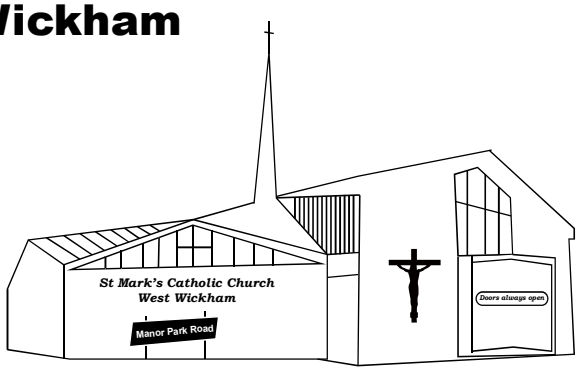
St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

https://saintmarksww.net

St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator
Father Ashley Beck
Fr Kevin Robinson, Deacon Duncan Aitkins
ashleybeck@rcaos.org.uk
07769214903
22, Downs Road, Beckenham, BR3 5JY



8 November, 2026

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

@OSV News photoYara Nardi, Reuters



War and Pope Leo XIV

The Holy Father is shown here celebrating a Requiem Mass in a cemetery in Rome last Monday on All Souls Day; this Sunday Catholics will be celebrating Requiem Masses for the war dead. This is part of what the pope wrote back in May in his encyclical Magnifica Humanitas:
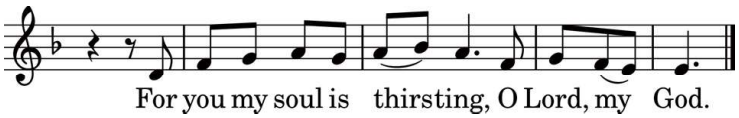
'Military arsenals are receiving renewed attention. In the past, recognition of the threat posed by weapons capable of destroying all of humanity had promoted paths toward détente and disarmament negotiations. Unfortunately, this approach has been left behind, and the evolution of nuclear arsenals — including the prospect of its "tactical" use — makes the use of such weapons seem less improbable…In this context, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which came into force in 2021 with the support of over seventy countries, is an important step. However, it risks remaining largely symbolic since the major nuclear powers have not agreed to it. This has led to the widespread yet erroneous belief that nuclear deterrence is an indispensable prerequisite for security. This has also contributed to a new arms race, which is hard to control and accompanied by the gradual dismantling of nuclear reduction agreements, as well as the development of "miniaturized" weapons, that make their use seem like a more viable option. The same logic applies to conventional warfare.

Military force, weak diplomatic initiatives and the complexity of the interests at stake contribute to conflicts that tend to become protracted, with extremely high human and environmental costs. It is much easier to start a war than to stop it, and yet, discussion on conflict prevention remains tragically marginal'.

We can't mark Remembrance Sunday properly if we ignore the shameful increases in defence spending accompanying the growth in armed conflict in different parts of the world. We're told that there is no alternative and this somehow preserves peace. It's a lie: on this day above all we need to listen the pope and urge others to do so.

Fr. Ashley

Psalm Response



Gospel acclamation

Stay awake and be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Synodal Update

Why Every Voice Matters

One of the most important principles of the Synod is that every voice matters. Through Baptism, each of us shares in the life and mission of the Church. Whether we have worshipped at St Mark's for many years or have only recently joined our parish community, each person brings unique experiences, insights, gifts, and concerns that can help us understand where God is calling us.

Pope Francis reminds us that the Church grows stronger when it listens attentively to all its members, especially those whose voices may not always be heard. This includes young people, families, older parishioners, those who are new to the faith, those who have drifted away and returned, and those who may sometimes feel on the margins of parish life. A synodal parish seeks not only to hear the loudest voices, but also to listen carefully to those who might otherwise remain silent.

Listening does not mean that everyone will agree on every issue. Rather, it means respecting one another, listening with open hearts, and seeking together what the Holy Spirit is saying to our parish. The aim is not simply to exchange opinions, but to grow in understanding, unity, and shared mission.

As St Mark's begins this journey, we encourage everyone to take part in the opportunities that will be offered for prayer, discussion, and reflection. Your contribution matters. The future of our parish will be enriched by the wisdom, faith, and experience of all who call St Mark's their spiritual home.

Duncan

Archbishop's Father asking for prayers

Archbishop John will be unable to join with the Diaconal Community on Saturday as his father has been taken into hospital and he has gone to be with his family. He happy for people to know the situation and has requested that we keep his father and all of his family in our prayers

Interfaith Week Celebration

Thursday 12 November 17.30 – 19.30
St George's Church, Beckenham High St, BR31AX
Join Liam Conlon MP and Faith Leaders from across Beckenham & Penge for an evening of connection, conversation and community. Hear from local faith leaders as they share insights into the diverse roles they play in our constituency. A chance to come together, show unity, and learn from one another. RSVP Mandatory, Please note that places are limited and advance registration is required. Register here:
https://actionnetwork.org/events/interfaith-event-2

St Mark's Golf Society - Christmas Meeting & AGM

Our Christmas Meeting & AGM will take place on Friday 4 December at Croham Hurst Golf Club. If you are a golfer and would like to join us, please contact David Brant, at email address Davidbrant1@gmail.com, who will forward you an application form, giving you full details of the day. Our meeting will be followed by a Christmas Dinner & our AGM. Hope you will be able to join us & look forward to hearing from you.

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 12pm

Archbishop's Appeal

There is a second collection this weekend for the Archbishop's Appeal, the special fund set up a few years ago to support the missionary life of the Church in South London and Kent.
More details at ***Archbishop's Appeal: Archdiocese of Southwark https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/archbishop-s-appeal/***

HCPT Appeal

Next weekend there will also be an appeal and second collection for Group 22 of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust.

Visitation of the Parish

Next weekend Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for South East London, will be making a Visitation of the Parish on behalf of the Archbishop and will be with us at the Sunday morning Masses

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 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.

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.

Please Pray for

Anniversary

Peter Gunn, Madalene Geraghty, Anne Springall, Mary Wigmore, Ron Brown, Daphne Godwin, Lucy Alphonso

Recently dead

Caroline Asserati, Bridget Nze, 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 westwickhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Marie Potter westwickhamsg2@safeguardrcaos.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 7th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Parishioners	Vigil Mass
Sun 8th	**32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time**		
	8am	Richard Stow	
	10am	Holy Souls	
Mon 9th	**Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**		
	6pm	Sarah Cawley	
Tue 10th	**St Leo the Great**		
	10am	Kathleen O'Shea	followed by Adoration
Wed 11th	**Martinmas, St Martin of Tours**		
	10am	Soosipillai and Philomena Francis	
Thur 12th	**St Josaphat**		
	10am	Intentions of Anna Blackman (new General Secretary of Pax Christi England and Wales)	
	12:30pm	Funeral service Caroline Assirati RIP	
Fri 13th	9am	St Mary's School	
	10am	Daniel Cawley	followed by Adoration
Sat 14th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Parishioners	Vigil Mass
Sun 15th	**33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time, World Day Of The Poor**		
	8am	Eilish Brophy	
	10am	Deceased Knights of St Columba, Bromley Council	
	11:30am	Margaret Hayes	