

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

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St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

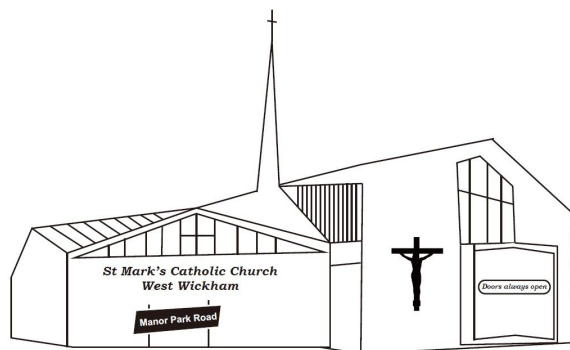
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23 August 2026

Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time

Mary, Mother and Queen

We had a great celebration of Our Lady's Assumption last weekend; it was particularly good to celebrate the baptism of three children at the 10am Mass. As I said in my homily we can learn so much from the love children so often have for Mary, symbolized by the crown on her statue here, made by children in our parish school. Also last Sunday Sunday worship on Radio 4, from Walsingham, honoured her Assumption, led by the Catholic theologian Professor Tina Beattie (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0030c0v>). The Thought for the Day broadcast on 15 August by Catholic journalist Catherine Pepister to which I referred in my homilies can be heard again at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0p4yym6>.

This weekend traditionally we follow up the feast of the Assumption by celebrating Mary as Mother and Queen of all Creation. When we say that Mary is our true Mother and Queen, we're making a statement; we're also continuing to mark the joy and triumph of the Assumption. That's why, just as it was good to mark the Assumption with baptisms at Mass, so this weekend we have celebrated the marriage of Freyja and Donovan; we surround them and their family with our love and prayers.



Mary, Queen of Heaven
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC
www.nga.gov/artworks/41595-mary-queen-heaven

Psalm response

O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Alleluia!

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. In line with this we intend from the first Sunday of June that the readings and bidding prayers at the 10am Mass will normally be led by children on the first Sunday of the month. Coaching will be provided. Please let me know if you are interested.

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. St Mary's School is generally oversubscribed but there are vacancies for children in year 1. 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.

Professor Jason Arday RIP

Some of you have links with St Mary's University and may know that the late Professor Arday studied there for his first two degrees. There is a warm tribute to him at <https://madeat.stmarys.ac.uk/stories/jason-arday/>. There will be a Requiem Mass for him next Wednesday at 12 noon in the university chapel in Twickenham.

Music evening at St Mark's – 11th September, 7pm

On Friday, 11th September, we will be holding a Music Evening at the church followed by refreshments.

A lovely way to spend an early autumn evening, listening to musicians from St Mark's and other local parishes, and catching up afterwards over refreshments. Entry is free with a request for a donation, any profits will go to charity.

If you are intending to come, please sign up on the list in the porch to give us an idea of numbers.

Weekend Masses over the summer

Please note that from 18 July until the end of August there will be no Saturday evening Mass here. Because it is increasingly difficult for priests from overseas to come here to cover parishes in the summer, the archdiocese has asked parishes to cluster together for the summer period. We are grouped together with the parishes of Beckenham, Hayes and Anerley and each parish is being asked to drop one Mass each for these few weeks: so in that period there will be no Saturday Mass here: Saturday evening Masses, preceded by Confessions are at 6pm in St Edmund's, Holy Rosary and St Anthony's (also at Addiscombe). Saturday evening Masses here will resume on 5 September.

Gift Aid on Donations

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@westwickham@rcaos.org.uk. Thank you for your support.



St Mark's Golf Soc Autumn Meeting - Friday 4th Sept

Our next Golf Soc Meeting will take place on Friday 4th Sept at Lingfield Park. We will be playing for The Captain's Prize. The cost of the day will be £65 to include Coffee & Bacon Rolls on arrival, 18 Hole Stableford, followed by Dinner & Prizes. Forms with all the details went out at the end of the week and they need to be returned by Friday 15th Aug at the latest, so teams can be notified in good time.

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

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Malcolm Fernando is organising a pilgrimage to Lourdes from 30 September to 4 October. For further details contact Malcolm Fernando at mjsfernando@gmail.com or 07505011249

Pilgrimage to Assisi

A walking pilgrimage to Assisi from September 18th- 26th, 2026: one night in Florence then six days along the beautiful 'Way of Francis'. Contact Eddie Gilmore for more information: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

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 07784-225932 for details.

Memory Box Cafe

Do you know anyone living with Dementia? We have a Memory Box Cafe on 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month @ Richmond Hall, Emmanuel Church, The Grove from 2-3.30pm with activities, games, music. For further information call 07375 86812 or Facebook Memory Box Dementia Cafe West Wickham

Coloma Convent Girls' School

Welcome to Coloma Convent Girls' School, <https://www.coloma.croydon.sch.uk>

Open Evening: Monday 21st September, 4:00pm–6:30pm

Open Mornings (by appointment):

Tuesday 15th September – 8:45am

Wednesday 16th September – 8:45am

Thursday 17th September – 8:45am

Friday 25th September – 8:45am

Monday 28th September – 8:45am



Please Pray for

Anniversaries

Leonard Thompson, John Noakes, Patrick Keane, Anne Nelis, Maureen Harrison, Barbara Bidwell, Constantine Burlumi, Phyllis Lutter, Martin Gunning.

Recently dead

Constantine Aitkin.

Those who are sick

Kathleen O'Shea, Bridget Nze, 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, Sophie Campbell, Kathy Springhall, Fr Ray Brennan, Peggy Bohan, Bernard Myerscough, John Goddard, Christine Maslona, Collette Holland, Catherine Barrett.

Parish Mass times		Adoration
Sunday	8:00 am	Mon and Fri after Mass until 11:30 am
	10:00 am	Normally a priest is available for confession
	11:30 am	Rosary
Monday	10:00 am	Mon and Wed to Fri at 9:20 am
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Mass at St Edmund's, Beckenham
Wednesday	10:00 am	Sun: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm
Thursday	10:00 am	Mon to Sat: 10:00 am
Friday	10:00 am	Sat: 6:00 pm (vigil)
Saturday	6:30 pm (vigil)	

New weekday Mass pattern from September

As you know I teach Liturgy to seminarians at Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea, which now serves this diocese, other dioceses, and various religious orders in London.

One thing in my life over which I have little control is the teaching timetable, and my regular classes in the autumn are moving from Tuesdays to Mondays.

Consequently from Monday 7 September Mass here on Mondays every week will be at 6pm and on Tuesdays at 10am (usually followed by Adoration). Please pray for the seminary and for vocations to the priesthood.

Sun 23rd	21st Sunday of Ordinary Time		
	8:00 am	Martin Brophy	
	10:00 am	Parishioners	
	11:30 am	Maureen Crowhurst	
Mon 24th	St Bartholemew		
	10:00 am	Welfare of Beatrice and Justine Allegretti	Followed by Adoration
Tue 25th	6:00 pm	Welfare of Beatrice and Justine Allegretti	
Wed 26th	Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God		
	10:00 am	Welfare of Fr Ray Brennan	Followed by refreshments
Thurs 27th	St Monica		
	10:00 am	Frances Robinson	
Fri 28th	St Augustine		
	10:00 am	Benny Mascarenhas	Followed by Adoration
Sat 29th	Passion of St John the Baptist		
		No Mass or Confessions	
Sun 30th	22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Intentions of Mary Morrison	
	11:30 am	Intentions of Kevin Barrett	

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski westwickhamsg1@safeguardraos.org.uk
Marie Potter westwickhamsg2@safeguardraos.org.uk