 1 at £1000 and 15 at £100. Tickets are available after all weekend Masses for the next few weeks.

ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

The feast of the Assumption is on Thursday and it is a holy day of obligation – that is, it's just like Sundays in that the Church asks us to come to Mass.

Vigil Mass 630pm on Wednesday

Masses on Thursday at 10am and 8pm.

There will be light refreshments after the evening Masses.



Conference in Rome

The conference in Rome about which I wrote in the last newsletter went very well. For a brief account of some of what we did from one of my colleagues please go to the St Mary's University website ('SMU Academics Present at Key Catholic Universities Conference', <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2024/st-marys-academics-present-at-key-catholic-universities-international-conference>). Rome is always a great place to be, but temperatures did rise to about 39 degrees.

St Mark's Choir

Come and join us in the organ loft at 10am when there is an organist Sunday Masses to assist in giving a lead for hymns.

All ages are welcome from seven years upwards (children should be accompanied by a parent). No previous experience or standard required; just bring your joy and enthusiasm.

New Lectionary

As most of you know the lectionary (that is, the Bible readings we use at Mass) will change to a new version at the beginning of Advent, replacing what we have used since 1969. If you use a missal you will need to replace this; details of how to pre-order missals can be found at the CTS website (New Catholic Lectionary, www.ctsbooks.org/lectionary-site/lectionary).

We hope to have copies of new people's missals on sale in due course.

Please pray for

Anniversaries

Patrick Ross, Carmen Muscat, Dorothea Finn, Violet Connery, Mary Anne Cohen, Sister Teresa McManus, Huguette Maroon, Maureen Holmes, Nicholas Brown, Veronica Stimpson, Olive Kielty, Victor Morandi and Merlyn Godenho.

Those who are sick

Robert Haines, Mary Bloom, Lucy Patterson, Michael Grant, Shauna Phibbs, Patrick Ross, Rose Scott, Maura Crawshaw, Anne Argenio, Laura Burley, Patrick Barrett, Maureen Crowhurst, Sophie Campbell, Kathy Springhall, Fr Ray Brennan, baby Poppy Mortby, Trevor Davis and Sylvia Smith.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski
Marie Potter

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Church timetable

Usual Mass times

Monday to Friday: 10:00 am
Tuesday: 6:00 pm
Saturday: 6:30 pm (Sunday vigil Mass)
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 11:30 am

Adoration

Monday and Friday after Mass until 11:30 am

Rosary

Monday to Friday at 9:20am

St Edmunds, Beckenham

Sunday 5:30 pm
Wednesday 7:30 pm
Saturday 10:00 am followed by Adoration

Sat 10th

6:00 pm
6:30 pm (vigil)

St Lawrence

Confessions
Monica Kilgannon

Sun 11th

8:00 am
10:00 am
11:30 am

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Parishioners
Diamond Jubilee of Sister Christine Mather
Private Intention

Mon 12th

10:00 am

St Jane Frances de Chantal

Mary Cunningham
Followed by Adoration until 11:30

Tues 13th

10:00 am
6:00 pm

Ss Pontian and Hippolytus

Golden Jubilee of Sr Mary de Sales and Sr Mary Joseph
Holy Sould

Wed 14th

10:00 am
6:30 pm (vigil)

St Maximilian Kolbe

Clergy of West Wickham before 1948 (Foundation Mass)
Bridie Cloonan

Thurs 15th

10:00 am
8:00 pm

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

In Thanksgiving
Parishioners
Followed by light refreshments

Fri 16th

10:00 am

St Stephen of Hungary

George and Clare Mather
Followed by Adoration until 11:30

Sat 17th

6:00 pm
6:30 pm (vigil)

Confessions

Holy Souls

Sun 18th

8:00 am
10:00 am
11:30 am

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Parishioners
Julia and Tony Gaughan
John Kelly (anniversary)