

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net/>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

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Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Advent and Peace in the World

Advent has various clear themes each year, and one of them is peace in the world, as part of what the coming kingdom of God is like, reiterated in particular by many of the Bible readings we hear from the book of Isaiah. This was part too of the vision of the Holy Father's recent apostolic journey, especially the second part when he was in Lebanon, a country which has seen so much suffering as a result of war and violence. His passionate appeals have helped to set the agenda for all of us: the Catholic Church has to call, in every country, for a rejection of war and of public policies which deceive people about war.

Christmas Memorial Service

On Wednesday 10 December we are hosting for Rowland Brothers a Christmas Memorial Service at 7pm. This is a candlelit act of worship to enable people to remember their loved ones who are no longer with us at this time of year. The service will be followed by refreshments in the committee room. Please support this event in which we will be welcoming others to our church to help them remember their loved ones. For more details contact Adam Killick at adam.killick@rowlandbrothers.com.

Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will be in our parish this weekend with their Mission Calendar for 2026. The sisters will be here to raise funds to purchase a vehicle for the Missionary Sisters of St Louis, who run mobile schools in the rural areas of a diocese of Ghana. Please help the sisters generously as you have in the past.

Called to Bear Fruit

Earlier in the year some of you took part in a Called to Bear Fruit group, as encouraged by the archbishop in a pastoral letter sent about a year ago. Booklets giving details of what was raised and discussed in groups all over the diocese are in the porch.

Repository

Christmas cards, Advent cards, Thinking of you at Christmas cards, as well as Calendars, Candles and a few Christmas gifts, are available to purchase from the repository. You will be supporting either the church or one of several charities (see the back of the packs) by buying from the repository. You can either put money in the collection box in the wall of the repository or by selecting 'repository' on the card payment machine, in the foyer of the church.

Psalm response In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.
Gospel acclamation Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
 all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

This newsletter - an appeal

In any parish a weekly newsletter is an important way for people to learn about Christian teaching and keep in touch with what is going on in the church and also an advertisement to others about our life. Since I came here I have been indebted to Joe Haig who has laid out impressively the material I have gathered, in addition to his other commitments (not least conducting the choir at the 10am Mass); but we need now to find new people to take on Joe's role and most of what I have had to do as well. For this reason we want a **Newsletter** team to be *responsible* for producing it this week. We need a team to do these things:

- To type out the basic text – this requires an ability to use desktop publishing software, such as Scribus or Microsoft Publisher
- To edit the contents – that is collect and put together the contributions, such as the list of intentions, anniversaries and events notified. This will include a contribution from me as parish priest but I shouldn't be the editor
- To photocopy 180 copies each week. We are about to acquire a new copier (which will be able to print in colour) which will be in the developing parish office/outer sacristy. The one we have been using for some years has made this one of the most demanding aspects of all this, particularly for me as I only have to look at a copier for paper to jam.

Joe and I can give guidance about how all this is done – as you can see, it needs more than two people! Since we're engaged in trying to widen participation in parish life, we really need people to do this *who don't have other responsibilities in the parish*. Advent is a time for new beginnings – please think about the gifts you might have to offer to the parish. Many hands make light work. I am very grateful to Joe for all he has done.

Fr Ashley

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.

St Mark's Choir

St Mark's Choir sing at the 10am Sunday Mass and on other special occasions. We are now having a midweek rehearsal so that we have time to learn new music. Rehearsals are at 7pm on Thursdays in the Church. If you like singing, please join us at rehearsals or on Sundays. Note you don't have to come to rehearsals to sing with us, and you can come to a rehearsal to learn music for future use even if you can't be with us on Sunday that week. Children can come along too but need to be with an accompanying adult.

Organist/pianist needed

Our regular organist for the choir, Mark, has now started university and we are looking for a new accompanist. Are you, or someone you know, a competent organist or pianist? Even if you can't play every week, we would love to hear from you. Please email to ashley.beck@rcaos.org.uk marking FAO Eileen re organist.

First Holy Communion

If you would like your child to make their first Holy Communion on 17.5.26@11.30 Mass - Please could you either fill out a form in the sacristy or

Classes will start in January - Day and time of the week to be arranged. There will be a parents' meeting after the 10am Mass on Sunday 14 December.

Messenger of the Sacred Heart

Some of you are familiar with this journal produced regularly by the Irish Jesuits. We intend to buy regular copies and there are some of the latest issue in the porch. More details at <https://www.messenger.ie/product/sacred-heart-messenger-subscription/>

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 200 Club

The **ST MARK'S 200 CLUB**, originally started in 1996 to provide funds for Church, Hall and Presbytery maintenance and repair, needs new members. Membership is £5 per month for a personal number entered into a draw at the end of each calendar month, for one of three prizes of either £100, £50 or £30. Please contact: davidj.smith855@gmail.com or 07784-225932 for details.

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

Shrublands Trust food bank

Thanks for those who contributed gifts last weekend. Our next collection, pre-Christmas, is on the weekend of 14/15 December – please continue to be generous. Details of what is needed at <https://www.shrublandstrust.org/>

Future events

Thursday 19 December

7:00 pm

St Mary's School Christmas Carols at St Edmund's

Monday 22 December

12 noon

Requiem Mass, Anne Martin

Saturday 4 April

Easter Vigil

Adult Baptism and Reception into the Church

Please let me know if you are interested

Sunday 17 May

11:30 am

First Holy Communion (children in year 3 or above)

Saturday 13 June

Confirmation (young people in year 8 or above)

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski

westwickhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Marie Potter

westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Mon and Wed to Fri at 9:20 am
Wednesday	10:00 am	Mass at St Edmund's, 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)

Please pray for

Anniversaries

Hugh Gerrish, Mary Beck, Adam Maslona, Kay Doody, Sister Agnes Folley and Mary Keane.

Recently dead

Anne Martin, Eva Maria Knapp and Eilish Brophy.

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 Peggy Bohan.

Sat 6th	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Mary Beck	Vigil Mass
Sun 7th	Second Sunday of Advent, Year A		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Maureen Stocks	
	11:30 am	Mary Keane	
Mon 8th	Immaculate Conception of Our Lady		
	10:00 am	Anne Martin	Followed by Adoration
Tue 9th	St Juan Diego		
	6:00 pm	Anne Martin	
Wed 10th	10:00 am	Helena and Adam Maslona	Followed by refreshments
	7:00 pm	Memorial Service	
Thurs 11th	10:00 am	Soosipillai and Philomena Francis	
Fri 12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe		
	10:00 am	Welfare of Christine Maslona	No Adoration today
Sat 13th	St Lucy		
	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Parishioners	Vigil Mass
Sun 14th	Third Sunday of Advent, Year A		
	Gaudete Sunday		
	8:00 am	Kathleen Fox	
	10:00 am	Fr Bill Bergin	
	11:30 am	Neal Sheppard	