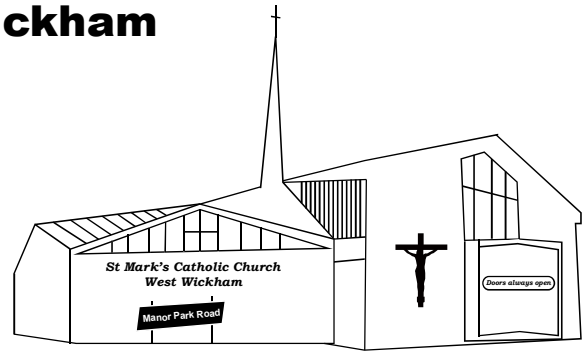
St Mark's Catholic Church, West Wickham

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



29 November, 2026

1st Sunday of Advent



ADVENT!

Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the life of the Church. It's good that there is so much going on here this Advent, and in local Catholic schools, that there isn't much space this Sunday for my reflections. Please try to savour this season – **it's not Christmas yet, not until the evening of 24 December**. Although it's not as penitential as Lent, Advent is a time for restraint and reflection about our lives, which is why we should go to Confession; weekday Mass, Adoration after Mass, simply coming into our church for some quiet time of prayer – all these things can help us. They help us too because of new and exciting developments in our parish community. Part too of what all this means is looking outside ourselves to the needs of the Church in the rest of the world, and the needs of suffering humanity in the midst of so much war and violence. The Church's special intentions at this time of year include migrants, refugees and expectant mothers.

Fr. Ashley

Tableau of the Christmas Story

The infinite, eternal, all-powerful God came to us in a way that we could know, love, and understand. In the mystery of Christmas, God became one of us, taking on human form as a tiny baby. He became like you and me so that we might come to know Him personally.

At St Mark's, we would like our youngest parishioners to experience this wonderful story in a special and memorable way. As different as we all are from one another, so too are the many Nativity scenes found throughout the world, each reflecting the joy and wonder of Christ's birth.

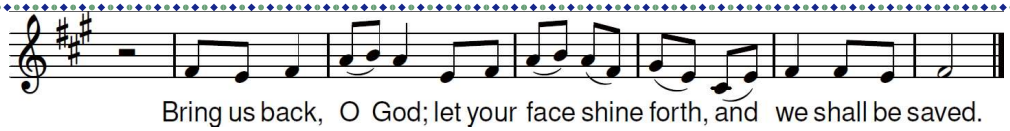
Fr Ashley has kindly agreed that we can arrange a Christmas Tableau of the Nativity story involving children aged 5, 6 and 7 from our parish. Through this simple re-enactment, our children will have the opportunity to meet the Christ Child in a unique and meaningful way and share the joy of Christmas with our parish family.

If you would like your child or children to take part, please write their name(s), together with your contact details, and place them in an envelope addressed to Siobhan Ros. Please return this next week, as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. Leave your envelopes at the Sacristy or hand it to me or Siobhan.

Date: Sunday 12th December Time: 2.30 pm Venue: St Mark's Church

As this is a new venture for us, please bear with us as we organise the details. We look forward to bringing the Christmas story to life through the enthusiasm and participation of our young people.

Psalm Response



Gospel acclamation

Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.

Synodal Update

Our Synodal Journey at St Mark's

You may be interested to know what other parishes across the Archdiocese of Southwark have learnt through their own Synodal journey. Of course, every parish is different, and what has proved fruitful elsewhere may not necessarily be right for us at St Mark's.

However, three themes emerged consistently from the wider Southwark experience:

Welcomers at every Mass.
More activities for children, young people and young families.
Small faith-sharing and faith-formation groups for adults.

These priorities have been identified by many parish communities as ways of helping people feel more connected, more involved, and better able to grow in their relationship with Christ.

As we continue our own Synodal journey at St Mark's, it is encouraging to see that some of the ideas we have been discussing reflect those emerging elsewhere in the Diocese. This gives us confidence that we too may be moving in the right direction.

Please continue to pray for our parish and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I also encourage you to join our Synod meetings and add your voice to the conversation. Your thoughts, experiences and hopes matter. Together, we can discern what will help all of us deepen our encounter with Christ and strengthen the life and mission of our parish.
May God bless you and your families.

Duncan

St Oscar Romero Mass

This 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.

Help parents in prison to give a Christmas gift to their children

Every year, more than 200,000 children are separated from their mums or dads through imprisonment. Christmas can be a painful time for families in this situation. But you can help make the festive season a little brighter through Operation Elf, and I am grateful to Fr Ashley in allowing me to make this appeal. If you can deliver small Christmas presents already wrapped and addressed as boy or girl and their age to Church, no later than Sunday 13th December 2026; I can deliver them to the Chaplain of the Woolwich prisons; so that the prisoners can arrange for the presents to be given to their children in time for Christmas".

FIrst Holy Communion 2027

If your child is in year 3 or above and would like to make their First Holy Communion on 16th May 2027 then please fill out this form ⟶

Weekly classes are Saturdays 5-6pm starting 23rd January 2027

St Mark's Golf Society

Our Christmas Meeting & AGM will take place on Fri 4 December at Croham Hurst Golf Club. If you are a golfer and would like to join us, please contact David Brant, email: 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 email 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.

Archbishop John Wilson

We were told during the week that our archbishop has had surgery for Phlegmonous Appendicitis, having been taken into hospital last weekend. The surgery has been successful but he will be recuperating in the next few weeks; please remember him in his prayers, and also the senior team in the archdiocese who will be covering his engagements.

Coloma Carol Service

Coloma Convent Girls' School warmly invite you to our Carol Service taking place at school on Wednesday 9 th December at 4pm. Join us for a service of readings, carols and prayers as we journey through Advent and prepare to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas. To help with planning, please let us know if you will be attending by email liturgy@coloma.co.uk by 4th December.

Carol Service by Candlelight Thursday 17th December 2026

We would also particularly like to extend a personal invitation to you and members of your parish community to join us for our Carol Service by Candlelight. Taking place in the beautiful setting of our school chapel, this promises to be a special evening of Christmas carols, reflection and celebration as we come together to mark the festive season.

> Date: Thursday 17th December 2026

> Service begins at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

> Location: The John Fisher School Chapel, Peaks Hill, Purley, CR8 3YP

> A retiring collection will take place.

Advent Reconciliation service

It's good to prepare for the Lord's coming by going to Confession. In addition to our regular times before the evening Mass on Saturday, and before or after any Mass, there is to be a Deanery Reconciliation service at 4pm at St Edmund's, to which we are all invited.

Please Pray for

Anniversary

Mary Fitzpatrick, Sarah Donan, Gilbert Green, Irene Ambridge, Eileen Diggins, Anna Fisher, Eleanora Lewis, Joan Truan

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

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 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	
Mon 30th	**St Andrew**		
	3:30pm	Reception of the body of Richard Stow RIP	
	6pm	Holy Sous	
Tue 1st	**Ss Edmund Campion, Ralph Sherwin and Alexander Briant**		
	10am	Intentions of Ann and Simon Codd	NO Adoration
	11am	Requiem Mass Richard Stow	
Wed 2nd	10am	Isabel Hall	Followed by devotional address
Thur 3rd	**St Francis Xavier Day of Prayer for Migrants**		
	10am	Elizabeth Knatt	
Fri 4th	10am	Collette Holland	Followed by Adoration
Sat 5th	11am	Baptism	
	6pm		Confessions
	6:30pm	Parishioners	Vigil Mass
Sun 6th	**Second Sunday of Advent**		
	8am	Richard Stow	
	10am	Eileen Diggins	
	11:30am	Stanley and Margaret Rivers	
	2pm	Baptism	