



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: Reverend 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

FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT

6th April 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE DEADENING EFFECT

When the teacher asked her if she was looking forward to heaven, Molly replied that she wasn't sure. "The problem is, Miss, if it goes on for ever it might get boring." We can't quite get our minds around the idea of everlasting life. We automatically think about years, months, days, hours, minutes and seconds. Well, the life after death is certainly eternal and will go on for ever. But when Jesus offers us everlasting life he is as much concerned with the quality of life as with its duration.

From a human point of view we can feel sorry for Lazarus who was called back from the grave to face more years of humdrum domestic life with Martha and Mary. No matter how happy we are with our family and friends, with what we do at work or in our leisure time, most of us still feel a deep down yearning for something else. We are content up to a point but there is always something out there calling us to a better quality of life. This richer form of life is life with God, and what we yearn for, if only we knew it, is union with God.

The bible is littered with people who in various ways have become hidebound in their own little circles and whom God is able to release and unbind so that they can live life to the full. So when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead it is to point out that God can unbind us from the shrouds that we choose to wear daily. It's to show us that there is a more fulfilling and exciting life than sometimes we are led to believe.

Lent reminds us that to be raised in Christ is to enjoy the really good things of life, to taste the very sweetness of existence. And it reminds us that money, sex, power and applause can have a deadening effect on life. There is more to life than all of these and Christians measure success in different terms. For them, eternal life has already started.

If you want to live life now at a deeper level, an enduring or eternal life, then live the life that Christ offers. It sets you free from the shroud of competition, anxiety and outward appearance. And it's so devoid of deadening influences that it lasts for ever.

(Author unknown)

OUR LENT PROGRAMME Try to get to at least **one weekday Mass during Lent** and **Stations of the Cross on Friday**. ✖ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before Mass on Saturday evenings for the remainder of Lent (during Confessions, Reconciliation). ★ **Holy Week and Easter Service sheets** with information on all the services in the Bearsted churches are available and need to be distributed as usual. **Please help if you can.**

CHOIR NEWS Today: rehearsal after our 10.30am Mass. All are welcome!

CHURCHES TOGETHER Bearsted Churches Together **Lent Lunches** conclude this week, hosted by St Mary's, Langley, **Friday 11th April at 12.30:** Credit Unions. Shared lunch followed by talk and short service. Do join us!

NEXT SUNDAY is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Morning Mass at St Peter's will **begin in the parish hall** with the blessing of palms and the Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. This will be followed by the Procession to church for the Mass.

BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER EASTER EGG HUNT Holy Saturday, 19th April. Each year we run this event and the different churches donate eggs for the prizes. It is a hunt with Easter based clues and for many is the nearest they will get to considering as a family the message and meaning of Easter. Last year we had about 380 children plus grownups taking place. We need eggs to supply around a quarter of the 400 children expected. Please leave your eggs in the parish room. Thank you to those who have already donated.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 6th APRIL 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 6th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Irene and Newport Horne RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Mornington Hale RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 7th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 8th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Philippa Mority RIP
Wed 9th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 10th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Kathleen Mary Byrne RIP (Foundation Mass)
Fri 11th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Thomas Cole RIP
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 12th	Feria	5.00-5.45pm	<i>Confessions with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
✕ PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD (A) ✕			
Sun 13th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Finn and Alicja Egan, in thanksgiving
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass (<i>starts in the hall</i>)

LENTEN APPEAL 2014 This year our Parish Lenten Appeal is supporting 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.

MISSIO RED BOXES are due in once again please; thank you.

EASTER COFFEE Back by popular demand: coffee and tea after Mass at Good Shepherd on Easter Sunday morning (20th April). Many thanks to our organizers!

PLEASE PRAY...

- *With the Holy Father for April: that governments may foster the protection of creation and the just distribution of natural resources; and that the Risen Lord may fill with hope the hearts of those who are being tested by pain and sickness.*
- *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 especially Thomas Cole; 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 Martha and Mary, who put their trust in Jesus, may be an inspiration to those men and women called to priesthood and consecrated life. Remember Mgr Nicholas Hudson, parish priest of Wimbledon, appointed by the Holy Father as Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£337.00** (Gift Aided, **£224.00**. Weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£121.00**). • Please continue to hand in your Fast Day savings and Lent Appeal contributions as you leave Mass. • Next Sunday there is a retiring collection to help cover the cost of **flowers for Maundy Thursday and Easter**.

THE JOY of the GOSPEL DVDs and discussions on the Tuesdays of Lent at 7.30pm in St Francis' Church, Maidstone. • 8th April: Making Mission Possible.

DIOCESAN EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCES *Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.* As the Archbishop indicated in his recent pastoral letter, there will be a one-day conferences for clergy, religious and laity. The aim is that having reflected on the papal exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and having discussed ways of evangelizing, the parishioners who attend will return to their parishes to form the nucleus of a parish evangelization team. Kent Area: Thursday 29th May, at St Simon Stock School, Maidstone. Each day begins at 11:30am registration and coffee, for a 12:00noon start, and ends with Mass at 4:00pm. There is no charge, and lunch will be provided. (Conferences will also be held in the two London areas.)

THE PILGRIM The April edition of the Diocesan Newspaper is now available.

MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday 21st June, 3pm. If you are celebrating your 1st / 10th / 25th / 40th / 50th / 60th + wedding anniversary this year, please give in your names as soon as possible. Please use the form provided and write very clearly so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.