

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarkswv.net/>



St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

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25 January 2026

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

Year of St Francis

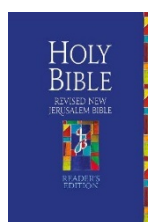
For most of last year we carried the special 'logo' for the Jubilee Year of Hope. The next Jubilee year will be in 2033, but the Holy Year has proclaimed 2026 to be a special Year of St Francis, marking the 800th anniversary of the saint's death, so we will carry an illustration about this during the year. The last pontificate taught us so much about how important St Francis is.

Sunday of the Word of God

I often remark in homilies (and lectures) that Catholics are generally thought, for complex reasons, to be less familiar with the Bible than other Christians. This is much less true than in the past, but I think Pope Francis a few years ago established a special *Sunday of the Word of God* in the Church's calendar to help Catholics worldwide get to know the Bible better. He asked us to mark this by enshrining God's Word, so in St Mark's we have a book of the gospels set up prominently in the sanctuary.



In the last year or so we have begun to get used to a new translation of the Bible at Mass, along with other Catholics in this country. For some this has been challenging. Any new



translation does give us the chance to listen afresh to passages which may be familiar, and think more deeply about it. At the very least we should ask ourselves this weekend one key question: do I actually possess a Bible? If the answer is 'no' the best one I would recommend is the *Revised New Jerusalem Bible* (Readers' ed., 2021, £16.99). You should make sure you have a Catholic Bible as we don't use the same text as other Christians in this country.

Confirmations

The diocesan Called to Bear Fruit exercise, in which some of you took part last year, has generally encouraged parishes to work more closely together. Consequently we are now joining St Edmund's in Beckenham for our Confirmation programme and celebration each year. Details of how to apply are on our website, <https://saintmarkswv.net/>. Maya Bowkett and Marie Potter from our parish are joining the team of catechists in Beckenham for this programme. The Confirmation will be on Saturday 13 June at St Edmund's.

Psalm response

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel acclamation

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom
and healed every affliction among the people.

Crib Offerings

As is customary offerings at our Christmas Crib go to the charity Friends of the Holy Land, which has done so much in recent years to support Christians in the West Bank and Gaza. Details of their work are at <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/> and I hope that next year a representative of the charity will be coming here to lead an appeal.

The crib will remain in place until the feast of Candlemas, Monday 2 February.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The annual ecumenical service will be this Sunday, 25 January, at 630pm, at Coney Hill Baptist Church, Coney Hill Road, BR4 9BU. All welcome.

New Episcopal Appointments

Archbishop-elect Richard Moth will be installed as Archbishop of Westminster in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14 February. I expect this will be broadcast live on YouTube.

Canon Gerard Bradley will be ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark and titular Bishop of Beverley on Monday 2 February at 1230 in St George's Cathedral. All welcome; there will be no Adoration after the 10am Mass in St Mark's that day.

St Mark's Choir

St Mark's Choir sing at the 10am Sunday Mass and on other special occasions, and we rehearse before Mass from 9am to learn new music. We are looking for new members so if you like singing please join us. Children can come along too but need to be with an accompanying adult.

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 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.

Racial Justice Sunday

In this country we keep next Sunday as *Racial Justice Sunday*. There's a special Mass at 10am in St George's Cathedral to which all are invited.

Hope not Hate

In line with this a special event is being organised next Thursday in St George's Church in Beckenham by the charity *Hope not Hate*. Details here and on the poster in the porch.

LIAM CONLON MP
IN CONVERSATION WITH



How we address the rise of the far-right

THURS 29 JAN 2026

5:30PM DOORS OPEN

6-7PM EVENT

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, BECKENHAM, BR3 1AX

HOPE Not Hate is a UK charity that brings people together by challenging extremism and promoting inclusion. This discussion will explore how we can respond to rising far-right sentiment in our area - strengthening our communities through understanding, solidarity, and shared values. **All are welcome!**

Limited spaces. RSVP is essential:



Scan the QR code,
go to: <https://bit.ly/HOPEnothateRSVP>
or email liam.conlon.mp@parliament.uk

The Tablet and the Pastoral Review.

The Church encourages all of us to take seriously our responsibilities and baptised Christians; because of our baptism we're all called to be faithful disciples, not simply passive onlookers who happen to come to Church. Knowing about our faith and about the life of the Church is part of this, and reading a Catholic paper or journal is a good and relatively inexpensive way to do this. Copies of the current issues of The Tablet and its sister journal the Pastoral Review (of which I am editor) are on sale in the porch; and there are free copies of past issues always available. Many printed papers and journals have disappeared; the few that are left depend on subscriptions for survival, and the cost is not immense compared to other things. So £27 a year for four issues of the Pastoral Review for a year is less than many families spend on one visit to a supermarket or a petrol station – it has included contributions recently from parishioners here and other local Catholics; it's important for Catholic parishes and Catholic schools (if you're interested in writing for it let me know!)

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



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

Future events

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)

Please pray for

Anniversaries

Paul D Green, Pat Godfrey, Felisa Prendergast, Sotiris Yianni, Karl Ottman, Nora Smyth and Mary Keefe.

Recently dead

Johanna Mitchell, Fong Yin Gopala and Josephine Sheridan.

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, Peggy Bohan, Bernard Myerscough, John Goddard and Christine Maslona.

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)

Sat 24th	St Francis de Sales		
	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Margaret Farbrother	Vigil Mass
Sun 25th	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God		<i>End of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>
	8:00 am	Kathleen Reilly	
	10:00 am	Parishioners	
	11:30 am	Irene Marsh	
Mon 26th	Ss Timothy and Titus		
	10:00 am	Kieran Cawley	Followed by Adoration
Tue 27th	6:00 pm	Maureen Sowden	
Wed 28th	St Thomas Aquinas		
	10:00 am	Gerard Cawley	Followed by refreshments
	12 noon	Funeral Service of Fong Yin Gopala RIP	Beckenham Cemetery Chapel
Thurs 29th	10:00 am	Sean Finan	
Fri 30th	9:00 am	At St Mary's School	
	10:00 am	Requiem Johanna Mitchell RIP	No Adoration today
Sat 31st	St John Bosco		
	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Helen Lui	Vigil Mass
Sun 1st	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Racial Justice Day		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Ciss and John Neylon	
	11:30 am	Mary Madigan	

Parish Safeguarding Representatives	
Thomas Smialowski	westwickhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Marie Potter	westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk