

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

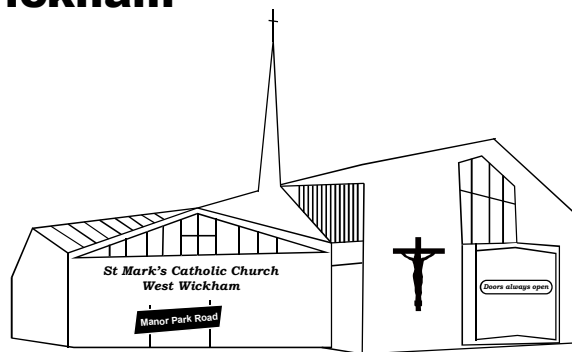
Father Ashley Beck

Fr Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins

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21 June, 2026

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Confirmation: A Beginning, Not an End

Canon Victor gave an impassioned homily to the Confirmation candidates last week when he reminded the 48 young people gathered that Confirmation is not a graduation from the Church, never to be seen again! He was addressing a worrying perception held by many young people that Confirmation marks the end of their involvement in parish life. Sadly, in some places Confirmation has come to be regarded as a “Mass of Exit” rather than a gateway to a deeper life of faith.

I sincerely hope this will not be the case for the young people of St Mark' who were confirmed last Saturday at St Edmund's. Maya and I were privileged to be present at a wonderful celebration, joining a packed congregation that included candidates from St Edmund's and St James, Petts Wood. It was a joyful occasion and a powerful witness to the vitality of our young Church.

Confirmation is not the end of a journey—it is the beginning of a new chapter. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given so that our young people may grow into men and women of Faith, Hope and Charity, becoming confident disciples of Christ and active members of our parish community.

With that in mind, I would like to suggest a ten-point plan to help our newly confirmed young people flourish in their faith and take their place at the heart of parish life.

1. Establish a St Mark's Youth Group

Let us create a vibrant Youth Group that meets regularly, perhaps monthly to begin with. We need enthusiastic volunteers to help organise and support it. I am happy to assist, and I know others would be willing to help too.

2. Opportunities for Service Overseas

I have connections with a bursary fund that supports young people wishing to engage in charitable and mission work overseas. This could provide life-changing opportunities to put faith into action.

3. World Youth Day 2027 – Seoul

World Youth Day will take place in Seoul in 2027. It would be wonderful if one or more of our young people could join the diocesan pilgrimage led by Archbishop John. Such a journey requires planning, commitment and fundraising, but it would be an unforgettable experience of the universal Church.

4. Putting the Synod into Practice

The recent Synod has generated exciting ideas about involving young people more fully in the life and mission of the Church. Let us find practical ways to engage them during major celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest and other parish events.

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5. Developing the Monthly Youth Mass

Our monthly Youth Mass provides an excellent opportunity for young people to have a real voice in parish worship. How can we encourage more participation and make these celebrations even more meaningful and engaging for all?

6. Leadership Through Service

We need more young people to become Readers, Altar Servers, Welcomers and Ministers of Hospitality. Being the first friendly face that parishioners encounter at Mass is a wonderful ministry. Such involvement strengthens faith and builds confidence, though it does require commitment and dedication.

7. Creating New Parish Events

Could our young people help organise parish events such as a Christmas Bazaar, quiz nights, community festivals, or fundraising activities? Fresh ideas and youthful energy can enrich parish life for everyone.

8. Supporting Those in Need

Did you know that many prisoners most urgently need warm socks and woollen hats during the winter months? Perhaps we could organise an Advent collection this December as a practical expression of Christian compassion and solidarity.

9. Forming a Youth Music Group

Do you sing or play an instrument? Why not establish a youth music group to support our Youth Masses and other parish celebrations? Music is a wonderful way to deepen faith, build friendships and enrich worship.

10. Building Community Through Social Activities

Faith grows through friendship. The Youth Group could help organise outings such as ten-pin bowling, cinema trips, concerts, sporting events, walks or visits to places of interest. These activities would help strengthen relationships and make parish life enjoyable and welcoming.

A New Beginning

Confirmation is not a finishing line—it is a starting point. Our newly confirmed young people have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and now have the opportunity to play a full and active role in the life of the Church. Let us encourage them, support them and walk alongside them as they grow in faith and discipleship. If we work together as a parish community, we can ensure that Confirmation becomes not a “Mass of Exit” but a “Mass of Mission”—the beginning of a lifelong journey with Christ and His Church.

Deacon Duncan Aitkins

Second Collections

The annual Day for Life is **this Sunday** when there will be a second collection. Details of what it means are at [Day for Life - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/)

++ NEXT SUNDAY: Annual collection for **Peter's Pence**, the worldwide fund which supports the work of the pope.

Psalm Response

In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.

Gospel acclamation

The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me, says the Lord,
and you also will bear witness.

Churches Together in West Wickham

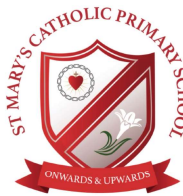
Our ecumenical network here is looking for a new treasurer. I understand the duties are not onerous. If you're interested please contact Marie Potter on westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Evening of music at St Mark's Calling all musicians

On 11 September, we will be holding an evening of music and readings to celebrate the Wonder of Creation. We hope to feature many of the musicians from the parish, young and older. Please note the date in your diary and more information on tickets will be available shortly. Any proceeds will be going to charity. If you are interested in performing, please apply by completing this form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N83P2FM>. For any queries, speak to Eileen or Maya (in the choir).

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

John Geraghty, Ivan Grant, Mick Mcmanus, Denis Phillips, Gregory Hanley, Jamesa Forgione, Anthony Towey, Harry Thompson, Peter Brown, William Bell, Angela Zurinkas, Margaret Shaw

Recently dead

Brian O'Flynn

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"

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 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 Pibbs, 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@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.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 19 July

Summer festival

Masses			
Sat 20th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Monica Kilgallon	Vigil Mass
Sun 21st	12 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Day for Life		
	8am	John Sweeney	
	10am	Anthony Hall	
	11:30am	John and Mary Barratt	
Mon 22nd	10am	Morning Prayer	
Tue 23rd			
Wed 24th	Birth of St John the Baptist		
	10am	Leo Monteiro	
Thur 25th	10am	Morning Prayer	
Fri 26th	10am	Morning Prayer	
Sat 27th	6pm	Confessions	
	6:30pm	Irene Marsh	Vigil Mass
Sun 28th	The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist		
	Ss Peter and Paul		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Margaret Shand	
	11:30am	Keith Breathwick	