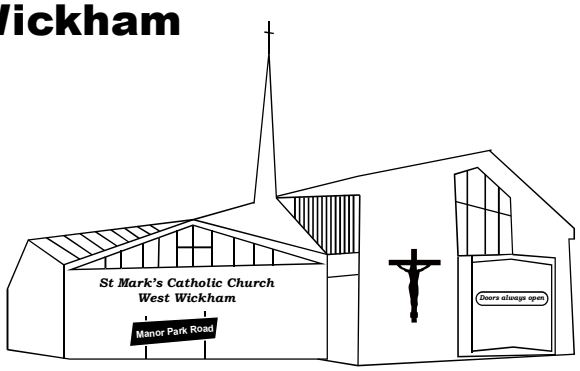
St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

https://saintmarksww.net

St Marks Church West Wickham

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15 November, 2026

33th Sunday in Ordinary Time



WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

World Day of the Poor

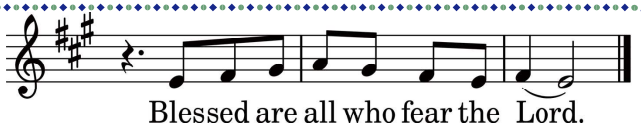
Today the Church keeps the World Day of the Poor, an observance set up by Pope Francis ten years ago. Because there's no mandatory second collection attached to it the day is frequently overlooked; it has to compete with many other messages at this time of the year. But it's important. Every year the pope issues a special message; in this year's the Holy Father makes these trenchant comments:

'The poor of our day are the forgotten and the marginalized: robbed not only of bread, but also of a voice and a face. May they encounter the Son of God, who draws near to everyone without neglecting anyone. May they encounter him, first and foremost, in those who call themselves Christians. In the Church, his Body, it is Jesus who offers bread and friendship; he brings light and opens a horizon of hope; he calls each person by name and restores dignity to all. Jesus of Nazareth is God's gift to the poor. In him, all promises become reality. For those who lack a home, a job, education, food or good health, a new path opens: sharing as an expression of the Kingdom of God. The obsession of those who accumulate wealth only for themselves is opposed by God's steadfastness which, through the witness of real people, opens hearts and welcomes all into his love'.

The pope writes with real passion; we have seen this passion too in the last week in his addresses and homilies in South America, a place where he feels so much at home. In Argentina his witness for the poorest in society was seen clearly as a rebuke of the policies of the Milei government. In any country of the world when the Catholic Church speaks up for the poor, as Pope Leo has (like his predecessors) we come in for criticism, abuse even – especially if we join this witness (as we must) with criticism of increases in spending on weapons of war. Our witness for the poor also needs to inform our parish priorities as we embark on the synodal process through discussion and dialogue: the cost of living crisis and growing poverty are real here in West Wickham. You can read the whole of the Holy Father's message for today at **Message of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for the Tenth World Day of the Poor [15 November 2026] (13 June 2026).** There are also more resources for today, and for the novena which has led up to today, on the website of the Caritas Social Action Network (of which I am a trustee), **World Day of the Poor 2026 Resource - Caritas Social Action Network - CSAN.**

Fr. Ashley

Psalm Response



Gospel acclamation

Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord.
Whoever abides in me bears much fruit.

Message of His Holiness Pope Leo

World Day of the Poor 2026

Synodal Update

Prayers for the Success of Our Synod

As part of our parish Synod journey, I am preparing laminated prayer cards containing our Synod Prayer. Over the coming weeks these will be distributed throughout the parish, and a supply will also be available at the back of the church each week. Hopefully, by the end of the year, everyone will have their own prayer card.

I warmly encourage everyone to take a prayer card and use it daily. Please also remember to pray with your family and friends at home, inviting them to share in this important spiritual journey.

Let us remember the wisdom of St Augustine: every good word, every good intention, every good thought, and every good action comes from God and returns to Him in glory. Any success we achieve through this Synod will depend entirely upon the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

At the same time, we each have our part to play. Let us keep the oil in our lamps burning through faithful prayer, follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and encourage every person to find their voice in this process. By listening, praying, and walking together, we can become instruments of God's grace and help build a more vibrant and missionary parish community.

Please do take a prayer card and join us in praying each day for the success of our Synod.

Duncan

Food Bank collection

As part of our response to the World Day of the Poor there will be a collection of items for our local food bank on the Shrublands estate next weekend. Details of what is needed can be found at **Shrublands Trust Croydon. https://www.shrublandstrust.org/**

Parish Visitation

We welcome to our Sunday morning Masses this weekend Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for South East London, who is carrying out a Canonical Visitation of the parish on behalf of the archbishop. He will be happy to meet people after each Mass.

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

National Youth Sunday

Next Sunday, the Solemnity of Christ the King, is also National Youth Sunday when there will be a second collection for the diocesan Youth Service. Details of its work are at **home - Southwark Catholic Youth Service. (https://scys.org.uk/)**

HCPT Appeal

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

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 by 19th November indicating the name of your loved one so that they can be remembered at this Mass.

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

Please Pray for

Anniversary

Margaret Hayes, Chris Barrett, Isabel Hall, Bridget Mary Carlton

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, JohnGoddard, 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	22 November	Youth Sunday – collection for diocesan Youth Service After 10am Mass in the Committee room - Meeting for all parents who would like their children to make their First Holy Communion in May 2027
Mon	30 November	3:30pm Reception of the Body of Richard Stow RIP
Tue	1 December	11am Requiem Mass Richard Stow RIP
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 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	
Mon 16th	**St Edmund of Abingdon**		
	6pm	Evangeline West (Foundation Mass)	
Tue 17th	**St Hilda of Whitby**		
	10am	JJ Cawley	followed by Adoration
Wed 18th	**Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter and Paul**		
	10am	Isabel Hall	
Thur 19th	10am	Cathy Cawley	
Fri 20th	10am	Gerard Cawley	No Adoration
Sat 21st	**Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**		
	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Parishioners	Vigil Mass
Sun 22nd	**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING National Youth**		
	8am	Mary Loftus (anniversary)	
	10am	Betty Hancock	
	11:30am	Emma Cornish (third anniversary)	