



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

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

16th March 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: MOVE ALONG, PLEASE!

Peter is an endearing character. He quite often gets things wrong. But he only does what we ourselves would have done in the same circumstances. So today he gets a wonderful vision of Jesus in all his glory, talking with Moses and Elijah, and naturally he wants it to go on and on. So he suggests putting up three tents on the mountain as a memorial of the event, presumably hoping that it might happen again. If only faith could be like that! Once grasped and fixed for ever. But, of course, things in real life are very different, and when the disciples came down from the mountain they had soon to readjust to the hard world once more.



We call Abraham our "father in faith" and put him up as a role model to be followed. In today's scripture God tests his faith. He tells him to leave his home, his family, and all his familiar surroundings, and go off on a long journey to a place that God will point out to him. This will be a promised land where he and his descendants will prosper. This type of faith, being prepared to journey through life wherever God guides us, is very different from the cosier style that Peter wanted. It means being prepared to be uprooted time and time again by the events of life and the demands that God makes upon us. It's a journey rather than a destination. And we all feel more comfortable arriving somewhere than we do setting out into the unknown.

Lent is a small stage in this lifelong journey of faith. What is God trying to tell you and me this Lent? How are we being asked to move along on the journey rather than stay comfortably still where we feel secure? For God never asks us to stand still. God's greatest delight is for us to grow, to move into an ever-deeper relationship with him. Once we reach a certain level in our faith, it is time not to build a shelter, but to move on to the next stage. And Lent is a mini stage on this long journey.

Even though the final destination is clearly beyond our sight, where is it that God is calling us to be at the end of these forty days? None of us knows. But the one certain thing is that if we're to be faithful to God, then we'll have to move. *(Author unknown)*

LENT FAST DAY Please remember to hand in your savings from last Friday's Lent Fast Day as you leave. The theme this year is: "Dig deep this fast day to transform land and lives". Envelopes can be handed in any time.

YOUTH GROUP Mondays, 7 - 8.30pm in St Peter's Hall. This week: art and craft for Mother's Day, cost: £2. • 24th March: no meeting. • 31st March: bowling. New members welcome! Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders.

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsals: this Tuesday, 8 - 9pm; Sunday 23rd March after Mass. *All are welcome!*

PARISH CaFE Three consecutive Wednesdays during Lent 7.30 to 9pm at St Peter's, starting this week: another series of DVDs, talks and discussions on aspects of our faith in an informal atmosphere. We join Michelle Moran, Director of Training, Sion Catholic Community for Evangelisation, sharing practical hints on sharing our faith.

CHURCHES TOGETHER Bearsted Churches Together **Lent Lunches** continue this week at the Methodist Church, **Friday 21st March at 12.30:** David Bond from Homeless Care (Maidstone Christian Care). Shared lunch followed by talk and short service. Please join us!

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place before Mass on Saturday evenings for the remainder of Lent (during Confessions, Reconciliation).

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th MARCH 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (A)** ✕

Sun 16th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Sheila Tipper RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP
Mon 17th	St Patrick	10.45am	Funeral: Jacqueline Wakeman
		7.00pm	✕ Mass: Fr Patrick McLoughlin RIP
Tues 18th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Kevin Gaskin RIP
Wed 19th	St JOSEPH	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Brother Paul Jenkins O Carm.
Thu 20th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
Fri 21st	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 22nd	Feria	5.00-5.45pm	<i>Confessions with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>

✕ **THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (A)** ✕

Sun 23rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Francis and Margaret Almeida RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Colin Otterson RIP

PARISH FINANCE Mr Ian Fraser, our treasurer, will be giving his annual report at all Masses next week.

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 and Barbara Casey; **for those recently dead** especially Fathers Patrick McLoughlin and Kevin Gaskin; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now and for all our relatives and friends especially **our children** preparing to celebrated their First Holy Communion in June.
- **For the victims of the Malaysian aircraft that has disappeared.**
- **That the Lord will strengthen our faith** as Peter and John's faith was strengthened by the experience of the Transfiguration; may he make us ever more ready to seek his will in our daily lives. For **Brother Paul Jenkins** being ordained deacon at Aylesford Priory this Wednesday.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£485.43** (Gift Aided, **£286.79**. Weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£121.00**). • Please hand in your Fast Day savings as you leave Mass.

LENTEN APPEAL 2014 This year our Parish Lenten Appeal will support a future priest in Cambodia. Religion was completely destroyed in Cambodia in the 1970s. It costs over £700 to train a seminarian for one year with £200 raised locally by the seminarian's family, parish and diocese. However, the reality is that it is impossible for them to raise the remaining £500. This is why we are promoting this appeal in our parish. By supporting and by praying for vocations across the world we are helping to train the future priests and sisters who will share the Good News with all and build the future of our Church.

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. 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.

DEMENTIA SUFFERERS Archbishop Peter Smith celebrates Mass for all those whose lives are touched by Dementia, St George's Cathedral, Southwark, **18th March**, 12.30pm. ALL WELCOME.

STRESS / DISTRESS A half-day, Saturday workshop will help to provide welcome and inclusion in our churches for people at risk or suffering from poor mental health. This is suitable for parishioners willing to provide help and support in the parish or carers and concerned friends or family. **5th April**, 10am to 1.00pm at Aylesford Priory; minimal charge. See notice board. Booking essential, ring 07808 299628, email jan.mfl@uwclub.net.

SENSE and NONSENSE on 'ASSISTED DYING' An Assisted Dying Bill to legalise assisted suicide is currently before Parliament. There is often confusion about what 'assisted dying' means. The Bishops' Conference has compiled a briefing note which explains simply and clearly what the issues are, and what the Church says. Copies of this short briefing note from the Bishops Conference of England and Wales are available at the back of the Church or on the website www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide-information.

MARRIAGE MASS 21st June, St George's Cathedral. For those celebrating significant wedding anniversaries this year.