

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net/>



St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

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Easter Week

Happy Easter!

For Christians Holy Week and Easter are intense periods of time, when we are enabled to enter into the events of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. It's supposed to be intense: the Church's sacred liturgy helps us in so many ways, emotionally and intellectually, to deepen our faith and our relationship with Jesus. So much of what we have experienced this week has been about violence – the arrest of Jesus, his being tortured, his journey to the Cross, his terrible crucifixion. Violence is never accidental or inevitable: it's the result of sinfulness, a sign of humanity's rebellion against the God of love. Christians believe that when directed against God himself in the person of Jesus, the Evil One is doing the worst he can do. Similarly, as the Holy Father and other Christian leaders have repeatedly said in recent weeks, violence and war are at odds with God's will; those who wage war, whoever they are, have hands 'full of blood', as Pope Leo said last Sunday.

But condemnation is not enough (although it is sometimes necessary): Easter points us to hope for the world, hope for a better world. It is about triumph: in spite of everything, evil and sin do not win. That is why we celebrate with fellow Christians this weekend with joy, exuberance and hope. A sign of that hope is the wish of so many, each year, to join the community of the Catholic Church, and we rejoice this Easter with the thousands all over the world who have been baptised or received into the Church, including in our parish Saroja Kumar, Darren Barcoo and John Cochrane. Happy Easter!



The Holy Women at the Tomb

William Adolphe Bouguereau

Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp

<https://kmska.be/en/masterpiece/the-holy-women-at-the-tomb>

Psalm response Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

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 or 07784-225932 for details.

Summer Festival

I would like the 11:30 Mass on **Sunday 19 July** to be a celebration of the life of our parish, with a social event afterwards. It's good for us to 'showcase' what we do from time to time and invite friends from the rest of our community in West Wickham. The weekend also marks the 30th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. Please book the date now!

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



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

Memory Box Cafe

Do you know anyone living with Dementia? We have a Memory Box Cafe on 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month @ Richmond Hall, Emmanuel Church, The Grove from 2-3.30pm with activities, games, music. For further information call 07375 86812 or Facebook Memory Box Dementia Cafe West Wickham

St Mark's Ladies' Easter Lunch

The St Mark's Ladies Luncheon Group have booked a Table for the above event on **Wednesday 8 April**, at The Toby Inn Carvery, opposite Eden Park Station & the 194 Bus passes the door. If you would like to join us on this occasion, as numbers are limited, would you be good enough to contact me, Anne Brant at: annealicebrant@gmail.com, by **Monday 6 April at the latest** so I can confirm the numbers. The cost of the meal at the Carvery is £8. Look forward to hearing from you and we hope that you will be able to join us.

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!**

Getting to Know You

My mother used to tell me that when I was a baby (in the late 50s) she used to sing this song to me (the film *The King and I* had recently come out in 1956). In any parish where there are four Masses every weekend it is very easy for people not to know each other, particularly as new people join our community. Clergy also get to know people rather slowly; so I propose that on the last Sunday of each month we open up the committee room and the car park for drinks and conversation after the 1130 Mass; we can discuss things informally and learn from each other, starting on **Sunday 26 April**.

Future Events

Sunday 17 May	First Holy Communion (children in year 3 or above)
Saturday 13 June	Confirmation (young people in year 8 or above)
Sunday 19 July	Summer festival

Please Pray for

Anniversaries

Rex Shaw, Kevin Quirk, Martha Brown, Joseph Forgione, Hugh D. Evans, Anne Costello, Bridget Newbury, Michael O'Connor, Bishop Charles Henderson, Patrick Brennan, Joan Eugenie Peacock, Bridie Roughan.

Recently dead

Madeleine Ruddy.

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

Sat 4th	Holy Saturday		
	10:00 am		Confessions
	8:30 pm	THE EASTER VIGIL	
Sun 5th	Easter Sunday		
	8:00 am	Private Intention	
	10:00 am	Bernadette Payso	
	11:30 am	Fr James Hurley	
	3:00 pm		Baptism
Mon 6th	10:00 am	David Lawton and family	Followed by Adoration
Tue 7th	6:00 pm	Ursula Slabberd	
Wed 8th	10:00 am	Soosipillai and Philomena Francis	Followed by refreshments
Thurs 9th	10:00 am	Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart	
Fri 10th	10:00 am	Diane Mulligan	Followed by Adoration
Sat 11th	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Intentions of P Verghese	Vigil Mass
Sun 12th	Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Leo Hoang	
	11:30 am	Pauline Biddlecombe	

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski
Marie Potter

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