

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

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 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

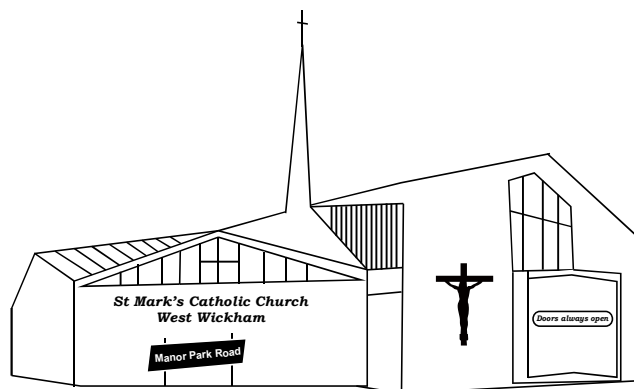
Father Ashley Beck

Fr Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins

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17 May, 2026

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

'Spare me the din of your chanting!'

This picture is of the cloisters of the Church of the Pater Noster near Jerusalem, the traditional site of Jesus teaching the Lord's Prayer to his disciples. On the walls of the cloisters are tablets bearing the text of the prayer in every known language of humanity (new ones are being added all the time). It's a reminder that the prayer is universal, bringing together all the nations and tongues of the world and breaking down barriers. I thought of this the other day when reading reports that some Kent County councillors want to enforce the saying of the prayer before Council meetings (along with the singing of the national anthem). Some might welcome this (I had to lead such prayers many years ago in Bromley when I was Mayor's chaplain) but if it's being proposed by councillors who stir up suspicion and hatred against migrants and refugees (as



it is) the idea is grotesque and blasphemous. Prayers from people whose lives are at odds with true faithfulness to God and Christian teaching, as the pope reminded people recently in relation to war-mongering, are not accepted by God. So in the book of Amos, probably the earliest book in the Bible, God says through the prophet, 'I hate, I scorn your festivals, I take no pleasure in your solemn assemblies...spare me the din of your chanting' (5: 21, 23). The Lord's Prayer is an inclusive and international prayer, not a pathetic sign of identity.

By contrast we experience this Sunday what true and authentic prayer is about, the celebration of our children's First Holy Communion, when they receive the precious gift of the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time, children from our diverse families here in this parish community. We pray with them and for them this weekend; many thanks to Maya and the parents for all they have done to prepare them.

Psalm Response

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Gospel acclamation

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.

I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Praying the Rosary in May



In this month of May reflect on Our Lady as our true Queen and Mother, and the rosary is particularly important. Next Friday we have our customary May Procession in St Mary's School when the statue of Our Lady in the school grounds will be crowned (so our Mass here is slightly later than usual that day). Also our own statue in St Mark's has the crown made by the children in the school last year.

Our Archbishop has asked us this year particularly to pray the Rosary this month for Life – details and resources here: [Rosary for Life: Archdiocese of Southwark](#). We have rosaries on sale in the repository and spare sets of beads too which have been left here over the years.

St Mark's Golf Society



Did you know that our parish has its own Golf Society? Next meeting is on 4 September (more details to follow). If you're interested in joining contact David Brant at davidbrant1@gmail.com.

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

Gift Aid is easy to do, doesn't cost you a penny and helps our Parish! If you are a UK tax payer please consider signing up to Gift Aid - the Parish can claim 25% extra on every pound you donate. This helps towards the rising day-to-day running costs and building maintenance of our Parish. You can use the following link to sign up <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid/> or scan the QR code. Alternatively, you can email the parish on westwickham@rcaos.org.uk
Thank you for your support to our Parish mission and ministry.



Getting to know you



It was good to see some people after Mass on 26 April. As I have indicated it would be good to do this regularly after that Mass on the last Sunday of the month – so the next occasion will be Sunday 31 May. While it's good for the parish to support Marks & Spencer and other local businesses, it would be better if people could bring along some food to share (drink provided).

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*"

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!

Repository

You can buy from the repository cards or gifts for children and young people making their First Holy Communion this month or getting confirmed next month. You can pay either by cash in the wall safe or by means of the card reader.

World Communications Day

This Sunday, when some of our children will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11:30 Mass, is also World Communications Day. There will be a second collection for the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of our Bishops' Conference.

Monthly Children's Mass

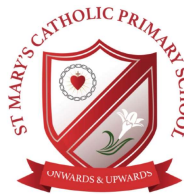
We try to encourage active participation in the Mass for as many people as possible: this is a key way in which Catholic worship has been enriched here, and all over the world, since the reforms to liturgy brought about by the Second Vatican Council. ***The readings and bidding prayers at the 10am Mass will be led by children on the first Sunday of the month.*** Coaching will be provided. Please let me know if you are interested.

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 07784225932 for details.

St Mary's Primary School

St Mary's School in Westgate Road, Beckenham, is our parish school which we share with Beckenham and Hayes parishes.



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.

Please Pray for Anniversary

George Holloway, Frances Eady, MGR. Peter Strand, Martin Murray, Anthony Brennan

Recently dead

Vernon Welch, David Denney, Andrew Killick and Francesca Garcia

Those who are sick

Yvonne Forshaw, 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)
Tuesday 26 May	1130 Requiem Mass Francesca Garcia
Saturday 13 June	Confirmation (Young people in Year 9 or above)
Sunday 19 July	Summer festival

Masses			
Sat 16th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm		Vigil Mass
Sun 17th	7th Sunday of Easter		
	World Communications Day		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Lynette and Savio Fernandez (wedding anniversary)	
	11:30am	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS	
	1:30pm	Baptism	
Mon 18th	10am	John Anthony Rispoli	Followed by Adoration
Tue 19th	St Dunstan		
	6pm	Christine Maslona	
Wed 20th	10am	Lawrence family	
Thurs 21st	St Christopher Magallanes and his companions		
	10am	Welfare of Beatrice Allegretti	
Fri 22nd	9am	St Mary's School David Denney	
	10am	Welfare of Beatrice Allegretti	Followed by Adoration
Sat 23rd	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Parishioners	Vigil Mass
Sun 24th	PENTECOST, Whitsunday		
	8am	Vernon Welch	
	10am	Ernest Robins	
	11:30am	Isabel Hall	
	6pm	CTWW Service of Worship at Emmanuel Church, The Grove	