



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

**Diocesan Website:** [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

**The Catholic Church in England and Wales:** [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

**Prayer:** [www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk); [www.holyspiritinteractive.net](http://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      EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of THE LORD      20th April 2014**

### **FAITH IN FOCUS: ALIVE!**

We can't begin to imagine what it must have been like for Christ's followers. They were faced with the fact that although he had been crucified and had died, he was now alive! The resurrection is a mind-boggling event. It means that the ultimate threat to humanity, death itself, no longer has power over us. That's because the resurrection is not something that just happened to Jesus. It reaches us too. For we Christians are now alive with a life that goes beyond mere human existence. We are alive in God through Jesus Christ. To live resurrection life means that we can believe. Life ceases to be futile. We have the faith to recognise that all creation comes from God and is redeemed by Christ's victory over death. We profess with our tongues and our lives that God is so concerned about us that he sent Jesus to show us how to live and how to usher in the kingdom of God. To be alive with the life of the risen Jesus means that we are able to trust. Life ceases to be hopeless. We know that God did not abandon Jesus in his hour of need and will not abandon us either. The resurrection gives us a confident expectation that wherever we turn we will find God at our side. Whatever our problem, God promises to be with us until the end of time. Our life will not end in the grave. Sharing the risen life of Jesus means that we can care. Life ceases to be noxious. God cared about us to the point of giving his all. We too can learn to care about others with a superhuman strength that is made possible only by God's grace. We can give our all, nothing held back, until it hurts. Believing, trusting, caring. This is how the resurrection changes us. We become more fully alive to ourselves and to God. Believing, trusting, caring: faith, hope and love. When we live these, then we are fully alive! (Author unknown)



**EASTER OCTAVE** This is Easter Week: the solemn celebration of the Resurrection spills over this week into one continuous Solemnity of the Lord (a week of Sundays).

**THANK YOU!** Sincere thanks to those of you who worked solidly and quietly in so many ways to ensure that our Holy Week ceremonies were prepared and celebrated with great dignity and devotion. Also, many thanks to those of you who distributed the church service times around Bearsted. And well done to those who turned up over the three great days to make this a truly prayerful experience. ✠ **May God bless you and your family this Easter, Father Geoff and Deacon Cyril.**

**EASTER COFFEE** Please stay for a cup of coffee after Mass at Good Shepherd this morning. Many thanks to our organizers!

**MISSIO RED BOXES** Last year we contributed **£412** through our 'Red Box' giving (see poster). Boxes are once again due in for counting; thank you!

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS** Sunday **8th June**, 10.30am (Pentecost Sunday).

**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** (they have to be with the organizers by **30th April**). 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.



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 20th APRIL 2014  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of the LORD (A)** ✕

Sun 20th	Saturday	<b>8.30pm</b>	✕ <b>Easter Vigil Mass: Pro Populo</b>
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Tom Moses RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass
Mon 21st	Easter Monday	<b><u>10.00am</u></b>	✕ Mass: Mgr Michael Smith RIP
Tues 22nd	Easter Tuesday	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Fr Timothy Buckley RIP
Wed 23rd	Easter Wednesday	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 24th	Easter Thursday	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 25th	Easter Friday	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 26th	Easter Saturday	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy) (A)** ✕

Sun 27th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Richardson RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Mgr Michael Connelly RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

**DEANERY MASS of HEALING** The annual Deanery Mass for Healing will take place at Aylesford Priory on Sunday **4th May** at 3pm. The principal celebrant will be Father Paul Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Kent.

**MASS for MIGRANTS** Westminster Cathedral, Monday **5th May**, 11am.

**ROSARY and BENEDICTION** at St Peter's, Sunday **11th May**, 3.30pm followed by Lourdes Tea Party, especially for those booked on our pilgrimage to Lourdes in September, but all are welcome.

**CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION** Help is needed with the house-to-house collection this Christian Aid Week (**11th – 18th May**). If you can help please email: [hjudges@christian-aid.org](mailto:hjudges@christian-aid.org).

**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 the victims of the ferry disaster in South Korea:** *for those killed and those unaccounted for and feared dead; for the injured; and for the rescuers and the distraught parents and families*
- **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.*
- **On this day of the Lord's Resurrection** we ask God to raise up new vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese so that the Sacraments of Christ may always be available to those who have need of them.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£444.64** (Gift Aided, **£251.66**. Weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£110.00**). • Please continue to hand in your Fast Day savings and Lent Appeal contributions. • The retiring collection to help cover the cost of flowers for Maundy Thursday and Easter amounted to **£195.11**. ♦ The **Easter Collection today** is your **personal offering to the priest** (it is not for parish expenses). *Envelopes are available for your convenience.* Along with the Christmas Collection this is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. Thank you. ♦ Next Sunday there is a retiring collection for **St George's Cathedral**, the Mother Church of the Diocese. This collection helps to meet the cost of the upkeep of the Cathedral. ★ Note: this collection has been brought forward from 30th November; Gift Aid members, **please use the envelope in your box with that date on it.**

**MASS for NEW CATHOLICS** St George's Cathedral, Saturday **17th May**, 11am.

**DIOCESAN EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCES** *Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.* A one-day conferences for clergy, religious and laity, Thursday **29th May**, at St Simon Stock School, Maidstone. 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. Begins at 11:30am registration and coffee, for a 12:00noon start, and ends with Mass at 4:00pm. There is no charge, but you **must book by 19th May**: lunch will be provided.

**NATIONAL SHRINE of St JUDE** There is a Summer Celebration at the Shrine of St Jude at Faversham on Saturday **31st May**. See the poster for more information.

**DEANERY CONFIRMATION** This year's Confirmations are on Sunday 12th October, probably at St Francis'. If you would like to be confirmed please let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know.