

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

Father Ashley Beck

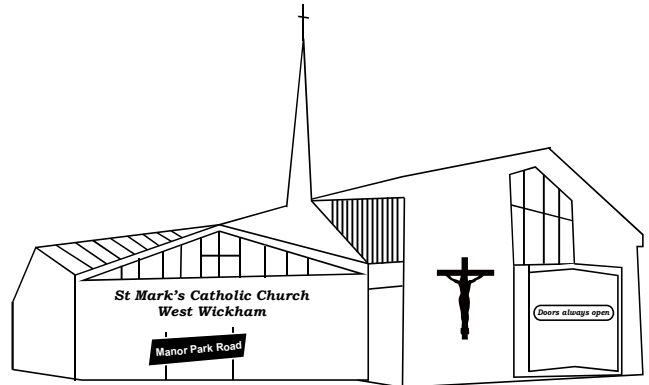
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24 May, 2026



PENTECOST

Pentecost and Creation

There's so much going on in the Church and the world that things get forgotten, at least by me: this last week has been Laudato Si' Week (see the special website maintained by the Holy See, [Laudato Si' Week:https://laudatosiweek.org](https://laudatosiweek.org)), marking the 11th anniversary of Pope Francis' great encyclical about



(photo@christianity.com)

the Care of Creation. To mark this on the feast of Pentecost a few years ago our bishops issued a special Pastoral letter to be read all over the country. The Bible describes how the Spirit of God moves over the waters at creation, so celebrating the Spirit's coming on Our Lady and the apostles on Pentecost, bringing the Church into being, is a good day to reflect on our responsibilities to care for the planet and the mess we're making of it; sadly, many things have got worse since the pope's letter in 2015. Like our opposition to war, what the Church says about care for creation is a message many choose to ignore, even within the Catholic community (the issues are linked since modern weaponry damages the environment so much). A good day for each of us to think about how much we care for the planet.

Life is not quiet in the Catholic Church: tomorrow Pope Leo XIV will launch his first full encyclical letter (signed earlier this month), Magnifica Humanitas ('Magnificent Humanity') at a press conference in Rome. I understand one of those who will be taking part in the press conference is the English theologian Professor Anna Rowlands (Durham University). A lot of it is going to be about Artificial Intelligence and it will be very important for all of us. When Laudato Si' came out it was leaked in advance; this hasn't happened yet (Tuesday) with the new encyclical. As with what the Church is saying about the environment and war, I expect much will annoy some people.

Psalm Response

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.

Gospel acclamation

O give thanks to the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

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

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 scan the QR code. Alternatively, you can email the parish. Thank you for your support.



Gift Aid Envelopes-New Issue

If you are a registered gift aid donor using envelopes, please collect your new box issued for this year from the narthex. In case of any queries please email the parish at westwickham@rcaos.org.uk

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 schools ...and 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 getting confirmed next month. You can pay either by cash in the wall safe or by means of the card reader.

Food bank collection

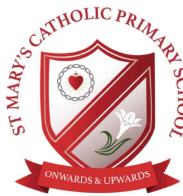
We have our regular food bank collection this weekend. Details of what is needed at the Shrublands Trust food bank can be found at [Shrublands Trust Croydon \(https://www.shrublandstrust.org/\)](https://www.shrublandstrust.org/). Please leave your gifts in the confessional.

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 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/>

Please Pray for

Anniversary

Rudy Barnes, Patrick O'Toole, William Lutter, Eileen Dodson, Joseph Chamberlain, Kathleen Beard, Annette O'Brien, Irene Lee

Recently dead

Vernon Welch, David Denney, Andrew Killick and Francesca Garcia

Pentecost and Christian Unity

The Church keeps a Novena of prayer leading up to Whitsun every year for the unity of Christians. This Sunday evening there's a special service being organised by Churches Together in West Wickham at 6pm at West Wickham United Reform Church in The Grove, preceded by tea from 5.15. All welcome

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.

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.

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

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 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	
Mon 25th	Mary, Mother of the Church Bank holiday		
	10am	Donald Hall	Followed by Adoration
Tue 26th	St Philip Neri		
	11:30am	Requiem Mass Francesca Garcia	
	6pm	Private Intention	
Wed 27th	St Augustine of Canterbury		
	10am	Rose Longworth	
Thur 28th	Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest		
	10am	Rose Longworth	
Fri 29th	St Paul VI		
Sat 30th	10am	Noel Carter	Followed by Adoration
	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Intentions of Monica O'Reilly	Vigil Mass
Sun 31st	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY		
	8am	Intentions of Philomena Regan	
	10am	Parishioners	
	11:30am	Annie Fincham	
	3pm	Baptism	