

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarkswv.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

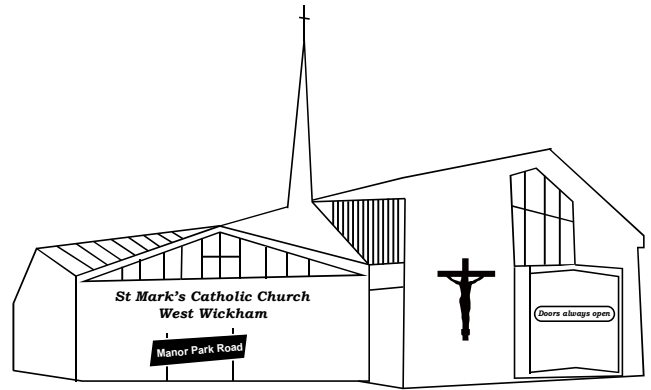
Fr Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins

ashleybeck@rcaos.org.uk

07769214903

22, Downs Road, Beckenham, BR3 5JY

12 April, 2026



2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, LOW SUNDAY

THE HARROWING OF HELL

So much that is happening in the world at the moment seems stranger than unpleasant fiction; I couldn't quite believe that over the Easter weekend both President Trump and the leaders of Iran talked at each other (and the frightened world) about unleashing or creating hell for each other's countries, with a certain amount of relish. I think one belief which is shared by Christians and Muslims is an aversion of hell, seeing it as a place to be shunned, not something to be inflicted on others. It feels as if we're living in a warped, twisted version of Alice in Wonderland.

War always creates its own poisonous and deceitful language.

By contrast with this frankly Satanic language authentic Christian tradition on the morning of Holy Saturday last weekend sees Our Lord as harrowing hell, depicted in this icon and many other works of art. This reflects a belief that after the crucifixion and before rising from the dead Jesus rescued souls from the underworld; he's also seen as vanquishing and overcoming the powers of darkness. While we would want to avoid the sort of violent language which so many can't resist, the war of the last six weeks has exacerbated conflict between authentic Christianity

(and the teaching Magisterium of the Catholic Church in particular, above all Pope Leo) and those waging war (Israel, the USA and the Islamic Republic of



Iran). For this moral gulf to be so clear over the Easter weekend is poignant. Moreover it would be wrong to see all this as somehow remote; apart from the effects on everyday lives here of the rise in the cost of living because of what has happened (always worse for those who are poor than anyone else) there are plenty of supporters of the US action here, and some of them may be running local authorities here in London and elsewhere in a few weeks' time.

At the time of writing (Easter Wednesday) a ceasefire has just started; please pray this weekend that it will hold and for those who have suffered in recent weeks. Pray too for Christians and others in the Holy Land and in Lebanon (where there is no ceasefire), which the Holy Father visited last year. Pray also for him: his brave stance may well expose him to danger and he needs our support and loyalty.

continue...

Psalm Response
Gospel acclamation

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.
Alleluia, alleluia.
You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord.
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
Alleluia..

continue...

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to decorate our church and enhance our worship at St Mark's over the Easter Triduum, and for your generous gifts. My thanks too to Deacon Duncan for leading Stations for most of Lent and to Fr Kevin for celebrating various Masses and preparing our new Catholics for baptism and reception into the Church. Kevin has been with HCPT in Lourdes this last week – please pray for the trust's work and all those who seek healing in Lourdes and maintain the shrine. If you want to learn more about HCPT and donate to it (the cost of taking children to Lourdes has rocketed in recent years), go to [Life Changing Pilgrimage Holidays - HCPT. \(https://www.hcpt.org.uk/\)](https://www.hcpt.org.uk/)

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 schoolsand **a book review by Fr Kevin!**
We need more subscribers!

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!

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 here 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.**

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



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.

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 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"

Please Pray for Anniversary

Pope Francis, John Irons, Anthony Norton, Mary Horgan, George H. Lawrence, Sr ETTY Kelly, Frank Chappelow, Colin Barrett Sidney Hutchinson, Sheila O'Neill, June Gooderham, Agnes Geraghty, Catherine Fayerman, Mary Adams,

Recently dead

Madeleine Ruddy

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.

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.

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

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 11th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Intentions of P Verghese	Vigil Mass
Sun 12th	Second Sunday of Easter		
	Devine Mercy Sunday		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Leo Hoang	
	11:30am	Pauline Biddlecome	
Mon 13th	10am	Derek Attwell	Followed by Adoration
Tue 14th	6pm	Madeleine Ruddy	
Wed 15th	10am	Mick Low	
Thurs 16th	10am	Eugene O'Reilly	
Fri 17th	9am	Beginning of Term Mass St Mary's School	
	10:15pm* (later time)	Fr Michael Hayes	Followed by Adoration
Sat 18th	6pm	Confessions	
	6:30pm	John Doherty	Vigil Mass
Sun 19th	Third Sunday of Easter		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Baby Jamie Fernandez	
	11:30am	Maria Wynne	