

# St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

<https://saintmarkswv.net>

 St Marks Church West Wickham

## Parochial Administrator

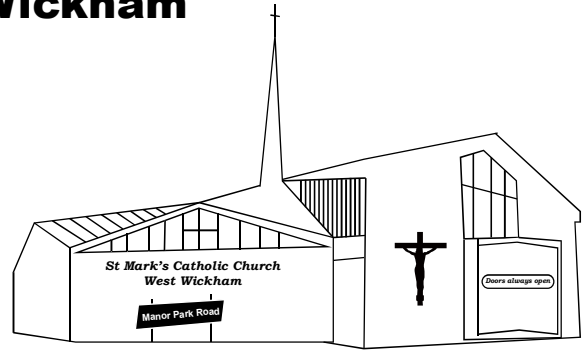
Father Ashley Beck

Fr Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins

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1 November, 2026

## All Saints

### A BUNDLE OF BONES....

When I first came to St Mark's nearly three years ago I discovered in the safe a small quantity of relics of the saints (St Mark, St Peter, St Paul of the Cross and St Jane Frances de Chantal), recalling the lines from the Demons' chorus in St John Henry Newman's poem



[@holycrossgranville.org.au](https://holycrossgranville.org.au)

The Dream of Gerontius, screaming contemptuously 'What's a Saint? A Bundle of Bones which fools adore...' Treating the relics of the saints with reverence, and indeed praying to the saints, is often something which many don't understand who are not Catholics (perhaps also some who are...) but it's a really big part of our religious tradition – and part of what we celebrate today on All Saints' Day. For us, the saints are not simply or primarily historical figures from the past; we believe that they are alive for ever in heaven (indeed, more alive than we are) and praying for us to God; we see them as our friends, our fellow pilgrims. This is why it's a good thing that churches, schools, towns and other communities are named after the saints: we seek their patronage and their help.

Fr. Ashley

### Your Parish Needs You!

St Mark's is looking for volunteers to help with the operational and health & safety aspects of our Parish. If you are interested in helping the Parish in these essential activities, please contact [westwickham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:westwickham@rcaos.org.uk) or speak to Fr Ashley after Mass.

### Coloma Mass of Remembrance

Coloma Convent Girls' School is holding a Mass of Remembrance on Thursday 26th November at 3.30pm to remember all deceased Coloma students, staff & family members. Former students and staff, and the families of those who have died, are warmly invited to attend this Mass which will take place at the school. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [liturgy@coloma.co.uk](mailto:liturgy@coloma.co.uk) by 19th November indicating the name of your loved one so that they can be remembered at this Mass.

Psalm Response



Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

Gospel acclamation

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest.

## Synodal Update

### What Does “Walking Together” Really Mean?

Recently we introduced the Synod and explained that the word Synod means “walking together.” But what does that actually look like in the life of a parish?

Walking together does not mean that everyone thinks the same way or always agrees. Rather, it means that we recognise that the Holy Spirit speaks through the whole People of God. Every baptised person has gifts, experiences, hopes, and insights that can help the Church grow. A synodal parish is therefore a parish that listens before it decides, welcomes before it judges, and seeks to discern God's will together.

At St Mark's, walking together means creating opportunities for parishioners to pray, listen, and speak with one another about the future of our parish. It means making space for long-standing parishioners and newcomers, young and old, those actively involved in parish life and those who may feel on the margins. Every voice matters, because every person matters.

The Synod is not about changing Church teaching, nor is it a parish survey. It is about learning how to become a more prayerful, welcoming, and missionary Church. Before asking “What do I want?”, the synodal approach asks, “What is God asking of us?” and “How can we help one another respond to His call?”

Look out for opportunities to join discussions, prayer gatherings, and listening sessions. We encourage everyone to take part. The future of St Mark's is not the responsibility of a few people, but of the whole parish community.

As Pope Francis has often reminded us, the Church is strongest when its members journey together, listening to the Holy Spirit and accompanying one another in faith.

Alison, Anna, Maya & Duncan.

### 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.

### Month of the Holy Souls

As is customary in November in the sanctuary we have two small trees and some labels for you to add the names of deceased relatives and friends.

### Deanery Requiem Mass for departed clergy

This will be at St Joseph's Bromley on Tuesday 24 November at 12 noon

### KCT CEO Advert

As a trustee of Kairos Community Centre and Bromley Borough Foodbank, strangely we are seeking a new CEO for Kairos and a new Manager to lead the Foodbank; if anyone is interested, or you know of anyone who would be interested in applying, please contact me for details asap, by email at: [duncan@duncanaitkins.co.uk](mailto:duncan@duncanaitkins.co.uk)

### 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](mailto:bowkett3@gmail.com)

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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

Michael Lydon, Pauline Uliczak, Wilfrid McCarthy, Lisa Magre, Mary Goldring, June Evans, Fred Goddard, Michael Cregg

### Recently dead

Caroline Asserati and Richard Stow

### 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](mailto:westwickhamsg1@safeguardraos.org.uk)  
[westwickhamsg2@safeguardraos.org.uk](mailto: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,<br>Episcopal Vicar for South East London                                                                                                                   |
| Sun | 22 November | Youth Sunday – collection for diocesan Youth Service<br>After 10 am Mass in the Committee room - Meeting for all parents who<br>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.<br>Details to follow in January 2027                                                                                              |

| Masses   |                              |                                             |                       |
|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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                            |                       |
| Mon 2nd  | ALL SOULS DAY                |                                             |                       |
|          | 6pm                          | Mass with hymns All the faithful departed   |                       |
| Tue 3rd  | St Martin de Porres          |                                             |                       |
|          | 10am                         | Jacqueline Barrett (anniversary)            | followed by Adoration |
| Wed 4th  | St Charles Borromeo          |                                             |                       |
|          | 10am                         | Ann Dummett                                 |                       |
| Thur 5th | 10am                         | Ann Dummett                                 |                       |
| Fri 6th  | 9am                          | St Mary's School                            |                       |
|          | 10am                         | Private Intention                           | followed by Adoration |
| Sat 7th  | 6pm                          |                                             | Confessions           |
|          | 6:30pm                       | Parishioners                                | Vigil Mass            |
| Sun 8th  | 32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time |                                             |                       |
|          | 8am                          | Richard Stow                                |                       |
|          | 10am                         | Holy Souls                                  |                       |