

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

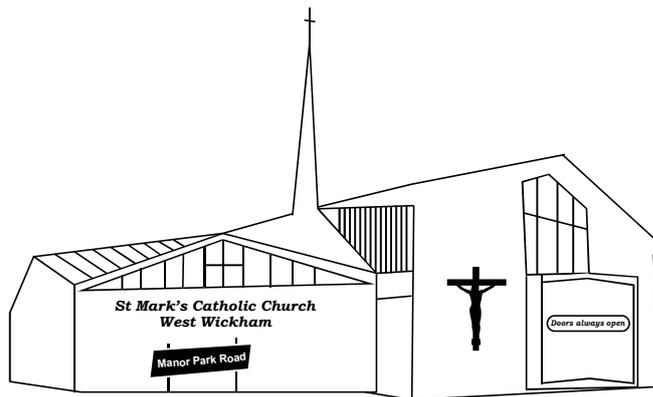
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29 March, 2026



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday and Holy Week – the Path to Glory

I wrote last week about the shadow of violence hanging over Holy Week this year. This isn't something we can avoid, particularly not when we come to church; violence, cruelty, inhumanity and death are around us in the sacred liturgy of God's people. But the dominant theme of our worship this week is not in fact suffering and death, but rather love and triumph. So red vestments are used today (Palm Sunday) and on Good Friday to celebrate Our Lord's precious blood – not the purple we have had for most of Lent or the black which marked Good Friday long ago. It is also the colour triumph and of victory.

This means that even more than at other times our coming to church this week cannot be an act of escapism: the violence of the world is here, but so is our hope for reconciliation and peace, our confidence that the prince of this world has been overcome by Christ crucified. This is the hope which the world needs. In our diocese new prayers for victims of abuse have been added by the archbishop to the Good Friday liturgy. Please pray also for Christians in the Holy Land, where the Israeli authorities have closed a number of important churches, such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Try and make time this week to savour our liturgy, as this is the most special and precious time of the year.

Pastoral Review

The April edition of the Pastoral Review is **now on sale** in the porch. There's a section covering the conference which we publicized in November on the Holy Land, which includes a keynote address by our archbishop; there's also an important new article about the new reforms to SEND provision in schools ...and **a book review by Fr Kevin!**

We need more subscribers!

Psalm Response

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Gospel acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

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

Frances Capal, Molly Mahoney, Audrey Quieros, Alfred Springall, Maureen Bell, Maud Decker, Alice Prial, Owen King, Hugh Beck, James Reid, Rita Morris, John McDonald

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 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	
Mon 30th	'Fig' or Holy Monday		
	10am	Beatrice Allegretti	followed by Devotional Address
Tue 31st	Holy Tuesday		
	6pm	Benny Mascarenhas	
Wed 1st April	Spy Wednesday		
	No Mass in St Mark's today		
	11:30am	Mass of the Chrism in St George's Cathedral	
Thurs 2nd April	Maundy Thursday		
	No morning Mass		
	8pm	Alan and Shirley Guest	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER followed by Watch at the Altar of Repose
Fri 3rd April	Good Friday		
	10am	Children's Stations of the Cross	
	3pm	LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	
	7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Sat 4th April	Holy Saturday		
	10am	Confessions	
	8:30pm	THE EASTER VIGIL	
Sun 5th April	Easter Sunday		
	8am	Private Intention	
	10am	Bernadette Payso	
	11:30am	Fr James Hurley	
	3pm	Baptism	