

# St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net/>



St Marks Church West Wickham

## Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

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## Fourth Sunday of Easter (C)

### A Time of Waiting and Reflection

I am writing these notes on the afternoon of last Thursday, at a time when only black smoke has so far appeared – by the time you read this there may well be a new pope. On the first night I expect a number of us who have indoor cats may have tried getting our animals interested in watching the chimney and the occasional seagull as a type of ‘Cat TV’ (if you don’t have an indoor cat you may not know what this is: don’t worry!), but ours soon lost got bored (like the seagull – none were around when smoke appeared).

The whole period since Pope Francis’ death on Easter Monday has been one of reflection at so many levels; and I have tried to encourage people to see it as a precious time. The last days have coincided with the 80th anniversary of VE Day: we marked this on Thursday with a Requiem Mass for those who lost their lives in the war. As I have indicated elsewhere the late pope’s new autobiography *Hope* (Penguin/Viking 2025, £25), fascinating in so many ways, is particularly forthright in its presentation of his scathing views about war – some of these were influenced by the experience of his grandfather who fought in the Italian army in the Great War. At one point he writes:

***‘Forget heroism, forget rhetoric: War is none other than baseness and shame to the highest degree. A shame that all of us must feel as ours because it is tragic when people no longer feel ashamed about anything.’***

As well as his family experience these words also reflect how Catholic teaching has shifted so much against war since 1914, when the war in which his grandfather fought began. This is why from the standpoint of Catholic teaching so many observances of the VE Day anniversary hit the wrong note: there’s little or no rejection of war, let alone any shame. It’s no accident that the week has also seen worsening hostilities between India and Pakistan: wherever you are in the world, people have learnt nothing! In spite of many tributes to him since his death, I think Francis’ consistent witness against war made him a disturbing and uncomfortable figure for many, including a lot of Catholics. But his teachings, which are those of the Church, remain.

### First Holy Communion Mass

Next Sunday at our 1130 Mass a number of children from our parish will be making their first Holy Communion. This will be followed by a party for families and parishioners. This is always a big event in the life of any parish – please pray for the children and their families. We are very grateful to Maya Bowkett for running the formation programme.

Psalm response      We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Gospel acclamation    I am the good shepherd, says the Lord,  
I know my sheep and my own know me.

## **Holy Communion under both kinds**

We have restored the administration of Holy Communion under both kinds since Easter at all weekend Masses (in abeyance since Covid – it has been permitted again in this country since Easter 2023). If you are a special minister of Holy Communion new guidance will be available about this. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ whenever we receive Holy Communion, but the Church teaches that the symbolism of what we receive is more complete when laypeople are able to receive from the chalice, and it is encouraged in the rubrics of the missal and the teaching document issued in the late 90s by the bishops in Britain and Ireland. It goes without saying that you are not compelled to receive from the chalice. Children are allowed to receive from the chalice if they have the consent of their parents. Please also bear in mind that the physical exchange of the sign of peace (hug or handshake) was also restored at that time so there's no need any more to bow to each other!

## **Not Dead Yet UK**

Following our archbishop's recent pastoral letter about the Assisted Suicide bill there are cards in the porch from the group Not Dead Yet enabling you to write to your MP. Liam Conlon MP (Beckenham and Penge) voted against the bill earlier, and Natasha Irons MP (Croydon East) voted in favour. It now looks as if the third reading vote will be next month.

## **Launch of Hayes & West Wickham Primary Care Network Group**

They meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 11am-1pm in Medhurst Hall, Sussex Road, West Wickham. Patients from our 5 local surgeries including Wickham Park, Station Road, Forge Close, Pickhurst & Addington Road, and over the age of 60 would be welcome to attend.

Among other activities, their speakers will range from clinicians who can advise on different aspects of physical & mental health, as well as other services who can provide more social support and connective living. Tea/Coffee will also be provided. There will also be "Digital Support" where their Digital Wizzards will be on hand to support any patients/members with installing and using the NHS App as well as giving instructions as to how one can submit an online consultation to their practice.

If interested in any of the above, The Hayes & West Wickham Primary Care Network Connected Living Cafe would be pleased to welcome you to one of their above meetings @ Medhurst Hall, Sussex Road, West Wickham.

## **Notice for Standing order and Gift Aid Donors**

Thank you to those Parishioners making donations online, standing order or via gift aid envelopes. To assist with a system update, we ask if existing donors could email [westwickham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:westwickham@rcaos.org.uk) or telephone 07754-175172, confirming their name, current address and contact details, specifying if they have joined the Gift Aid scheme or would like to. Gift Aid donors using envelopes for offertory are also asked for confirmation of their current envelope number, stating if they wish to receive another box for 2025/26.

## **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.stmaryscatholic.bromley.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryscatholic.bromley.sch.uk)

## **May Procession**

Our annual May procession will be in St Mary's School at 9am on Friday. All welcome – it will be possible to go from there to our 10am Mass.

## 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.

## Glory to God in the Highest!

As you know since last year at the 10am Mass we have been singing some parts of a Mass setting (the *Sanctus*, *Benedictus* and *Agnus Dei*) from a Mass setting by Ruth McConkey commissioned for Beckenham parish, composed when the new Missal translation was published in 2011. Thanks to our choir we are now singing also the . *When* the new missal appeared the bishops encouraged parishes to commission new musical settings of the Mass, but this happened rather less than was hoped; so it is good to be able to use new music written by a local musician (she is an ex-Coloma pupil and was at university when she composed the Mass).

## Landings

This is a programme run for Catholics who may have been away for a while and who wish to reconnect with their faith – anyone interested is invited to join the group in Beckenham parish. More details from Andrew Baker (who is a member of our choir) on the blue post cards in the porch.

## Pilgrimage to Pentecost

There are cards in the porch about these online talks: more details at <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/pilgrimage-to-pentecost-course-a-huge-hit/> or from Marie Potter.

## Monthly Children's Mass

We try to encourage *active participation* in the Mass for as many people as possible: this is a key way in which Catholic worship has been enriched here, and all over the world, since the reforms to liturgy brought about by the Second Vatican Council. In line with this we intend from the first Sunday of June that the readings and bidding prayers at the 10am Mass will normally be led by children on the first Sunday of the month. Coaching will be provided. Please let me know if you are interested.

## Future events

### Sunday 18th May

11:30 am

First Holy Communion Mass

### Sunday 7th June

Diocesan Jubilee celebrations, Aylesford Priory

## Please pray for

### Anniversaries

Kate Froud, Frederick Rix, Michael Rispoli, Ernie Robins, George Holloway and Frances Eady.

### Recently dead

Fr Sunith Nonis, Margaret Luck and Alice Doran

### 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 and Fr Ray Brennan.

<b>Parish Mass times</b>		<b>Adoration</b>
Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Mon and Fri after Mass until 11:30 am Normally a priest is available for confession
Monday	10:00 am	<b>Rosary</b>
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Mon and Wed to Fri at 9:20 am
Wednesday	10:00 am	<b>Mass at St Edmund's, Beckenham</b>
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)

<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup></b>	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Saroja Kumar	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>		
	<b>Vocations Sunday</b>		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Monica O'Reilly	
	11:30 am	Soosipillai and Philomena Francis	
<b>Mon 12<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Derek Attwell	Followed by Adoration until 11:30
<b>Tue 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Our Lady of Fatima</b>		
	6:00 pm	Holy Souls	
<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Matthias</b>		
	10:00 am	Holy Souls	Followed by refreshments
<b>Thurs 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St John Stone</b>		
	10:00 am	Tommy Dunsmore (birthday)	
<b>Fri 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Simon Stock</b>		
	9:00 am		Procession at St Mary's School
	10:00 am	Mary Keightley (80th birthday)	Followed by Adoration until 11:30
<b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup></b>	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Intentions of Monica O'Reilly	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Ernest Robins	
	11:30 am	Mary Jo and James Gibbons	First Holy Communion Mass Followed by party

<b>Parish Safeguarding Representatives</b>	
Thomas Smialowski	westwickhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Marie Potter	westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk