

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

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 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

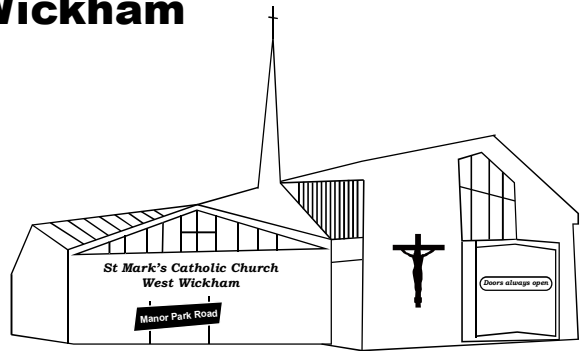
Father Ashley Beck

Fr Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins

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4 October, 2026

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lost In France

I am afraid I am not going to write about Bonny Tyler, who died recently, but her song from the 70s I was lost in France is perhaps a good way into thinking about France after the pope's memorable visit: he very definitely wasn't lost, and nor were those joining him on his apostolic journey. For nearly seventy years in the 14th century the papacy was actually based at Avignon in France; in this country we too share so much Catholic history with the people of France. The visit was exceptional in so many ways, showing not only the vitality of the Catholic community in France but also the ways in which the Christian message all over Europe is beginning to fire up more and more young people. The Holy Father was also visibly moved because his father had taken part in the Normandy landings in 1944; for many too his entry to the cathedral of Notre Dame was very moving following the fire in 2019. His addresses are worth listening to on YouTube and can also be found on the Vatican website. The picture shows him in Lourdes



@Vatican Media

I myself will be in France for most of next week, hopefully not lost either. I will be at a clergy conference for our diocese at a retreat centre in Merville in NE France, near the Belgian border (you may remember we were there two years ago), a part of France which still shows signs of the devastation of the Great War. Consequently there will be no weekday Masses or Adoration; I am grateful to Deacon Duncan who will be leading Morning Prayer on Wednesday and Friday.

Fr Ashley Beck

First Holy Communion 2027

If your child is in year 3 or above and would like to make their first holy communion on 16 May, 27 @ St Marks then please fill out this form <https://forms.gle/U5iqfugmyJgiR9KKA> ? There will be a parents' meeting on 22 Nov, 26 AFTER 10 am Mass to decide when in the week the classes will be held. Classes will start in January 27. Any questions then please talk to May or email her on bowkett3@gmail.com

Psalm Response
Gospel acclamation

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.
I chose you out of the world, says the Lord,
that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide.

Celebrating 40 Years of the Cardinal Hume Centre

A special Mass to mark the 40th anniversary of the Cardinal Hume Centre will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 13 October 2026 at 5.30pm. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will preside, joined by Bishop James Curry and Dom Robert Igo OSB.

The Mass is open to the public, and parishioners from St Mark's are warmly invited to attend in thanksgiving for the life and legacy of Cardinal Basil Hume and the Centre's 40 years of service.

WW & Hayes Primary Care Network

Are you over 60 and registered with a GP in The West Wickham or Hayes area? If so, this could be designed for you. We offer activities & refreshments with a programme of speakers including clinicians & other local representatives, as well as help & support accessing NHS digital services with our NHS Ambassadors. It is free. If interested, why not come along & join us. We meet every 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 11am-1pm @ Medhurst Hall, WW, BR4 0JX. (Just off The High Street). Do come & join us. No need to book.

THANK YOU to everyone who joined us & provided food for Fr Kevin's 30 Anniversary Celebration & to Deacon Duncan for arranging everything. A Big Thank you to our dear Siobhan & her Team for making everything look so special, including our chairs which looked as if we were going to a banquet. Anne Brant.

Fr Kevin's Celebration – A Word of Thanks

I am deeply grateful to everyone in the parish who helped with refreshments and practical support last Sunday, making Fr Kevin's celebration such a joyful and memorable occasion. It was truly a gathering of **three parishes — St Joseph's, Our Lady Star of the Sea, and St Mark's** — something quite rare given the distances involved.

A special word of thanks to **Siobhan, Freya, and Donovan**, who were the last helpers standing at the end of a very special day for Fr Kevin, his family, and the many parishioners who travelled from Greenwich to be with us.

Thank you also to **St Mark's parish community** for the warm, generous welcome extended to all our visitors. The hospitality shown was noticed and appreciated.

This event has offered a valuable insight into how we might continue to grow in **synodal outreach** — building connections, strengthening relationships, and walking together with neighbouring parishes in a spirit of fellowship and shared faith. God bless.

Duncan

St Mark's Golf Society

Our Autumn Meeting/Captain's Day took place at Lingfield Park Golf Club on Friday 4th. Our Captain's Prize was won by Hamish. Our Captain of The Day was Nigel Walker. We had 9 participants with 2 casualties on the day. Unfortunately our Handicap Secretary, Jim Nolan couldn't be with us. Two lady dinner guests attended our dinner. We played a Stableford Competition and the winner of our Captain's Prize was Matt Carson. One of our Past Captains Tom Tannion, is seriously ill. Can you please remember him in your prayers.

Our AGM & Christmas Meeting will take place on Friday 4th Dec at Croham Hurst Golf Club. Further details nearer the date. Our Contact Person is: David Brant. Further information/contact details from David Brant at email address davidbrant1@gmail.com

Memory Box Cafe

Do you know anyone living with Dementia? We have a Memory Box Cafe, 2-3.30pm, at Richmond Hall, Emmanuel Church, The Grove on the 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month, with activities, games, music, Afternoon Tea. For further information call 0737586812 or Facebook "Memory Box Dementia Cafe West Wickham"

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.

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.

Prisoners Sunday

Next Sunday is Prisoners' Sunday and it is the custom in this parish for us to have a second collection for the work of the Prisoners' Advice and Care Trust (PACT). Details of its work can be found at [Home - Prison Advice and Care Trust](https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/) (<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>); material for the Day of Prayer from the Bishops Conference can be found at [Prisoners' Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/prisoners-sunday/). (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/prisoners-sunday/>)

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

The first open morning for those considering applying for a place for their child for next autumn: The Open Mornings will take place on the following dates:

Wednesday 30th September 2026

Wednesday 14th October 2026

Thursday 12th November 2026

Thursday 26th November 2026

The sessions start at 10.45am sharp and will finish around mid-day.

If you wish to book a place, please contact our Admissions Officer, Mrs Tracey, via email admissions@stmaryscp.co.uk

The Open Mornings are an opportunity for parents to view our school and receive information on how to make an application, therefore we would suggest that you find alternative childcare arrangements on the day.

Please Pray for Anniversary

Doreen Gonsalves, Sr. Margaret Moloney, Catherine Butler, John Butler, Patrick Brady, John Evans, Jim Price, Iris Price, Lionel Garcia, Eugene Griffin, Valerie Godenho

Recently dead

Deacon Michael Münchow, 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, Marie Smith.

Parish Mass times

Sunday 8:00 am
10:00 am
11:30 am

Monday 6:00 pm

Tuesday 10:00 am

Wednesday 10:00 am

Thursday 10:00 am

Friday 10:00 am

Saturday 6:30 pm (vigil)

Adoration

Tue and Fri after mass until 11:30am
Normally a priest is available for confession

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, Appeals and Second Collections

Fri 16 October Thanksgiving Mass, St Mary's School

Sun 18 October World Mission Day – collection for Mission

Sun 15 November Parish Visitation by Canon Victor Darlington,
Episcopal Vicar for South East London

Sun 22 November Youth Sunday – collection for diocesan Youth Service
After 10 am Mass in the Committee room - Meeting for all parents who
would like their children to make their First Holy Communion in May 2027

Sun 13 December Sisters of St Peter Claver calendar sale

Sun 16 May 11.30 First Holy Communion Mass with a Parish Celebration afterwards.

Fri 25 June 7pm at St Edmunds Confirmation Mass for all those in year 9 and above.
Details to follow in January 2027

Mass for the week			
Sat 3rd	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Reginal Miles and family (Foundation Mass)	Vigil Mass
Sun 4th	27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Rosary Sunday		
	8am	Deacon Michael Münchow	
	10am	Parishioners	
	11:30am	Irena Giusta	
Mon 5th	NO MASS		
Tue 6th	NO MASS OR ADORATION		
Wed 7th	Our Lady of the Rosary		
	10am	Morning Prayer	
Thur 8th	NO MASS		
Fri 9th	St John Henry Newman		
	10am	Morning Prayer	No Adoration
Sat 10th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Soosipillai and Philomena Francis	Vigil Mass
Sun 11th	28th Sunday In Ordinary Time		
	Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Families		
	8am	Private Intention	
	10am	Parishioners	
	11:30am	Ciara Macklin (thanksgiving for surgery success)	

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

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