



# Parish of St Peter & The Good Shepherd Bearsted & Harrietsham

*A Member of Bearsted Area Churches Together*



## Newsletter

**St Peter's Church, Button Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8NJ**

**Church of The Good Shepherd, Rectory Lane (off East Street), Harrietsham, ME17 1HS**

**Parish Priest: Father Geoffrey Pointer: 01622 736100, email: [bearsted@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bearsted@rcaos.org.uk)**

**Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055**

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

**Catholic Schools in our local area:**

**St Francis Primary**, Queen's Road, Maidstone ME16 0LB (Telephone: 771540)

**The Holy Family Primary**, Bicknor Road, Park Wood, Maidstone ME15 9PS (Telephone: 756778)

**St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary**, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

**Parish Website and YouTube:**

[www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year C**

**✠ FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER ✠**

**19th MAY 2019**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: LOVE AS I HAVE LOVED** We can recognize Rembrandt in his apprentices' work. We can recognize Mozart in the work of his students. We recognize the influence of early films in today's cinema and the devices of great classic literature in today's novels. So too people will recognize us as Christians if we love as Jesus loved. We might think we know how to be good people, but how closely have we studied Jesus' example? How we behave as Christians is Jesus' unique signature in the world, so it's important to get it right. In turn this will become our ultimate reason for being.

Our own human idea of love is self-centred. We enjoy a long relationship with a partner, parent, or offspring, but what we're really expecting is for them to give us something in return. We're not great at unconditional love. Copying Jesus' example to the letter really would change the world. So what made Jesus' love so special? Firstly Jesus made his love feel very specific. Jesus made every person he met feel special. His love was also universal. He was prepared to love people before he had even met them. His love was non-judgemental. It doesn't seem to matter to Jesus that the people he meets are sinners or outcasts, he gives everybody the second chance they need. Nor does Jesus metre out his love from some lofty moral high ground, instead he relates to others with humility and genuine empathy. "Love as I have loved," Jesus' recipe for a better world. *(Chapel Bell)*



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** Please remember the children (Chinonso, Chibuikem (CJ), Louis, Declan, Klaudia, Emilia, Oliver, Jack, Adam, Nathan and Leyla-Maria) and their families in your prayers; the children are making their First Eucharist this **Sunday**, during the 10.30 Mass at St Peter's.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** Thank you to everyone who completed the cards given out at all Masses last weekend, and who offered to spend an hour in adoration each week. Unfortunately, the number of volunteers was not sufficient to put an official rota together or to form a parish Adoration Committee. However, Fr Geoffrey has offered to expose the Blessed Sacrament after the 10.00am Mass, until mid-day, each Tuesday beginning **4th June** for a trial period (probably mid-July). There will not be a formal rota or any need to commit to any particular time, but please do take advantage of this opportunity to spend some time in adoration of Our Lord exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. For those unable to attend St Peter's on a Tuesday, adoration takes place at St Francis' Church in Maidstone town centre on Fridays (7am - 10pm). ✠ The adoration team, Alan and Kenneth, thanked those who welcomed them to the parish last weekend.

**SALE of SECONDHAND BOOKS** Thank you to everyone who donated books and to all those who supported the sale. Approximately £10 was raised which will be donated to the Fields of Life's I AM GIRL programme in East Africa. I AM GIRL is a health education initiative which seeks to improve the attendance of adolescent girls in school. For more information please see [www.fieldsoflife.org](http://www.fieldsoflife.org).

**CONFIRMATIONS** If you are in school year 9 or above, and would like to be confirmed, please speak to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. Deanery confirmations are on Sunday **13th October**; the programme, beginning on Sunday **9th June**, will be run in conjunction with St Francis' parish. Application forms are available.

**BEARSTED PRAYER VISITING** *a message from the organizer:* 'A huge thank you to all of you who helped with the prayer visiting in the week commencing 29th April. Eighteen of us, in ten couples, managed to get round 230 houses in that week, and we had a great response, the prayer list was as ever long with a good mix of celebration as well as need. We plan our next outreach in the week commencing **1st July**, so I would ask that you give that your prayerful consideration and hope that you may be able to join us then.' *Andrew Haines.*

**MASS in CELEBRATION of the SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE** at St George's Cathedral, Saturday **13th July**. If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, please apply as soon as possible. Get in touch with the parish office and provide your names, the anniversary you are celebrating, your home address, email address and telephone, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. Alternatively, get in touch direct at [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk) so you can receive an invitation. Please let them have the location of your parish in the title of your email.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 19th MAY 2019**  
**(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✧ **FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C)** ✧

Sun 19th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✧ Mass: Ron and Mary Durbin RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✧ First Holy Communion Mass: For the Children
Mon 20th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✧ Mass: Józefa Wadwicz Stankowska RIP
Tue 21st	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✧ Mass: Private Intention
Wed 22nd	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✧ Mass
Thu 23rd	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✧ Mass
Fri 24th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✧ Mass
Sat 25th	St Bede the Venerable	<b>9.30am</b>	<i>At Vinters: Funeral of Roy Dadson</i>
		<b>5-5.30pm</b>	<i>Confessions</i>
✧ <b>SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C)</b> ✧			
Sun 26th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✧ Vigil Mass: Peter Santamaria RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✧ Mass: Roy Dadson RIP

**MASS for NEW CATHOLICS** The Cathedral will host the annual Diocesan Mass for New Catholics on Saturday **8th June** at 12.30pm. Archbishop Peter Smith will preside. All who recently entered the Church are warmly invited to attend with their friends and family.

**The AUGUSTINE CAMINO** A relatively new pilgrimage route running between Rochester Cathedral and The Augustine Shrine in Ramsgate. The founder, Andrew Kelly, will be offering a number of one day guided tours this summer, and a free one day pilgrimage is offered on **8th June** from 8.30am - 5.30pm between Faversham and Canterbury Cathedral, ending with a pilgrimage service within the cathedral. To find out more visit: <http://augustinecamino.co.uk/>. To hear a recent interview of Andrew Kelly on Radio 4, on the subject of why people go on pilgrimage see: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00051bf>. See poster.

**ANNUAL MARTYRS' WALK** The annual walk which commemorates the heroes of the faith who witness event to death follows the route they took from Newgate to the place of their execution at Tyburn. This year it's on **Sunday 23rd June**, meeting at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. For full details, please see the poster.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for May:** *for the Church in Africa, that through the commitment of its members, it may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for the continent.*
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** *for those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board; for those baptized and received into the Church at Easter; and for our children preparing for First Communion.*
- **During Dementia Action Week,** *for all those experiencing dementia and those who care for them; may the peace of Christ be with those with a diagnosis and with their loved ones.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✧ *Winifred Hampton, Frances Connor, Brian Roycroft and Douglas Tozer.* ✧

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£380.26** (of which, **£186.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Last Sunday's second collection for Ecclesiastical Education amounted to **£132.03**. Thank you.

**CENTRE for CATHOLIC FORMATION** has a wide variety of videos available on YouTube on topics as varied as a *Faith and Art* series, lectures on G.K. Chesterton, Adult Formation, Lent, Passiontide and the Holy Spirit. To watch and subscribe to the YouTube channel, visit [tinyurl.com/ccfvideos](http://tinyurl.com/ccfvideos). See the poster on the noticeboard.

**CAFOD** Our Common Home – We are proud of the UK's commitment to endeavour to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C. This will limit the worst effects of climate change on our health, homes and communities and people living in poverty around the world. To support a *by 2045 net zero greenhouse gas emissions reduction target* please sign the petition in church.

**A DAY WITH St JUDE** The National Shrine of St Jude, Faversham, will be holding a special summer event **this Saturday from 11am**. There will be an outdoor Mass, a St Jude procession and an opportunity to pray and leave intentions at the shrine of St Jude. For full details and timetable, see the poster.

**MATT MAHER at ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL** On **Friday 31st May**, Matt Maher - International Christian music artist, songwriter and worship leader, will be joining the Southwark Catholic Youth Service at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Online booking £10 a ticket to cover costs. [www.tickettailor.com/events/cathedraltour](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/cathedraltour).

**GIFT-AIDERS** Pick up an envelope addressed to you in the porch.