

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

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 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

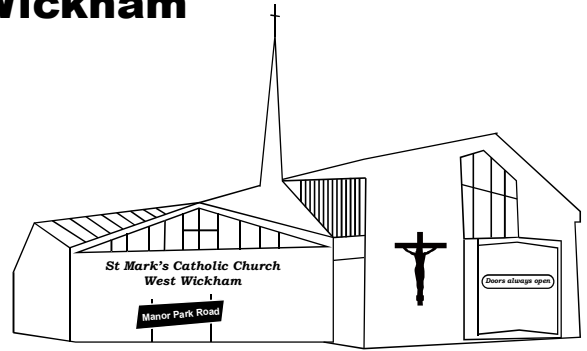
Father Ashley Beck

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18 October, 2026

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time & World Mission Day

The Church, a community of love

In any parish one of the great signs of shared love and care is the way in which we pray for those who are sick. This was seen in a particularly vivid way during the Covid-19 pandemic, when in many parishes long lists of names of the sick (and departed) were read at every live-streamed Mass. This extends beyond our parishes and families to the whole Church: in the last few months of the life of the late Pope Francis daily prayers were offered fervently for him, particularly in Rome but also throughout the world.



Although the prognosis is good we were all perturbed to learn of the early signs of lung cancer detected in Pope Leo XIV (shown here arriving at the Gemelli hospital in Rome) – it seems a bit soon to be praying again for a pope's health. Of course it's good, especially if we're roughly the same age as the Holy Father, to be reminded of our vulnerability and of how much we need other people when we're unwell. Of course we're taught other things too: some have remarked, often not Catholics, that 'the pope is only world leader we can look up to' in these dark times. It was not ever thus: for much of the Church's history the Vicar of Christ has been marginalised, ignored or simply treated as if he were another of the world's rulers. When Italy was reunified in the 19th century, the Catholic Church felt that it could only secure its independence from State interference if the Church ran its own 'Papal States' as a fully independent country. Ironically as the Papal States vanished (apart from the Vatican itself), the moral authority of the pope increased radically and quickly.

The world needs Pope Leo – pray for him!

Fr. Ashley

Introducing the Synod at St Mark's

"This week we begin our parish's Synodal journey — a path the whole Church is walking together. Many people have heard the word "Synod" without being entirely sure what it means. Put simply, the Synod is an invitation from Pope Francis for every parish to listen more deeply to one another, to pray together, and to discern where the Holy Spirit is calling us. It is not a programme or a committee; it is a way of being Church that values every voice and every experience.

At St Mark's, we are taking our first steps by creating spaces where parishioners can learn about the Synod, share their thoughts, and help shape the future of our parish community. Over the coming weeks, this Newsletter will include short updates explaining what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how you can take part. There will be opportunities for prayer, conversation, listening circles, and parish gatherings — all designed to help us walk this path together.

The Synod is for everyone: families, young people, long-standing parishioners, newcomers, and those who may feel on the margins. No one is excluded. As we begin, we ask you simply to stay open, stay curious, and stay involved. Together, we will discover what the Holy Spirit desires for St Mark's and how we can grow as a parish rooted in faith, welcome, and hope."

Duncan

Psalm Response
Gospel acclamation

Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.
Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life.

World Mission Day

Today is World Mission Day and there will be a second collection for Missio. Details of its work at World Mission Sunday - Missio (<https://missio.org.uk/wms/>). The Holy Father has written a special message for today, One in Christ, United in Mission (before he went into hospital) which is on the porch noticeboard and here: [Message of the Holy Father for the 100th World Mission Day 2026 \[18 October 2026\]](#) (25 January 2026).



'Reform's God Squad'

I encourage parishioners to buy and read The Tablet, now the only weekly printed Catholic paper. In a recent issue there's a particularly good article by Theo Hobson about the involvement in Reform UK of Evangelical Anglicans and I have made some photocopies of this which are in the porch.

LECTORS' AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS' FORMATION DAYS "Nourished by the Word, Sent with the Eucharist"

The South East Area is holding two Formation Days for **Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**:

Saturday, 24th October 2026

Bishop Thomas Grant School

10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Saturday, 31st October 2026

Capuchin Franciscan Friary, Erith

10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

These days offer an opportunity for prayer, formation and reflection on these important ministries in the life of the Church. All Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are warmly encouraged to attend. Participants need only attend one of the two days and may choose whichever date is most convenient. If you would like to attend, please give your name and preferred date to your parish by Sunday, 18th October at the latest, so that the parish can confirm attendance with the Episcopal Vicar's Office. Please remember to bring a packed lunch with you on the day. For further information, please contact the Episcopal Vicar for South East London's Office at evse@rcaos.org.uk.

Interested in learning to play the organ?

The Bromley and Croydon Organists' Association offers awards providing free organ lessons for young people aged 8–21 who would like to learn to play this wonderful instrument. Piano players around Grade 5 standard are particularly well placed to benefit, although all applications will be considered. If you or someone you know might be interested, you can find further details on the association's website: <https://bromley-and-croydon-organists.uk/organ-lessons/> Many churches, including St Mark's, need good organists. Learning to play the organ is therefore not only an exciting musical opportunity, but also a practical way to contribute to the life of the Church for many years to come.

Future of Beckenham Cinema

Many parishioners here in West Wickham are likely to be concerned at the proposals by the Citygate Church in Beckenham (the old post office) to convert the Odeon Cinema into a place of worship. Liam Conlon MP and local ward councillors are organising a public meeting next Friday, details here: Public Meeting on the Future of Beckenham Odeon Tickets, Friday, October 23 • 7 PM - 8:30 PM | Eventbrite



Mary's Meals

There will be special appeal for the work of Mary's Meals - Small Change, Big Impact| Mary's Meals UK after the 10am Mass.



Jesuit Refugee Service

JRS have written to thank us for raising the tremendous sum of **£993.86** at the appeal last month. Thank you very much.

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.

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.

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 please fill out this form



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

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:

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

Metilta De Souza, Margaret O'Connor, Pat Horgan, Tibor Katona, Karl Demorais, Rev. Hugh Lagan, Brigid Ellis, Mary Jones, Tom Forrest, Margaret Molloy, Florence Gillen, Sean Hogan, Roberto Petagna

Recently dead

Mary Sweeney

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, Mia Kehoe-Hewitt

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Thomas Smialowski
Marie Potter

westwickhamsg1@safeguardraos.org.uk
westwickhamsg2@safeguardraos.org.uk

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

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

Masses			
Sat 17th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Moira Frances Luff	Vigil Mass
Sun 18th	World Mission Sunday		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Private Intention	
	11:30am	Private Intention	
Mon 19th	St Paul of the Cross (of whom we have a relic)		
	6pm	Safe recovery of Pope Leo XIV	
Tue 20th	10am	Eileen Lawton (anniversary)	followed by Adoration
Wed 21st	10am	Intentions of Philomena Regan	
Thur 22nd	St John Paul II		
	10am	Fong Yin Gopala	
Fri 23rd	10am	Jane Roberts	followed by Adoration
Sat 24th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	James Maguire	Vigil Mass
Sun 25th	30th Sunday In Ordinary Time		
	8am	Parishioners	
	10am	Ann Alexander	
	11:30am	Stephen Davaney	