

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarksww.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

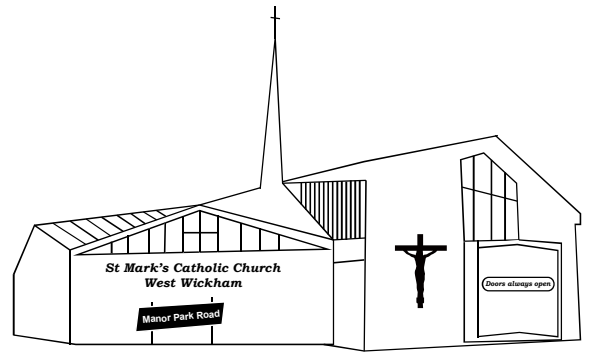
Father Ashley Beck

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28 June, 2026

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

“In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter”.

All through the Gospels' Acts we read of wicked “King Herod”. You may be forgiven for wondering how long exactly did this despot survive? In reality there are at least SIX such “Herods” known by that name in the New Testament This was a dynasty spanning at least FOUR generations. Through a process of violent corruption, circa 37bc Herod the Great had bribed and purchased the title from the Roman Emperor when Judea was a vassal state. This was the Herod that put the male children to death in Bethlehem at the time of the Birth of Christ. Although historians may question this, it is not beyond imagination... he had even executed two of his own sons (they had admittedly tried to poison him). So as Matthew tells us: The Holy Family fled to Egypt but when Herod died they were warned in a dream that Herod (Archehlus) ruled in his place so they made their way to Nazareth. In reality Israel/Judea was now divided into four Tetrarchies ruled over by three sons all using the name Herod!. Herod Archelaus had TWO quarters and was named “Ethnarch”, while Herod Antipas and Herod Philipe had the other shares. It was Herod Antipas who shortly executed John the Baptist for denouncing that he had taken his brother (Philipe's) wife. These “Herods” were not the kind of people to get entangled with. Archelaus was quickly deposed by the Roman authorities because he was too despicable even by their standards. One year he cancelled Passover and slaughtered some 3000 protesting Jews within the Temple precincts.

Maybe at a later date, that puts into perspective the High Priest's sage advice at the trial of Jesus that it “was better that one man should die for the sake of the people”. Now, when we move into the Acts of the Apostles as in today's reading we shift down another generation. It was Herod Agrippa I who executed James the brother of John and then moved to arrest Peter. When Peter miraculously escaped from prison making his way to a safe house in the middle of the night this is the moment that he really disappears from the Biblical narrative. “He went from there To Another Place”. Although he is shown as being present at the Council of Jerusalem in Act's 15 and delivering the presiding speech, Peter was now a wanted man throughout the empire having to disappear underground as the early Christians would soon have to do, en masse. Paul's Letter to the Galatians tells us that he was shortly resident at Antioch (gateway to the west) and of course unanimous Christian traditions soon place him at Rome where he and Paul together met their deaths under the Emperor Nero circa AD66. Anyway Herod Agrippa 1 we are soon told died from being eaten up inside by worms 12:23. The contemporary historian Josephus corroborates this saying he was taken ill at the theatre and took five days to die. Whatever it sounds like quite bad stomach problem but who knows if he was not bumped off?! So, last, we come to Herod Agrippa 11 he occupies the whole of Acts 26 listening with some interest to Paul's testimony. At least he might have been the best of the bunch whose conduct is moderated by his wife Bernice. Very likely she was being drawn into the Christian circle as many Roman wives previously found themselves drawn into Jewish faith. “Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

Fr Kevin Robinson

Annual Marriage Mass

This will take place in our cathedral on Saturday 11 July at 3pm – it's particularly appropriate for couples celebrating a significant anniversary this year, but all married couples are welcome.

Details at : [The Annual Marriage Mass: Archdiocese of Southwark.](#)



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. 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).

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 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.

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

Second Collections

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

Psalm Response
Gospel acclamation

Their sound goes forth through all the earth.
Lord, you know everything;
you know that I love you.

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

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 Choir

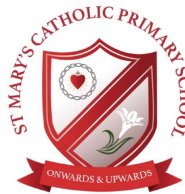
St Mark's Choir sing at the 10am Sunday Mass and on other special occasions, and we rehearse before Mass from 9am to learn new music. We are looking for new members so if you like singing please join us. Children can come along too but need to be with an accompanying adult.

St 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/>

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.

Please Pray for Anniversary

Veronica Hollidge, Jadwiga Maslona, Dora Saguez, Shgila English, Debbie O'Neil, Arda Crowhurst, Mari Rose Lloyd, William Duhig

Recently dead

Brian O'Flynn

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 27th	6pm	Confessions	
	6:30pm	Irene Marsh	Vigil Mass
Sun 28th	Ss Peter and Paul		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Margaret Shand	
	11:30am	Keith Breathwick	
Mon 29th	10am	Beverley Hall	Followed by Adoration
Tue 30th	First Martyrs of the Church of Rome		
	6pm	M Fealey	
Wed 1st July	St Oliver Plunket		
	10am	Leo Monteiro	
Thur 2nd	10am	Fr James Nathan	
Fri 3rd	St Thomas the Apostle		
	9am	St Mary's School	
	10am	Private Intention	
Sat 4th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Private Intention	Vigil Mass
Sun 5th	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Gilly Fernandez	
	11:30am	John and Elizabeth Cunningham	