St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

https://saintmarksww.net

St Marks Church West Wickham

Parochial Administrator

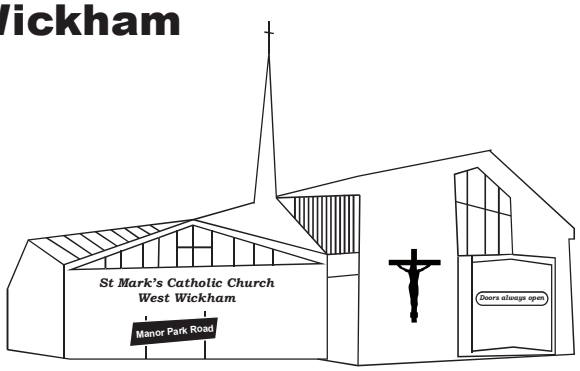
Father Ashley Beck

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22 November, 2026

CHRIST THE KING, World Youth Day

CARING FOR THE YOUNG

The Catholic Church worldwide keeps today, the feast of Christ the King, as World Youth Day. In his message for today (on the porch noticeboard and at ***Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV for the 41st World Youth Day [22 November 2026 – 3–8 August 2027] (22 October 2026)*** the pope writes to young people: 'Bring to Christ your questions and your wounds…'. Among these wounds, of course, are the ways in which young people are still being abused and harmed in our society, something of which we have been made very aware again since the conviction of Russell Brand. In St Mark's, like many parishes, we're looking at what we can do to support young people in our congregation more effectively; we are trying to do more to enable young people to participate more actively in worship and in the life of the parish. It always annoys me when people say about young people, 'they are the future of the Church', as if they are not part of the present.

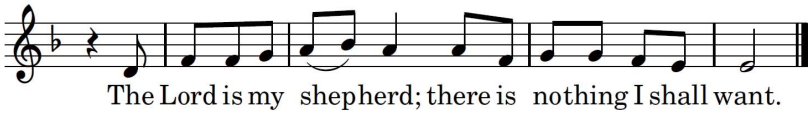
Brand's actions are a reminder that the ways in which through good safeguarding practice we're trying to make churches safer places are part of our commitment to young people; they are part of what we mark and celebrate this weekend. I choose my words with care: safeguarding procedures (like DBS checks), even if they inconvenience us, are a cause for rejoicing. They share that we take seriously the dignity of every person in our church, and that we're aware of how much children and young people have been betrayed in churches and other communities. Moreover if we patronise young people, or if we're indifferent to problems faced by young people (such as unemployment, student loans, housing, mental health problems) our track record is such that it may not come as a surprise to some. We also need, all of us, to listen to those who are young – this is true in relation to so many issues in the world such as care for the environment, inclusivity, employment rights and welfare benefits. To mark today there's a second collection this Sunday for our diocesan youth service – for details of its work see ***home - Southwark Catholic Youth Service(https://scys.org.uk/)***; for other resources for today go to ***Youth Archives - Catholic Bishops' Conference.***

Youth Archives - Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV

Fr. Ashley

Psalm Response



Gospel acclamation

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Synodal Update

Last week, after the 10:00a.m. Mass, I distributed approximately 110 Synod prayer cards. This Sunday I will be doing the same at another Mass and, over the coming weeks, I hope to cover all the Masses in the parish.

If you have already received a Synod prayer card, I encourage you to place it somewhere prominent, somewhere you will see it every day, and make it part of your daily prayer routine. Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will struggle to discern the path God is calling us to follow.

The success of our Synod journey, and our mission to reach those on the margins of our community, depends on bringing people together: those beyond our church walls, those who do not yet know God, and those whose gifts, talents, and experience can help us build a stronger and more welcoming future. Every person has a role to play, and every voice matters.
I warmly encourage you to join our weekly gatherings and become part of this important journey. As we enter this season of goodwill, let us also ask Mary, our Blessed Mother, to teach us how to be bearers of God's love to others.

Is there someone you have been meaning to contact? A family member, a friend, a neighbour, or someone who may be feeling isolated or forgotten? Perhaps now is the time to reach out. A simple conversation, an invitation, or an act of kindness may be the first step in helping someone discover a sense of belonging within our community and, ultimately, God's love in their life.

Let us continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for the success of our Synod, trusting that God is leading us towards new beginnings.

Duncan

St Oscar Romero Mass

Next week, on the first Sunday of Advent, we will begin using a new setting of the Mass. Booklets will be available, and everyone is encouraged to join in as we begin to learn the new setting together. Initially, we will sing just two parts: the Holy, Holy and the Lamb of God. At Christmas, we will introduce the Gloria. This setting was commissioned by our Archbishop, John Wilson, as a tribute to the life and legacy of St Oscar Romero.

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.

The Big Christmas Sing

Churches Together in West Wickham are organising The Big Christmas Sing on Saturday 5 Dec from 4pm at St Francis' Church – Christmas Carols, Songs and more. Refreshments available. Collection in for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal.

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 or speak to Fr Ashley after 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.

Pre Christmas church clean

The Holy Dusters are a group of volunteer parishioners who regularly meet to clean the church. We are hoping to do a good blitz before Advent starts and as many hands make light work, would be grateful for any additional help. We're meeting to clean on

Friday 28th November from 1pm, &
Saturday 29th November from 10am.

If you could give any time on either of those days to come and help clean, you would be most welcome to join us. If you are interested in joining the Holy Dusters to clean throughout the year, please come along too.

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.

There will be a ***Parents' Meeting on this Sunday 22 Nov 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

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.

Please Pray for

Anniversary

Phyllis Connor, Mary Forkan, Emma Cornish, Kevin Lawrence, Albert Wigmore, Mary Harris, Chris Brown, Margaret Chisnall, Beatrice Algar, Kathleen Smyth

Recently Departed

Richard Stow, Collette Holland

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, 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 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)	
Mon 23rd	**St Clement I**		
	6pm	Liam Cawley	
Tue 24th	**Ss Andrew Dung-Lac and companions**		
	10am	Rita Anton	NO Adoration
	12pm	St Joseph's, Bromley Requiem Mass for Deceased clergy of the deanery	
Wed 25th	**St Catherine of Alexandria**		
	10am	Michael Cawley	
Thur 26th	10am	Noreen Cawley	
Fri 27th	10am	Kieran Cawley	Followed by Adoration
Sat 28th	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Parishioners	Vigil Mass
Sun 29th	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)**		
	8am	Henry Gaughan (anniversary)	
	10am	Kathleen Fox	
	11:30am	Lucy Alphonse and all the departed	
	2pm	Baptism	