

# St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

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 St Marks Church West Wickham

## Parochial Administrator

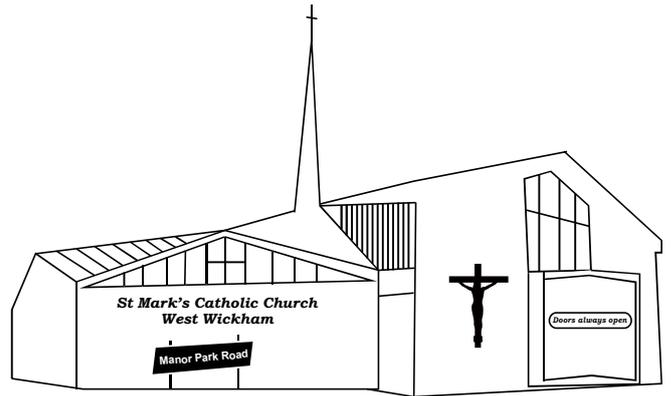
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15 March, 2026



## 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday (**'Rejoice'!**). Like the Third Sunday of Advent it is a half way break through the penitential season of Lent, when we are allowed flowers in the sanctuary and rose pink vestments are worn instead of purple; in England it's also Mother's Day and flowers will be given to children to give to their mothers at our Masses this weekend.

## Cardinal Cupich and the war against Iran

We are seeing horrific scenes of the war in the Middle East; some of us, or our children, also play video games. It's worth reading this strong statement from the Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Blaise Cupich, who is close to the Holy Father:

As more than 1,000 Iranian men, women and children lay dead after days of bombardment from U.S. and Israeli missiles, the official White House X account on Thursday evening posted a video of scenes from popular action movies spliced with actual strike footage from their war on Iran. The clip was captioned: "JUSTICE THE AMERICAN WAY." A real war with real death and real suffering being treated like it's a video game — it's sickening. Hundreds of people are dead, mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, including scores of children who made the fatal mistake of going to school that day. Six U.S. soldiers have been killed.

They are also dishonoured by that social media post. Hundreds of thousands displaced, and many millions more are terrified across the Middle East. This horrifying portrayal demonstrates that we now live in an era when the distance between the battlefield and the living room has been drastically reduced. The moral crisis we are facing is not just a matter of the war itself, but also how we, the observers, view violence, for war now has become a spectator sport or strategy game. Indeed, the prediction market Kalshi recently paid a \$2.2 million settlement related to users who were unhappy with how the company paid out the \$55

million wagered on Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's ouster after he was killed. Journalists now use the term "gamifying" the war to describe this dynamic. What a profound moral failure, for gamifying strips away the humanity of real people. Let's not forget, a "hit" isn't putting points on the board; it's a grieving family whose suffering we ignore when we prioritize entertainment, and profit, over empathy. Our government is treating the suffering of the Iranian people as a backdrop for our own entertainment, as if it's just another piece of content to be swiped through while we're waiting in line at the grocery store. But, in the end, we lose our humanity when we are thrilled by the destructive power of our military. We become addicted to the "spectacle" of explosions. And the price of this habit is almost unnoticeable, as we become desensitized to the true costs of war. But the longer we remain blind to the terrible consequences of war, the more we are risking the most precious gift God gave us: our humanity. I know that the American people are better than this. We have the good sense to know that what is happening is not entertainment but war, and that Iran is a nation of people, not a video game others play to entertain us.

Psalm Response	The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Gospel acclamation	Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

### 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 marginalized and poor parishes to celebrate Mass with parishioners. One of them, which he is going to towards the end of Lent, is Scared 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.

### CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY

Calling all young at heart - there will be a children's stations of the cross on Good Friday, April 3rd @ 10 am. If you would like to have a reading then please be present at the church at 9:30am

### 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. ***The readings and bidding prayers at the 10am Mass will led by children on the first Sunday of the month.*** Coaching will be provided. Please let me know if you are interested.

### Community Lunch Sunday 22nd March

At the Hall, St Francis of Assisi Church, Ravenswood Ave. For Senior & those living on their own  
**2 Course Lunch + Glass of wine - Cost £12.**  
Time: 12:30pm  
For tickets (payable in advance only) contact Barbara Goodchild on 0787778782 or email: [Goodchildd854@gmail.com](mailto:Goodchildd854@gmail.com)  
**\*prior to 14th March\***

### St Mark's Choir

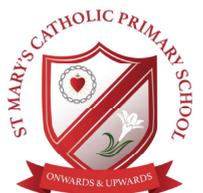


St Mark's Choir sing at the 10am Sunday Mass and on other special occasions, and we rehearse before Mass from 9am to learn new music. We are looking for new members so if you like singing please join us. Children can come along too but need to be with an accompanying adult.

### St Mary's 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/>



## 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 to our parish mission and ministry.

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

Alternatively, you can email the parish on [westwickham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:westwickham@rcaos.org.uk)



### 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 machines.

### St Joseph's Day Thursday 19th March

Mass at 10am Followed by Stations of the Cross led by pupils from St Mary's School. All Welcome!

### 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)

### Memory Box Cafe

Do you know anyone living with Dementia? We have a Memory Box Cafe on 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month at Richmond Hall, Emmanuel Church, The Grove from 2-3:30pm with activities, games, music. For information call 0737586812 or Facebook "*Memory Box Dementia Cafe West Wickham*"

### 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: [avidj.smith855@gmail.com](mailto:avidj.smith855@gmail.com) or 07784225932 for details.

### Please Pray for Anniversary

Henry Gunning, Jacqueline Berchten, Madeleine Woodley, Catherine Donnelly, Alexandra Leigh, John Merigan, Hubert Ellis, Kate Miller, Geoffery Riley, Pat Merron

### Recently dead

Brenda McDonnell and Billy Porter

### Those who are sick

Clare Barratt, Theresa Emmanuel, 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,

### Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski  
Marie Potter

[westwickhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:westwickhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
[westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

## Parish Mass times

Sunday	8:00 am
	10:00 am
	11:30 am
Monday	10:00 am
Tuesday	6:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am
Thursday	10:00 am
Friday	10:00 am
Saturday	6:30 pm (vigil)

## Adoration

Mon and Fri after Mass until 11:30 am  
Normally a priest is available for confession

## Rosary

Mon and Wed to Fri at 9:20 am

## Mass at St Edmund's, Beckenham

Sun: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm  
Mon to Sat: 10:00 am  
Sat: 6:00 pm (vigil)



## Future Events

<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 9 or above)
<b>Tuesday 18 July</b>	Summer festival

<b>Sat 14th</b>	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Andy and P.J. McCallum	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 15th</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)</b>		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Holy Souls	
	11:30am	Pauline Biddlecombe	
<b>Mon 16th</b>	10am	Michael Brady	No Adoration today
<b>Tue 17th</b>	<b>March St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland</b>		
	6pm	Healing of Mary Neville	
<b>Wed 18th</b>	10am	Maria Stirling	followed by Refreshments
<b>Thurs 19th</b>	<b>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Universal Church</b>		
	10am	Maria Teresa Wynne	Followed by Stations of the Cross led by the children of St Mary's School
<b>Fri 20th</b>	9am	St Mary's School preceded by Lent devotions from 830	Followed by Adoration
	10am	Requiem Mass Breda McDonnell	No Adoration today
	7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	
<b>Sat 21st</b>	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Habiba Audish	Vigil Mass Parishioners
<b>Sun 22nd</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Bridget and Ferdinand Murray	
	11:30am	Sister Patricia Heller SSA	