

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

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St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

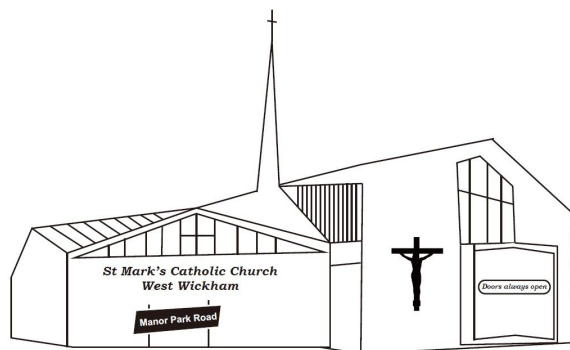
Father Ashley Beck

Father Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins

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30 August 2026

Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Tuesday is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, an observance extended to the Catholic Church some years ago by the late Pope Francis, originating in the Easter Orthodox Church; it is now extended into a special Season of Creation lasting until the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. The Holy Father always publishes a special message for the Day of Prayer and this can be found on the porch noticeboard and at www.vatican.va. As one would expect the pope makes an explicit link between the horrors of modern warfare and the damage being done to creation:



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

'War leaves wounds that extend far beyond the battlefield. It claims lives, tears families apart and forces millions to flee their homes, thereby deepening fear, injustice and division. War also leaves behind social and ecological destruction that endures for generations. Moreover, the interaction between armed conflicts and environmental degradation often creates a vicious cycle, which destroys ecosystems, contaminates essential resources, such as air and water, and undermines food security. This fuels poverty, inequality, and new social tensions that can contribute to the emergence of further conflicts'.

There's a lot there, as always; read it for yourselves, it's not very long. At a time when many politicians and figures in public life continue to deny climate change – even after the heatwaves and fires of this summer – people need to be reminded of what Pope Leo has said. And the next few weeks of this season are important for all of us; it's a pity that in some places the Day of Prayer and the season are completely ignored.

Psalm response	For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.
Gospel acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us. 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' 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/>.

Sunday Vigil Mass

Next weekend our Saturday evening Vigil Masses resume at 630pm, with Confessions from 6pm.

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.

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.

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.

Catholic Theological Association and St Augustine

On Thursday and Friday last week we celebrated the feast days of St Monica and St Augustine. As I pointed out since the election of Pope Leo XIV last year Augustine has become even more important than before, since the Holy Father is a friar in the religious order inspired and founded by him, and almost always quotes him in addresses and homilies. To mark this the annual conference this week in Oxford of the Catholic Theological Association (the support network for Catholics teaching or researching in Higher Education) is devoted to Augustine; please pray for those of us taking part and I will share what we looked at when I get back. I am grateful to Fr Kevin for saying Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week.

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 30/09 to 04/10 just to support MISSIO, CAFOD & ACN. For further details please contact him on 075 05 011249 and the email. mjsfernando@gmail.com

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

Fr Kevin's anniversary

Back in 1996 Fr Kevin was ordained a priest a few months after me at the end of September of that year, so we are marking the anniversary with a special celebration at the 1130 Mass on Sunday 27 September, followed by a party. If you are able to help with this please contact Deacon Duncan at duncanaitkins@rcaos.org.uk or 07957861404. A meeting will be arranged shortly.

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

Coral Wallis, Sylvia Liefke, Victor Bore, Maureen Dennis, Eve Murdoch, Ken English, Elsie Merigan, Barry Mitchell, Terrence Godenho, Elizabeth Odium, Solange Broomhead, Elizabeth Helen Wooster, Des Johnson.

Recently dead

Constantine Aitkin, Jean Brunwin.

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, Marie Smith.

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 30th	22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Intentions of Mary Morrison	
	11:30 am	Intentions of Kevin Barrett	
Mon 31st	St Aidan and the saints of Lindisfarne		
	10:00 am	George and Clare Mather	Followed by Adoration
Tue 1st	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation		
	6:00 pm	Holy Souls	
Wed 2nd	10:00 am	Mary Neville (thanksgiving)	Followed by refreshments
Thurs 3rd	St Gregory the Great		
	10:00 am	John Smith	
Fri 4th	St Cuthbert		
	9:00 am	Beginning of term Mass	At St Mary's School
	10:15 am	Nora Stack	Followed by Adoration <i>Note later time</i>
Sat 5th	St Teresa of Calcutta		
	6:00 pm		Confessions
	6:30 pm	Collette Holland	Vigil Mass
Sun 6th	23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time		
	8:00 am	Parishioners	
	10:00 am	Chris Cahill	
	11:30 am	Peggy Falsey (birthday)	

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

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