

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net/>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

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9 February 2025

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

Putting Christian Teaching Free

Many policies being proposed or carried out by world leaders raise enormous challenges for the Catholic Church; some of these are made worse by the knowledge that some of these leaders are actively supported by some Catholics and other Christians. These policies have brought about terrible wars in some places, and significant suffering elsewhere, particularly on the part of the poorest. I don't need to mention any names (there are rather a lot of them). These leaders, and the political movements behind them, are bringing great darkness on the world. Many people, and not just faithful Christians, find this a depressing and dispiriting time, making the beginning of the new calendar year decidedly gloomy.

It's important not to panic. The Church views the pretensions of State leaders with growing scepticism; our own loyalty is to Christ the King, the Prince of Peace. One of the few good things which has resulted from all this turmoil is that we have the opportunity to focus on our faith and our teachings; and we're also blessed by the witness and teaching of the Holy Father. Pope Francis since his election in 2013 has consistently attacked nationalism, together with the racism and hatred behind negative attitudes towards the poor and most vulnerably in our societies, particularly migrants and refugees. No one can be in any doubt about where he and the Church stands, and this is much clearer than in the past. The God of Catholics is the God of the poor and the oppressed; Christianity challenges face to face the richest people in the world. Pope Francis has also called the world and the Church to account over what we're doing to the planet – this year will see in May the tenth anniversary of his great letter about this, *Laudato Si'*.

One of the pope's most forceful interventions about international affairs is his 2020 letter, *Fratelli Tutti*. There is so much wisdom and compassion in it; and it's very easy to read. We will be getting some copies for the repository and you can download it free from https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_encyclica-fratelli-tutti.html



Psalm response In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord.

Gospel acclamation *Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of men.

Alleluia!

Going into hospital

Sometimes people are unclear about what to do if they are admitted to hospital; it's a stressful experience and there's a lot to remember. Catholic chaplaincy provision exists in all our local NHS hospitals: what you should do is ask the nurses in the ward to which you are admitted (or the facility where you're waiting) to let the chaplaincy know that you are there; and they should let them know that you are a Roman Catholic. You should do this whether or not your condition is urgent or life-threatening, and you should make sure your family members know what to do as well. The Catholic teams are efficient and you will be seen as soon as possible. If it is urgent, ask the ward staff to contact the team urgently (they will ring a mobile).

Cliftonstrengths and Called to Bear Fruit

I am very grateful to Louisa Zacaroli-Warren and Elizabeth Beroud for speaking at our Masses two weeks ago. Both the diocesan programme which we heard about from the archbishop and the basic needs of this parish are an opportunity for people to participate more actively in the life of the Church, and the Gallup programme is a very good way to help us grow in self-knowledge. As I have written in the handouts, we have used in the formation of deacons for about fifteen years and a variant of it was also used for diocesan clergy a couple of years ago. Please email me if you wish to take part.

Missionary Skills Programme

The diocese has just started a new six-week online programme, based on Isaiah chapter 49, to help us develop missionary skills in the parish. It's not too late to sign up and details can be found at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/isaiah-49>

Marie Potter can also tell you more about it.



African Child Foundation

Over the last three decades St Mark's parishioners have supported the African Child Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support Fr. Henry Simaro in his efforts to transform the lives of Kenyan orphans and vulnerable children through education, clean water, shelter, nutrition, and medicine. Fr. Henry would like to come to England for a short holiday sometime this year. Would a family in the parish be able to accommodate him for a few days? Please phone Anne or Ed Martin on 0203 304 5052, if you think you might be able to help.

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.

St Mary's Primary School

St Mary's Primary 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

Congolese Chaplaincy Mass

The next Mass is at 3pm on Sunday 16 February.

Future events

Fri 7th February

12:00 noon Gregory Fleming RIP

Sat 8th February

10:00 am First Confessions

Sun 9th February

10:00 am Mass for Dorio Melfi RIP

Sun 18th May

11:30 am First Holy Communion Mass

Please pray for

Anniversaries

Clotilde Richmond-Cogran, Zena Grant, Frederick Holmes, Michael O'Shea, John Mackenzie and Derek Martin.

Recently dead

William Bradbury.

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 and Bob Radford.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski

westwickhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Marie Potter

westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Masses

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

Sat 8th

10:00 am
6:00 pm
6:30 pm (vigil)

St Josephine Bakhita *Day for Victims of Trafficking*

Reconciliation service
Confessions
Private intention

Sun 9th

8:00 am
10:00 am
11:30 am
2:00 pm

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Private intention
Dorio Melfi RIP
Private intention
Baptism

Mon 10th

10:00 am

St Scholastica

Derek Attwell
Followed by Adoration until 11:30

Tues 11th

6:00 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes
World Day of the Sick
Soosipillai and Philomena Francis

Wed 12th

10:00 am

Red Hand Day
International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers
Shane
Followed by refreshments

Thurs 13th

10:00 am

Special Intention

Fri 14th

10:00 am

Ss Cyril and Methodius, Patron Saints of Europe
Private Intention
Followed by Adoration until 11:30

Sat 15th

6:00 pm
6:30 pm (vigil)

Confessions
Private intention

Sun 16th

8:00 am
10:00 am
11:30 am
3:00 pm

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Racial Justice Sunday
Tommy and Kathleen Gannon
Joey McBrearty
Joseph Alphonse
Congolese Mass