

ST MARY OF NAZARETH/ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – WEST WICKHAM

18th MAY 2025 EASTER 5

Services over the next two weeks

Sunday 18 th May	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis
Sunday 25 th May	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis
Thursday 29 th Ascension Day	7.30 p.m. Service at St. Mary the Virgin Addington Village.

Services are livestreamed on YouTube during the main services, weekly at St Mary's and whenever possible at St Francis.

Weekly services/Prayers

Tuesday at 10am	Pray for growth of the church held at 130 The Avenue. Contact Jean Pogose on 8289 5996 for more information.
Wednesday at 9:30am	Morning Prayer at St Francis
Wednesday at 10:30am	St Francis' open for private prayer till 11:30am
Thursday at 9am	Morning prayer at St Mary's

The Collation and Induction of Rev Matt Drummond

To celebrate the arrival of our new Vicar, the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councils of the United Benefice of St Francis of Assisi and St Mary of Nazareth invite you to attend Reverend Matt's Collation and Induction Service on Monday 7 July at 7.30pm at St Mary's. The service will be conducted by The Right Reverend Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, and The Venerable Greg Prior, Archdeacon of Croydon, and it will be followed by a reception in the hall. Please indicate your attendance by adding your name to the sign-up sheets which are available at both churches until Sunday 22 June.

We are expecting a full church for this important occasion and seek volunteers to help ensure it runs smoothly. There's space on the signup sheet to say if you are able to assist. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

May sees the start of our **Lunchtime Concerts at St. Francis**. On **Thursday May 22nd at 12.45pm** we have a flute and string trio playing for us. Free admission and tea/coffee served beforehand as always.

There will be a Children's Society Coffee and Cake Sale on Saturday 24th May 2025 in the hall at St Francis's Church from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Delicious homemade cakes will be on sale, together with coffee and biscuits, children's amusements, 'Guess the weight of the Cake' and a raffle. Donations of homemade cakes would be very welcome.

Just a reminder to everyone about the **Garden Party on Saturday 14th June from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at St. Mary's**. **Message from Chris Fitzgerald:** If anyone has any bedding plants to contribute to plant stall please bring along on the day. Thanks Natalie

Saturday 14th June 7.00 p.m. Beckenham Chorale present Favourite Opera Choruses at St. Georges Church, Beckenham High Street **BR3 1AX**. Join us for a summer treat as we journey throughout the opera and operetta world, visiting Paris, Babylon, Seville, the Duchy of Lotharingia, Scotland, Carthage, Imperial China and a village in Calabria on our Grand Tour. In a lighter vein, we travel with Gilbert & Sullivan from Cornwall through the English countryside and up to London via Venice! Can you work out what you are going to hear? Why not come along and see if you are right! Poster attached.

We are delighted to be once again able to showcase the talents of Richard Pearce at the piano. Richard is a conductor, pianist and organist recording and broadcasting on Radio 3 with the BBC Singers and is a regular with the Philharmonic and the BBC Symphony Orchestras. You may well have seen him at the Royal Albert Hall for the Last Night of the Proms! **Book now on Ticketsource**

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/beckenhamchorale/t-dvdkgdg>

Please pray for the following people associated with our community

Vicky Pearce, Jane Smith, Rowena Griffiths, Daphne Dack, John Dack, Joan Burford, Pam Tabner, Barbara Goodchild, Marcia Chandler, Tim Curtis. Pauline Jackson, Brian Beadle, Sarah Challenger Francis (Gillian's daughter) and John Richards and please pray for the soul of Mary Sanders who died last week and remember her daughter, Daniella.

Notices

St. Mary's will be **spring cleaning** the church during the half term week from **Monday 26th to Saturday 31st May**. Jobs apart from the cleaning to include sanding down the vestibule doors and revarnish, revarnishing the main doors and the pews. Lots of help will be needed so if you are able to help, please contact Gifty. Thank you in anticipation.

Will members of St. Mary's who have a **Children's Society Box** please hand in to Dave or Wendy Taylor for the annual count as soon as possible. Thank you.

Bromley Food bank – Items required: Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Cold Meats, Tinned Potatoes and Men/Ladies Deodorants. Thank you.

Foodbank Table in St Francis: Once a month, we will have a 'Foodbank donation table' at the back of the church for you to bring in your food donations for the Foodbanks that we collect for. Please look out for the next collection date which will be published in advance in the pew sheet and the food items that will be collected. If you have any questions, please contact Nicky Nightingale nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk

Collection for the **Bromley Homeless Starter Pack Scheme** for those starting out in a new home with nothing. Starter Packs for families in need include cutlery, crockery, duvet covers (not duvets) pillowcases, tea towels, saucepans, frying pans, bath towels, toothbrushes etc. Please continue to bring these items to St. Francis.

Flowers: If anyone would like a pedestal at either church in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special anniversary etc., please contact Merri Womack (8777 8772) for St Mary's (or there is a list to sign in the vestibule at St. Mary's) or Nicky Nightingale nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk or 8916 9855) for St Francis'.

The sanctuary pedestal at St. Mary's has been arranged and donated by Merri for John's birthday.

Items for pew sheet to Beryl berylbolton@hotmail.com **Deadline is Thursday MIDDAY**

Items for St Mary's website to Gifty office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk

Items for St Francis' website to Bo bo@manusmedical.com

18th MAY 2025 EASTER 5

Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading: Acts 11: 1-18

11 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ⁸ But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: John 13: 31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Post Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever

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