

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:

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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)

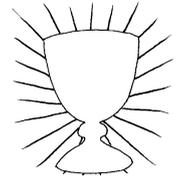
St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Year A

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

23rd March 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: TAKE A GOOD DRINK Water does three things. The most obvious thing it does is to wet. Whatever water comes into contact with, it changes. The sound of children squealing with delight at the end of a hosepipe is a familiar one. So is the groan of someone caught in the rain without an umbrella. If water gets on you, then you're no longer the same. For better or worse! Water also cleans. We use it to wash in since it is one of the best agents we know of for taking away stains and dirt. Perhaps it's not surprising that when Christians think of water they often associate it with baptism's role in cleansing us from original sin. The psalms too speak frequently about being washed from sin and made whiter than snow. Yet it's not this aspect of water that Jesus emphasises in today's gospel. It's the third function of water: water refreshes and brings life.



All over the world today there are men and women standing in our churches who are asking to be admitted to the Church community, to be baptised, to become Christians. And the gospel addressed to them on this day is about the gift which Jesus promises: water to take away your thirst and lead you on to eternal life. If you are to be a Christian, then it's because you find the message of Jesus so attractive that no other drink will satisfy you. The promise of Jesus reaches the parts that no other drink can reach. And what a promise this is! Jesus tells us that our deepest yearnings and longings will be satisfied. In him life begins to make sense, priorities start to change, the will of God becomes our only goal.

So as thousands of would-be Christians stand before congregations today and ask to be given this living water, we use the opportunity to count our own blessings and to thank God for the gift of faith which we often take for granted but which we know is a well from which we can draw water in times of drought, and a spring that offers us eternal life.

(Author unknown)

CAFÉ RESISTANCE St Peter's Hall was transformed into the 'Café Resistance' on Saturday Evening, where a foul act of murder was committed as Herr Bevore was blown up by a Roquewurst sausage! So, who had a secret to hide? Who was so desperate to keep it quiet that they would even resort to murder? Well, that's what we were there to find out and everyone became a detective for the evening. There were, of course, some very dubious and suspicious characters around, otherwise known as parishioners of St Peter's on their better days! Soup was served in the interval and all those who contributed to a 'Sharing Buffet' did us proud, as we had a most delicious selection of food. At the end of the evening (even though a poor, innocent person was accused of being the murderer!) we had enjoyed ourselves immensely and had raised **£225** towards the 'St Peter's Sound and Vision Upgrade' project. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening in any way.

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

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).

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsals: Today after 10.30am Mass; next Sunday: sung Mass. *All are welcome!*

YOUTH GROUP Mondays, 7 - 8.30pm in St Peter's Hall. This week: **no meeting**. • 31st March: bowling. **Please book a place with Erika ASAP. Thank you.** New members welcome! Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd MARCH 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ 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
Mon 24th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 25th	The Annunciation of the Lord	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 26th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Mornington Hale RIP
Thu 27th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Jacqueline Wakeman RIP
Fri 28th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 29th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.45pm</i>	<i>Confessions with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
✕ FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 30th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Luis and Conchita Vecino RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Mornington Hale RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

PARISH CaFE Three consecutive Wednesdays during Lent 7.30 to 9pm at St Peter's, continuing 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 (<http://faithcafe.org/collections/pass-it-on>).

CHURCHES TOGETHER Bearsted Churches Together **Lent Lunches** continue this week here at St Peter's, **Friday 28th March at 12.30**: a speaker from Maidstone Shelter. Shared lunch followed by talk and short service. us! **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, *Pierre Niebergall, Cyril Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead; 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.*
- **That those called to priesthood or religious life** will draw close to Christ who will quench their thirst for the waters of eternal life.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£391.92** (Gift Aided, **£230.07**. 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.

THE JOY of the GOSPEL DVDs and discussions on the Tuesdays of Lent at 7.30pm in St Francis' Church, Maidstone. 25th March: Being a Witness for Christ; • 1st April: Passion for Jesus; • 8th April: Making Mission Possible.

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.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES In response to requests from parishioners to make previous weeks' editions of the parish newsletter available in addition to the current one, our Webmaster, David Combes, has been working hard and over the next few weeks, past newsletters will be added to the website as well as the current week's edition.