

# St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

Parochial Administrator    Father Ashley Beck  
ashleybeck@rcaos.org.uk  
07769214903  
22, Downs Road, Beckenham, BR3 5JY

<https://saintmarksww.net/>



5 January 2025

## Epiphany of the Lord

This weekend we celebrate the climax of the season of Christmas, the feast of the Epiphany. This is about so much that one can never do justice to it in a homily or a newsletter piece. But one thing it is about is the gathering in of all nations and peoples to worship the Christ child in the manger. Epiphany is a direct challenge to shabby nationalism and racism, so prevalent in our world and in this sad country.

Here at St Mark's we will be beginning this month and this year a new way to affirm what Epiphany is about. From Sunday 19 January there will be an additional Sunday Mass here, initially every fortnight, at 3pm (for some of the background to the work of the chaplaincy go to <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/10971>).

Thanks to a request from one of our parishioners, and with the approval of the archbishop, we will be hosting a regular Sunday Mass organised by the Congolese chaplaincy in London. This will be celebrated in French and Lingala. All are welcome to these Masses which will fulfil the Sunday obligation - we haven't had a Sunday evening Mass in West Wickham for some years. As far as I am aware there are few celebrations of Mass in our diocese in either French or Lingala so we hope that these celebrations will be a good way of welcoming French-speaking African Catholics to St Mark's, and contribute to how we celebrate the diversity of our archdiocese.



Moreover, in West Wickham this regular celebration will be making an important statement about the Catholic community here. I have not been in West Wickham long enough to comment about other churches here, but I do know that in Beckenham, where I served for twenty-seven years, St Edmund's parish was much more diverse, in terms of the backgrounds of worshippers, than many other churches; and I suspect (though I don't know) that this might be true in West Wickham. The Catholic Church really is the 'Church of all Nations' and this initiative gives us all an opportunity to witness to this in West Wickham. These Masses are not simply for Francophone Catholics with a Congolese heritage - they will be part of the ministry of our parish and all will be welcome.

Psalm response    All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Gospel acclamation    *Alleluia, Alleluia!*

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord.  
*Alleluia!*

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

I think some of you who come regularly to Mass may not be members of the Roman Catholic Church. We hope to put on a programme for adults who might be interested in becoming Catholics, leading up to Easter. Please let me know if you're interested, and pass this information on to others who might be as well.

## Our Lady of the Annunciation, Addiscombe

Our neighbours in Addiscombe Parish are celebrating next year the 100th anniversary of the foundation of their parish, and 60 years since the opening of the church of Our Lady of the Annunciation. They have published a calendar which celebrates and reminisces the activities of their parish, most of which still continue today. If you would like to purchase a calendar for £10 please contact Marie Tross on 07774 643 159 or [tross.marie@gmail.com](mailto:tross.marie@gmail.com).

## 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

A new version of the Bible is being used for readings at all Masses from this Advent.

*Please could readers make a special effort now to (a) read the text in advance from the ambo or your own missals (or Universalis) and (b) make sure you read slowly and clearly.*



## **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](http://www.st-marys-catholic.bromley.sch.uk)

## **First Holy Communion Programme**

The First Holy Communion celebration next year will be at the 11:30 Mass on **Sunday 18 May** and the classes will begin in January. Registration forms will be available in the next few weeks.

## **Holy Communion for those who are housebound**

Please let me or the SVP know if you are aware of parishioners who are now housebound so that arrangements can be made to take them Holy Communion.

## **Future events**

### **Wed 15 January**

2:00 pm Requiem Mass, Len Torode

### **Sun 19 January**

10:00 am Enrollment Mass for First Holy Communion children

### **Wed 22nd January**

TBC Funeral of Dorio Melfi at Bluebell Crematorium  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

### **Sat 8th February**

10:00 am First Confessions

### **Sun 18th May**

11:30 am First Holy Communion Mass

## **Please pray for**

### **Anniversaries**

### **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, Len Torode and Bob Radford.

### **Recently dead**

Horace Maple, Dorio Melfi and Len Torode.

# Masses

<b>Parish Mass times</b>		<b>Adoration</b>
Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Monday and Friday after Mass until 11:30 am <i>Normally a priest is available for confession.</i>
Monday	10:00 am	<b>Rosary</b>
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Monday and Wednesday to Friday at 9:20am
Wednesday	10:00 am	<b>Mass at St Edmunds, Beckenham</b>
Thursday	10:00 am	Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm
Friday	10:00 am	Monday to Saturday: 10:00 am
Saturday	6:30 pm (vigil)	Saturday: 6:00 pm (vigil)

## Sat 4th

6:00 pm Confessions  
6:30 pm (vigil) Private intention

## Sun 5th

8:00 am Epiphany of the Lord  
10:00 am Private intention  
11:30 am Mary and John Sweeny  
Parishioners

## Mon 6th

10:00 am Private intention  
*Followed by Adoration until 11:30*

## Tues 7th

6:00 pm Private intention

## Wed 8th

10:00 am Private intention

## Thurs 9th

10:00 am Private intention

## Fri 10th

10:00 am Private intention  
*Followed by Adoration until 11:30*

## Sat 11th

6:00 pm Confessions  
6:30 pm (vigil) Private intention

## Sun 12th

8:00 am The Baptism of the Lord  
10:00 am Private intention  
11:30 am Private intention

## Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski westwickhamsg1@safeguardraos.org.uk  
Marie Potter westwickhamsg2@safeguardraos.org.uk