

St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarkswv.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

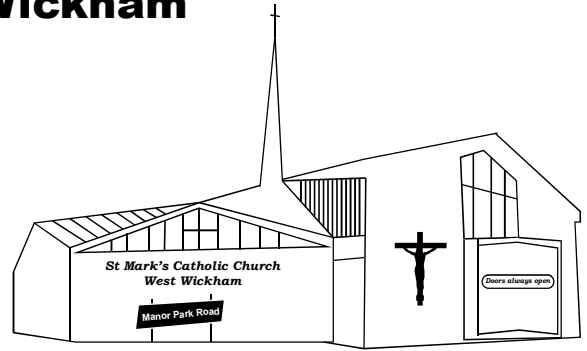
Father Ashley Beck

Fr Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins

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25 October, 2026

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Health and Transparency

Following what I wrote last week about the Holy Father's brief stay in hospital it's very good that we have learnt that the procedures have been successful and that he is clear of Cancer – the picture here is of the Gemelli Hospital in Rome where he was treated. In any Catholic parish praying for those whom we know who are sick, and ministering to those who live here, is a big part of what we are about; so the worldwide and fervent prayer for Pope Leo was very natural; and throughout history Catholics have prayed for their pastors when they have been sick.



@washingtonpost

What has changed over the years is the way in which the Church is now transparent about the pope's health. In the last few years of the pontificate of Pius XII, who died in 1958, the world was kept in the dark about his health condition; it was only really with Pope Francis that greater details about his ailments were made public. With Pope Leo we have been told far more than would be true of other world leaders or Heads of State. In the Church this enormous shift is in line with all the ways in which the Church has changed and developed. The Catholic Church, through so many initiatives taking place in parishes and communities, is moving towards new ways of carrying out dialogue and new ways of sharing in responsibility: these have to be marked by greater accountability and transparency. The best example is Safeguarding: because of terrible mistakes and mismanagement, the ways in which we now try to make parishes safe places (especially for young people and those who are vulnerable) are clearly regulated and accountable. Moreover they have significantly reduced the powers of the Parish Priest, thank goodness. Being transparent about the pope's health is a welcome sign of how much the Church is changing.

Fr. Ashley

Psalm Response



I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel acclamation

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Synodal Update

As you read last week, The Synodal Journey is for our Parish to listen to one another, discerning as a Parish where the Holy Spirit is leading us, through listening to each other. We have been in touch with all those who filled out the slips of paper or google form to ask if they were interested in attending Synodal meetings on either a wednesday or thursday evening, by email or phone. Please do answer the email (look in spam!), so that we are aware of numbers expected on each evening.

There will be five 1 Hr meetings., with different theme to help shape our conversation and prayerful discussion, e.g. on : "What is Synodality?, " Synodality as a Spiritual Practice and Synodality for Mission. ALL are welcome and if you want to be part of this and have not informed us then, please fill out

<https://forms.gle/6n4ZZjDpWtZkFkJ87>

The Synodal team, Allison., Anna Duncan and Maya



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.

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI

There are details in the porch of a local pilgrimage being organised to Assisi from 7 –14 November, led by Fr Steve Wymer from St Edmund's. More details from Diane Brelu on 07951194036 or dianebrubrelu@gmail.com.

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 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.

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

Evelyn Vernon, Paul Lawrence, Theresa O'Riordan, Mary Roche, Nora Brew

Recently dead

Caroline Asserati and Bridget Nze

Those who are sick

Kathleen O'Shea, 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 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	
Mon 26th	Ss Chad and Cedd		
	6pm	Jacqueline Barrett (anniversary)	
Tue 27th	10am	Christine Maslona	No Adoration
Wed 28th	Ss Simon and Jude		
	10am	Intentions of Philomena Regan	
Thur 29th	10am	Edith O'Shaughnessy (Foundation Mass)	
Fri 30th	10am	Bill Bergin	followed by Adoration
Sat 31th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Parishioners	Vigil Mass
Sun 1st	ALL SAINTS		
	8am	John Daniel Macnamara	
	10am	Thanksgiving for the birth of Sophia Barcoo	
	11:30am	Ellen Sharkinski	