

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

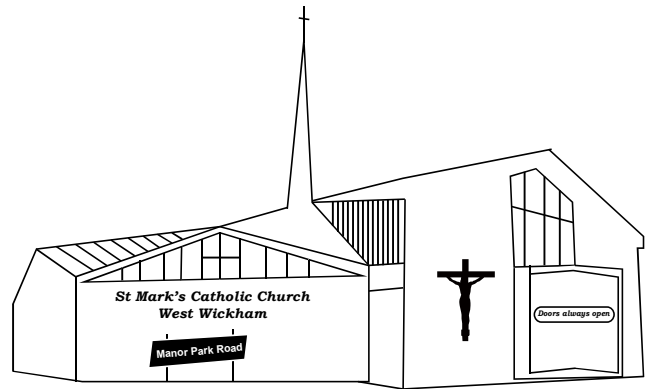
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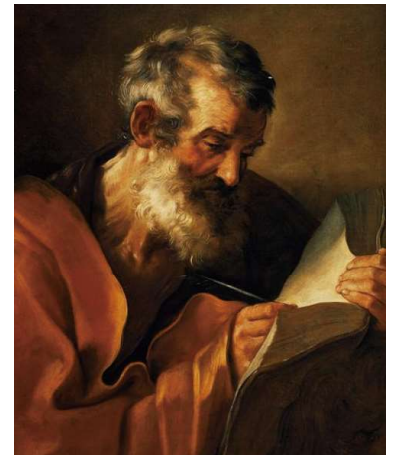
23 April, 2026



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHY PATRON SAINTS MATTER!

This is a painting by Guido Reni (1621) of our patron saint, whose feast day is this Saturday. We don't know much about St Mark's life, but we do know about his gospel - the earliest and the shortest gospel, and the one with the bluntest and most straightforward narrative (in which no effort is made to portray Jesus' disciples in a good light). At times like this perhaps it's particularly important to remember that the Christian message is a lot simpler than people often think. We have a fine statue of St Mark which will be in the sanctuary this weekend.



The Roman Catholic Church teaches that certain saints are chosen (by the Church) to intercede in heaven for particular groups or communities – such as St George whose feast day was on Thursday. We believe that the saints pray for us and that we should ask them to pray for us: because this belief was explicitly rejected at the Protestant Reformation, in most countries like Britain with a Protestant heritage patron saints aren't that important because their feast days were more or less abolished. On Thursday there were only ten people at our morning Mass, though this was a better way to mark St George's Day than would be understood by most people who made an effort to go to a pub on that day, allegedly to honour him. Unfortunately in countries where people have rejected Christianity or are indifferent about it, patron saints can be misused and alleged honouring of them can become toxic and destructive. We saw this last summer where the flag of St George was abused by being made by some into a symbol of racism and hatred, even in West Wickham (this not just an English problem: St Joan of Arc in France has similarly been hijacked by the Far Right).

With George a lot of what goes on is particularly ironic: while we don't know a lot about him, we do know that he wasn't English and never came to England! Moreover many who claim allegiance to him aren't particularly interested in Palestine, where he lived and died. So often the perversion of religious symbols and of the Church's saints speaks volumes about societies which have lost their way: as we honour

George and Mark and ask them to pray for this country and our parish, pray that we will be given the grace to witness effectively to the gospel for which they laid down their lives.

Psalm Response

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel acclamation

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.

I know my sheep and my own know me.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS
20TH ANNIVERSARY
 For the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, celebrating the wonderful contribution of migrants across our communities in London, Essex, Hertfordshire and Kent.

12pm Monday 4th May 2026

St Antony of Padua Catholic Church
56 St Antony's Rd, London E7 9QB
 Nearest Train Station: Forest Gate (Elizabeth Line), Wanstead Park (overground), 15min walk to Church

citizensUK
caritas
 Diocese of Brentwood

Preacher:
 Archbishop Richard Moth

Celebrant:
 Bishop Alan Williams, sm

Mass for Migrants

Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark, and Westminster
 for the 20th annual Mass for Migrants
 on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May 2026,
 at St Antony's.

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!

Good Shepherd Sunday

This weekend 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.

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.

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!

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

Philip O'Sullivan, John Byrne, Joyce Hanly, Ellen Mcgeown, Percival G.B. Peacock, Michael Nelis, Maura Gilgunn, Audrey Klotten, Irene Henriksson, John Prial, Sean Devane

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

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 25th	St Mark, Evangelist, Patron Of The Parish		
	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Mary Corcoran	
Sun 26th	Fourth Sunday of Easter Vocations Sunday		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Kirsten Fernandez	
	11:30am	John Dias	
Mon 27th	St Anselm		
	10am	Tony White	Followed by Adoration
Tue 28th	6pm	Margaret Luck	
Wed 29th	St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe		
	10am	Private Intention	
Thurs 30th	St Pius V		
	10am	Private Intention	
Fri 1st May	St Joseph the Worker		
	9am	St Mary's School	
	10am	Margaret Jane Smith	Followed by Adoration
Sat 2nd May	St Athanasius		
	6pm	Confessions	
	6:30pm	Breda McDonnell	Vigil Mass
Sun 3rd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter		
	8am	Mary Teresa Edwards	
	10am	Ita and John Brosnan	
	11:30am	Parishioners	