

# St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net/>



St Marks Church West Wickham

## Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

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1 March 2026



## Second Sunday in Lent

### Being Changed in Lent

On the Second Sunday of Lent we always hear one of the gospel accounts of the Transfiguration of Jesus (this year Matthew 17: 1-13) – this is the fourth mystery of light of the rosary and is also marked by a special feast day on 6 August each year. It is one of the strangest incidents in the life of Jesus, if you think about it and look closely at the details given in the different accounts: what happened on that mountain had a strong effect on those who were there and remembered it. It's important to hear it each year in Lent for two reasons. First, it is meant to give encouragement to those all over the world who are in the last stage of preparing to become Catholics at Easter, either by being baptised or (if they are already baptised) received into Full Communion with the Church). Jesus' appearance in the story changes visibly and startlingly, and this transformation is meant to be a model for new converts. We teach that when you become a Catholic you are changed and renewed: you get a foretaste of the glory of heaven. In this country it seems that the numbers of adults on this path is higher than it has been for many years. But the Transfiguration is not simply for prospective converts: for all of us, our works in Lent of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are not simply things we do out of sorrow for our sins (though that's part of the story), or because we'd feel guilty if we didn't do something (though that may be true); we are meant to be changed, renewed, transfigured. With God's grace, through Lent we can actually become better Christians, better people. That's also why we should go to Confession.

Psalm response      May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.  
Gospel acclamation      From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:  
   'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.

### Wednesday Morning Masses

We restored last Easter the giving of the chalice to the Faithful at weekend Masses and this has enhanced our worship at St Mark's - a good example to other parishes which have been slow to do this since restrictions were lifted following the Covid-19 pandemic. As our Wednesday morning Masses here are as well attended as some at the weekend, from this week we will be restoring the giving of the chalice at this Mass if there is at least one Special Minister present. If you are a minister and come to this Mass please be prepared to carry out your ministry at this Mass, and many thanks for you do for our parish.

### 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 Mary' Primary School

St Mary's School in Westgate Road, Beckenham, is our parish school which we share with Beckenham and Hayes parishes. St Mary's School is generally oversubscribed but there are vacancies for children in year 1. For details of the school life and how to apply for a place, go to their website: <https://www.st-marys-catholic.bromley.sch.uk/>.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:westwickham@rcaos.org.uk)



### A Safe Place to Land

The Landings team offers a non-judgemental forum to help you to reconnect with the Catholic faith. Lay-led meetings are accepting, confidential and enriching for all who take part. The next Programme is in March, 2026. For more information contact Andrew at: [LandingsBeckenham@gmail.com](mailto:LandingsBeckenham@gmail.com)

### Repository

We have items for sale for St Patrick's Day and Easter. Please leave money in the wall safe or you can pay using the card readers.

### CAFOD Lent Fast day

For Catholics Lent is about three things above all: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In this country our development agency CAFOD is a big part of what almsgiving is about and last Friday was kept throughout England and Wales as a Family Fast Day. We asked you to give up something particular on that day and give the money saved to CAFOD, and there are special envelopes for this in the porch. More details can be found here of special projects supported through this work: <https://shorturl.at/oWB53> and you can also donate on this page. This parish has supported generously the work of CAFOD through our fortnightly teas and coffees after the 10am Sunday Mass and we are grateful to Maya Bowkett for organising this. It's a difficult time: many Catholic charities worldwide, partners of CAFOD, have had to make many people redundant because of the US government's policies towards charities (see, for example, from just over a year ago, <https://shorturl.at/gSak1>). Please pray this Lent for those who work in Catholic charities worldwide, especially men and women who have lost their jobs, and their families. There is a second collection today for CAFOD.

### Marginalised communities during Lent

If we see the Holy Father or other Christian leaders celebrating acts of worship in great cathedrals or basilicas, we might think that these are the obvious place for the pope and others to be seen. But like Pope Francis Pope Leo is making a point this Lent of going on Sundays to marginalised and poor parishes to celebrate Mass with parishioners. One of them, which he is going to towards the end of Lent, is Sacred Heart in the area of Ponte Mammolo (<https://shorturl.at/2mPG4>) not far from the Rebbibia prison where Pope Francis went at the beginning of the Holy Year. I stayed with my wife near the church a year ago when we were in Rome and went to Mass there. We have had links with marginalised communities all over the world here at St Mark's over the years so Lent is a good time to pray for them.

### Future Events

<b>Friday 20 March</b>	10 am Requiem Mass Brenda McDonnell
<b>Saturday 4 April</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b> Adult Baptism and Reception into the Church
<b>Sunday 17 May</b>	First Holy Communion (children in year 3 or above)
<b>Saturday 13 June</b>	Confirmation (young people in year 8 or above)
<b>Sunday 18 July</b>	Summer festival

### Please Pray for

#### Anniversaries

Terry Vaughan-Rowlands, Giulia Morandi, Sebio Borg, Michael Fealey, Mary Carroll, Catherine Doherty, Kitty O'Connor, Leonard Merron.

#### Recently dead

Brenda McDonnell and Billy Porter.

### Those who are sick

Diana Quinn, 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, Christine Maslona

<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> Mon and Wed to Fri at 9:20 am
Tuesday	6:00 pm	<b>Mass at St Edmund's, Beckenham</b>
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)	

<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup></b>	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Intentions of the Kelleher family	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Brendan McKeogh	
	11:30 am	Eddie Marsh	
<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10:00 am	Michael Donnelly	Followed by Adoration
<b>Tue 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	6:00 pm	Alex Ameida	
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Linda Travell	Followed by devotional address
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Nora Hart	
<b>Fri 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 am	At St Mary's School	
	10:00 am	Private Intention	Followed by Adoration
	10:30 am	World Day of Prayer service	At St Mary of Nazareth Church
<b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup></b>	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Marie Hanna	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Sasha Smith	
	11:30 am	Ugochi's Intentions	

### Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski  
Marie Potter

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