



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

Contact us:

Parish Priest: Father Geoffrey Pointer: 01622 736100, email: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055, email: cyrildurbin@btinternet.com

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

More information: Parish Website: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Diocesan Website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: www.catholicchurch.org.uk

Prayer: www.life4seekers.co.uk; www.holyspiritinteractive.net

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)

Year A

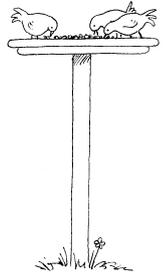
EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

2nd March 2014

Day for the Unemployed

FAITH IN FOCUS: PLAN B

Most of us worry from time to time. In these days of financial constraint we wonder whether we will still be in work, still earning a living and still able to provide for ourselves and others. Perhaps we worry about our health or the health of a family member. Maybe we lie awake at night concerned by the behaviour of our children and the type of people they have started hanging around with. Or is our worry completely imaginary? Do we have bad dreams that a meteorite might strike our house, that we will be asked to conduct an orchestra with a knitting needle or walk a tightrope blindfolded over Niagara Falls while wearing moon boots? Jesus has a Plan B. He tells us that worrying is useless; there is nothing that can be changed by worry. In fact, excessive anxiety belies a lack of true faith. Of course there are going to be things that we have to make provision for and these can sometimes be threatening or daunting, but worry saps faith and leaves us in a paralysed state.



At the heart of Jesus' Plan B is the fact that when God created us, through the agency of our parents, he did not stop being concerned about us. God's care for each one of us is eternal. In fact, if God were to stop thinking about us for a single second then we would cease to exist. God the Creator keeps creating day after day. Every morning God continues to sustain us and offer us the gift of life. Jesus puts it beautifully when he says that God provides seed for the birds, grass for the fields, flowers for the hedge ways, and if he does that for flowers, grass and birds how much more will he care for the pinnacle of his creation: men and women?

We can't add a single day to our lives by worrying about what we're going to eat and drink or what we're going to wear. Christians are not preserved from the obvious need to make provision for the future but we are able to live in the secure knowledge that God has not made us to be mere playthings which will eventually be abandoned. God is not preparing us for oblivion but for everlasting happiness with him. Our faith in God demands trust, trust in a loving God who holds us in the palm of his hand and who will never renege on the promises he has made to us in Christ. There is nothing that can ever happen to us that he will allow to crush us and he will never withdraw his fatherly concern. Plan B isn't to forget about the future or not to make sensible provision. Plan B is to thank God just for being our God and for having us as his sons and daughters, and to have that trust in God that makes us know that whatever the future may hold we will never be separated from him. So what's the use of worrying about tomorrow? The day after tomorrow, tomorrow will be yesterday. *(Author unknown)*

THANK YOU to Fr Reginald Riley of the Marist Father who delivered his annual appeal on behalf of the Society of Mary while Fr Geoffrey was away. Normal service will resume this week, with weekday Masses reinstated as before.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE The next meetings will be on Sundays **11th May** and **6th July** at St Peter's at 3.30pm for Benediction in the church followed by tea / coffee and discussion in the church hall.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd MARCH 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✕
Day for the Unemployed

Sun 2nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Charles Ryan RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Mary Garnett RIP
Mon 3rd	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass:
Tues 4th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass:
Wed 5th	✕Ash Wednesday✕	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass:
		7.30pm	✕ Mass:
Thu 6th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass:
Fri 7th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass:
		12.30pm	✕Requiem Mass: Mornington Hale
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 8th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 9th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Peter Gollop RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention

DOORS at St PETER'S We have had both the church and hall main doors repaired recently, but they have warped over the years and they are a bit bent in the middle. The church door needs a bit more of a pull, while at the hall the warping means that the key seems difficult to turn in the lock: just push a little on the wood near the lock and it will turn easily.

CHOIR NEWS [No e-mail received from Erika for a fortnight...]

YOUTH GROUP [No e-mail received from Erika for a fortnight...]

MURDER in the 'CAFÉ RESISTANCE' 'Allo, 'Allo! In 1945, a murder most foul was committed in Rene's Café. This dreadful event will be re-enacted in St Peter's Hall on Saturday 15th March at 7.30 pm. Will the murderer be brought to book this time? See poster for full details including prices.

PARISH CaFE Three Wednesday evenings during Lent: 19th, 26th March and 2nd April, another series of DVDs, talks and discussions on aspects of our faith in an informal atmosphere. More information soon.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March:** *That all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women; and that many young people may accept the Lord's invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially, Cyril Adam, Barbara Casey and Mornington Hale; for those recently dead especially Fathers Cyril Williams, David Rhys and Alphonsus Brennan; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now. For all our relatives and friends.
- **For those who teach in or schools:** *may they take seriously their responsibility to give an example of Christian life to the children and young people they teach.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £###.## (Gift Aided, £###.##. Weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£121.00**).

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL Come and celebrate Lent in a series of DVDs and discussions on the Tuesdays of Lent at 7.30pm in St Francis' Church, Maidstone. 11th March: The Lord Jesus Christ; 18th March: Saint Francis – A Heart for the Poor; 25th March: Being a Witness for Christ; 1st April: Passion for Jesus; 8th April: Making Mission Possible.

CHANGES to KENT FREEDOM PASS Kent County Council has revised its plans and now intends to remove the £350 cap on the Freedom Pass, limit its usage and raise the initial charge from £100 to £200.