

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

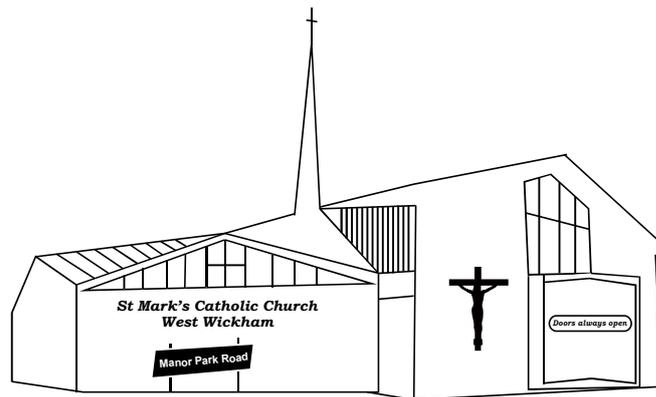
Parochial Administrator

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22 March, 2026

5th Sunday of Lent The coming of the veils

Although it is optional, the practice of veiling crosses and images of the saints in the last two weeks of Lent is very powerful. It actually affected the design from 1960 of our crucifix here in St Mark's (the small metal plate at the top of it is there to enable it to be veiled). There are many symbolic explanations but I think one reason why it's good is that we mark the intensity of this period of the Church's year by being asked to rely less on images before us and make more use of our imagination; it's a changing of gear, really, to deepen our religious experience of the Lord's sufferings and death.



Catholic Christianity does not pretend that we feel the same way all the year round. Intensity in the fifth week of Lent and Holy Week includes feelings of sorrow and lamentation in the face of Our Lord's sufferings and death. We don't feel the same way as we will in a few weeks' time after Easter day, and we're not meant to. Our liturgical worship takes account of this, so veiling statues and crosses is part of this. But the seasons of the Church's year are not cut off from events in the world: veiling and lamentation are part of how the Church marks the insanity and blasphemy of war, in the lands of Sacred Scripture.

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 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.

Psalm Response

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Gospel acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Paschal Triduum



Maundy Thursday 2 April

8pm Mass of THE LORD'S SUPPER
With washing of feet and procession to the Altar of Repose;
Watch until midnight

*A list is available to sign if you can have your foot washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Men or women, young or old, Christian or non-Christian!

Good Friday, 3 April

10am Children's Stations of the Cross
3pm LITURGY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
7.30pm Stations of the Cross



Holy Saturday 4 April

10am Confessions
8.30pm THE EASTER VIGIL LITURGY, with Baptisms
and the First Mass of Easter



EASTER DAY, 5 April

Masses at 8am, 10am & 11.30am
Baptism at 3pm

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

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



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 or 07784225932 for details.

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 be led by children on the first Sunday of the month.*** Coaching will be provided. Please let me know if you are interested.

MASS OF THE CHRISM

On Wednesday 1 April the Mass of the Chrism will be celebrated in our cathedral at 1130am. At this major celebration for our diocese the archbishop will bless the oils to be used in the next year and priests renew their commitment to their ministry. There will be no Mass in St Mark's that morning – all are welcome to come to the Mass in the cathedral.

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

SHRUBLANDS TRUST FOOD BANK

We have a collection of items next weekend, the last before Easter. Details of what is needed at Shrublands Trust Croydon

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 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.

Please Pray for Anniversary

Mary Cook, Farther Gerard Furey, Anne Over, Peter Gagliani, Kitty Simmons, Mary King, Sheila Bernasconi, John Costello, Goba Ross, James Dougan, Kathleen Farrell, Pauline Child, Gina Gagliani, Iain Mcdonald, Eileen Evans, Frank Richmond-Coggan,

Recently dead

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@safeguardraos.org.uk
westwickhamsg2@safeguardraos.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

Saturday 4 April

Easter Vigil

Adult Baptism and Reception into the church

Sunday 17 May

First Holy Communion (Children in Year 3 or above)

Saturday 13 June

Confirmation (Young people in Year 9 or above)

Tuesday 18 July

Summer festival

Sat 21st	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Habiba Audish	Vigil Mass Parishioners
Sun 22nd	5th Sunday of Lent		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Bridget and Ferdinand Murray	
	11:30am	Sister Patricia Heller SSA	
Mon 23rd	10am	Marion Scott	Followed by Adoration
Tue 24th	6pm	Michael Brady	
Wed 25th	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, Lady Day		
	10am	Jackelyn Oak	followed by Devotional Address
Thurs 26th	10am	Private Intention	
Fri 27th	9am	End of Term Mass St Mary's School	preceded by Lent devotions and followed by blessing of the new pavilion
	10am	Private Intention	Followed by Adoration
	7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Sat 28th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Oscar Mills	Vigil Mass Parishioners
Sun 29th	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD		
	8am	Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	
	10am	Parishioners preceded by Procession of Palms at 945	
	11:30am	Elias Audish	