

# St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

## Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

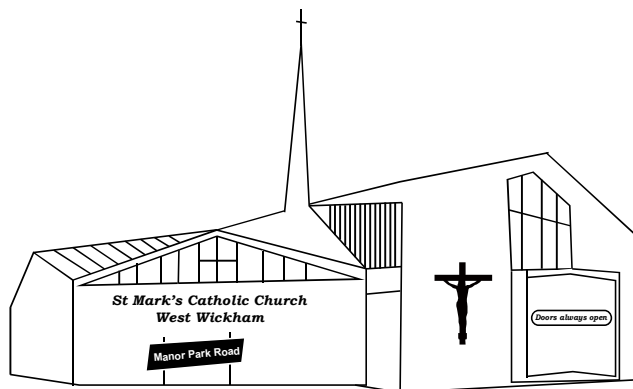
Fr Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins

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19 April, 2026



## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER DANCE FOR JOY!

In the season of Easter our gospel readings are normally from the gospel of John, but these words from the beatitudes in Luke's gospel (6: 22) are worth reading: 'Blessed are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy...' We know that our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV is a keen tennis player; we don't know whether he likes dancing. The bizarre verbal attacks on him a week ago by President Trump are in a long tradition of Christian pastors (and quite a few popes) being attacked by the rulers of this world, and not just verbally. Not that long ago, one of Leo's predecessors, Pius VI, died in South East France as a prisoner of Napoleon Bonaparte in August 1799; he didn't have a Catholic funeral in Rome until nearly three years later. His successor Pius VII was also exiled and confined by the French at various stages of his ministry as pope – though he was restored in the end and it was Napoleon who died as an exile. In the early Church every pope until the year 309 was martyred...

The events of the last week have certainly concentrated minds, particularly in the United States; but our focus at this time should be on the Holy Father's pastoral visit to Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea, concluding on St George's day. Africa is often off the radar of the world's rulers; but this is not so of the Catholic Church – the number of Catholics in Africa is increasing more quickly than anywhere else in the world. When the pope is attacked, we are all attacked; even more so when he's attacked for witnessing to Christian teaching about peace. Please pray also for the Bishops of England and Wales meeting for the plenary assembly at this time at Pallazola, the villa of the English College, outside Rome.

## EASTER THANKS

The Easter Triduum already seems no longer recent but I wanted to thank all those who worked so hard in our acts of worship and with the cleaning and decorating of the church – also many thanks for your generous Easter offering.

Psalm Response  
Gospel acclamation

O Lord, you will show me the path of life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;

make our hearts burn within us when you speak to us.

Alleluia.

## Good Shepherd Sunday

Next Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and there will be a second collection for the Priest Training Fund in our diocese. This pays for the formation of those training to be priests and permanent deacons.

## POPE FRANCIS RIP

Tuesday is the first anniversary of the death on Easter Monday last year of Pope Francis; the 6pm Mass will be offered for him.

## St George's Day Supper

We have been invited to a St George's Day Supper next Saturday (St Mark's Day, as it happens) by our friends at St Mary of Nazareth Church. It is in their hall in The Avenue from 7pm. Cost £17.50 & will include Starter Prawn Cocktail or Melon, indicating your choice: Main Course Roast Beef & all the trimmings, followed by Homemade Trifle, & Coffee.

If interested would you please contact

Beryl Bolton Tel 020 8289 8097 or

email :berylbolton@hotmail.com.

Applications/deadline for those wishing to attend is Mon 20th April.

## 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.

## 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!

## 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!**

## 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)



### 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 Ety Kelly, Frank Chappelow, Colin Barrett Sidney Hutchinson, Sheila O'Neill, June Gooderham, Agnes Geraghty, Catherine Fayerman, Mary Adams,

### Recently dead

Madeleine Ruddy

### Food Bank Collection

Next weekend we will have our regular collection for the Shrublands Trust food bank - please be generous as the cost of living crisis gets worse because of the war in the Middle East. Details of what is needed at Shrublands Trust Croydon

### 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, 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

<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 18th</b>	6pm	Confessions	
	6:30pm	John Doherty	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 19th</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Baby Jamie Fernandez	
	11:30am	Maria Wynne	
<b>Mon 20th</b>	<b>St Anselm</b>		
	10am	Ellen Fleming	Followed by Adoration
<b>Tue 21st</b>	6pm	<b>Requiem Mass Pope Francis (1st anniversary)</b>	
<b>Wed 22nd</b>	10am	Mr and Mrs Wilkes	
<b>Thurs 23rd</b>	<b>St George, Martyr, Protector Of England</b>		
	10am	Terry Vaughan Rowlands	
<b>Fri 24th</b>	10am	George Hayes	Followed by Adoration
<b>Sat 25th</b>	<b>St Mark, Evangelist, Patron Of The Parish</b>		
	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Mary Corcoran	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 26th</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter Vocations Sunday</b>		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Kirsten Fernandez	
	11:30am	John Dias	