

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net/>



St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

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6 July 2025

Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time (C)

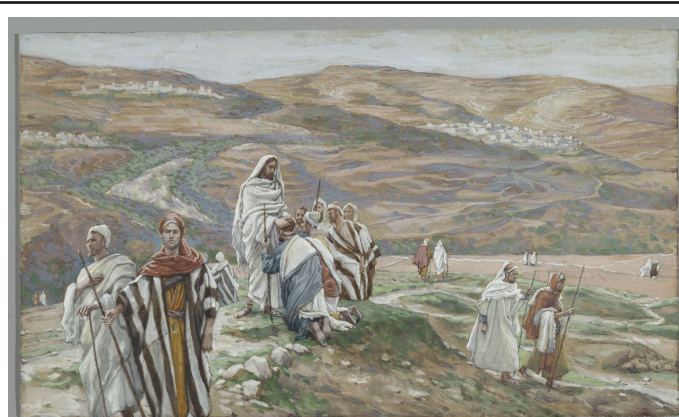
Mission Versus Survival

Last week I was at an event where the speaker quoted this passage from the French writer Alain Badiou:

‘Why is the old Christianity moribund? Because it became too focused on survival. As the old Christianity became increasingly parochial, with an increasingly negative, defensive dimension, its slogan was “we must survive and ensure that Christianity survives.” This speaks volumes about the situation today: Christianity’s only remaining concern is to continue to survive as long as possible.’

So often in parishes (and I suspect most parishes across different denominations) there is a deep-rooted survival mentality; and so often this ensures that communities become inward-looking and defensive. Nothing matters apart from ‘keeping the show on the road.’ Not just parishes – you see it in so many other institutions. This defensiveness and siege mentality often makes a community rather ‘risk-averse’ and unwelcoming to others.

By contrast, Jesus in the gospel this Sunday isn’t interested in survival. He sends the seventy-two disciples out, giving them authority and power. They are not be concerned about security or even safety; they’re taking risks. They’re expected to be focussed on what they are doing – it’s a response to knowing Jesus and listening to him. Incidentally, there’s no suggestion that they are free from other responsibilities (for example by being married, as most of them would have been); they’re simply expected to have a distinctive set of priorities.



He Sent them out Two by Two (Il les envoya deux à deux), James Tissot
Brooklyn Museum, New York

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/objects/4517>

Psalm response Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Gospel acclamation Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Assisted Suicide

Archbishop John's office has also sent this communication about the recent House of Commons vote: 'On Friday 20 June, Archbishop John Sherrington (led bishop for Life Issues) and Cardinal Vincent Nichols each issued statements following the Third Reading of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. Both statements can be found on the Bishops' Conference website (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>) and are also attached for your convenience. The Bill now proceeds to the House of Lords for further scrutiny and debate. As you know, Archbishop John has consistently raised his voice in defence of the most vulnerable. In response to Friday's vote in the House of Commons, he stated that the result marked "a terrifyingly dark week in British history, as MPs vote for legislation which endangers the lives of unborn children, and promote legislation which will endanger vulnerable adults and the elderly." (<https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/this-is-a-terrifyingly-dark-week-in-british-history-says-archbishop-john/>)'

Sea Sunday

Is next Sunday when there will be a second collection for work of Stella Maris. Details of its work are here: <https://stellamaris.org.uk/>

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.

SVP Summer Raffle

An opportunity to help fund the SVP to turn "concern into action" at home and overseas in alleviating the effects of poverty and loneliness; providing friendship and practical support; and in any area where there is need. Tickets cost £1 each and are available in books of 5. You may be a winner of £5000, £1,000 or one of 15 prizes of £500 and this conference will receive a proportion of the money raised.

Further information on the church Noticeboards.

Catenians

Please see the poster in the porch from the Catenians. The Catenians play an important role in strengthening Catholic communities. Their focus is on faith, friendship and family. They also raise money for good causes. If you would like to learn more about the association or maybe come to one of the monthly meetings of the Beckenham branch please contact Andy Holmes at acncarriman@ntlworld.com or 07890 008458.

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

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.

Pastoral Review

The July issue of the *Pastoral Review* is now available. It contains book reviews by local Catholics (and the archbishop) and a number of articles about Pope Francis and Pope Leo.

London Catholic Social Group

'London Catholic Social Group is a group for Catholic adults over 35 to meet for regular social and networking events in friendly and relaxed settings with the aim of making new friends, enjoying new experiences or just to socialise. Regular events include walks, meals, karaoke evenings, outings, galleries and an annual Christmas meal. Contact us on Facebook – 'London Catholic Social Group', E: - londonswcatholicsocial@gmail.com or Brendan Baker on WhatsApp 074255494

Readers and Special Ministers

There is a new poster in the porch about days of recollection taking place in October – please book one of the days now!

Renew your Gift Aid declaration for St Mark's West Wickham

We are asking all parishioners who Gift Aid their offertory contributions to renew their Gift Aid declaration to the parish so we can ensure our records are up to date.

You can also use the following link to sign-up to Gift Aid and Planned Giving for the first time. Thank you for your support of our parish mission and ministry.

Renew your Gift Aid declaration via: <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid/> or by scanning QR code with your phone camera:

Alternatively, you can email the parish on: westwickham@rcaos.org.uk



Non-UK Currency

Many years ago I wrote a booklet (Christians and the Euro, Faith in Europe 2009) which argued that on the basis of Catholic teaching the UK should join the Euro. I don't think this booklet had much effect, sadly; and it means that if you put Euros, US dollars or other non-UK notes or coins in the collection, or in Mass offering envelopes, it isn't easy for us to pay these into the parish account – especially since the closure of so many banks. Normally we would be charged a commission to do this, so please don't!

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse is a serious social and moral issue in this country, and much of it became worse during the Covid-19 pandemic. On Tuesday 8 July the Pastoral Review is putting on a webinar looking at the issue in the Church, with Nikki Dhillon Keane and Stephanie MacGillivray. The issue is often an 'elephant in the room'; if you would like to book go to <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/events/safe-in-faith-addressing-domestic-abuse-in-church-communities/>.

Please pray for

Anniversaries

Mary Fenton Martin, Albert Benzecy, Paolo Burhumi, John Byrne, Jacqueline Geraghty, Elizabeth Byrne, Mary Ferraro, Ethna Lawrence and Trilby Roberts.

Recently dead

Patricia Pead.

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.

Parish Mass times		Adoration
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	Rosary Mon and Wed to Fri at 9:20 am
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Mass at St Edmund's, Beckenham
Wednesday	10:00 am	Sun: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm
Thursday	10:00 am	Mon to Sat: 10:00 am
Friday	10:00 am	Sat: 6:00 pm (vigil)
Saturday	6:30 pm (vigil)	

Sat 5th	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Walsh Family	Vigil Mass
Sun 6th	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	8:00 am	Ann Batterberry	
	10:00 am	Parishioners	Readings and prayers led by children
	11:30 am	Irene Marsh	
Mon 7th	10:00 am	Sister M. Ursula's intentions	Followed by Adoration until 11:30
Tue 8th	6:00 pm	Sister M. Ursula's intentions	
Wed 9th	St Augustine Zhao Rong and his companions		
	10:00 am	Mary and Richard Duggan	Followed by refreshments
Thurs 10th	10:00 am	Holy Souls	
Fri 11th	St Benedict, Patron of Europe		
	10:00 am	Soosipillai and Philomena Francis	No Adoration today
Sat 12th	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Christine Maslona	Vigil Mass
Sun 13th	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sea Sunday <i>Diaconate Day</i>		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Anna Curran	
	11:30 am	Diego Alphonso	

Mass Intentions

It is good to be able to report that we are getting in more Mass intentions now. This means that it's unlikely that you will get the date you want if you put the request in at short notice; also the list for the following week is usually finalised by the Wednesday of the week before.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

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