



# 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

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy)

27th April 2014

### FAITH IN FOCUS: CREED AND DEED

I believe that the sun is more than 90 million miles away from the earth, although I've never measured it. I believe that Hong Kong exists, although I've never been there. I believe that Barack Obama is president of the United States, although I've never seen him in the flesh. It's not really very hard to believe in these things. We take them as read. And they don't really make that much difference to our day to day lives. Believing that something is true or false is an open and shut thing. When Thomas saw Jesus in the flesh he stopped doubting. But there's another type of belief which asks much more of us. It's the type of belief that asks us to trust. For faith has two sides to its coin: it asks us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God risen from the dead, and then it asks us to trust our whole lives to him. This second side of the coin, trusting and abandoning ourselves to God, is much more complex and it's harder to sustain.



When we go to hospital for an operation we believe that the man or woman standing in front of us is a surgeon. (God help us if we don't!) But we also need to believe in the person, to have confidence in letting ourselves be treated by the surgeon. Sometimes, in fact, we hear people saying that they have great faith in an individual. What they are really saying is that they trust the person to deliver. At Easter we make our annual renewal of faith in our baptismal promises. We profess belief in the articles of the Creed. But for the rest of the year we have to live out the other side of this faith. We have to abandon ourselves to God's loving care in all the ups and downs of our daily life, to trust when trusting seems pointless, to keep hoping when others tell us to give up. This is the sort of faith that makes real demands on us. Like us the early Church gathered together to listen to Christ's teaching that comes through the apostles and to celebrate the eucharist. Like us they knew that faith is to be found not only in creeds but also in deeds.

(Author unknown)

**EASTER EGG HUNT** This event on Holy Saturday was a great success, albeit with fewer attending. The organizers thank parishioners for the egg collections. ★ Bearsted Churches Together AGM at Holy Cross on **Thursday 22nd May** at 7.30pm: an open meeting with Rev. Chris Ruddle of Churches Together in Kent.

**St GEORGE** This feast of the Patron of England is transferred to this **Monday** as 23rd April fell in Easter Week. As usual for a Monday there will be Mass at 7pm. ✳ **Please try to join us to mark this significant celebration.**

**YOUTH GROUP** is back this Monday, **28th April**, 7 - 8.30pm (in the Church Hall). New members welcome! Open to young people aged 10 - 15, older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders. ✳ **DEANERY YOUTH DAY** Saturday **10th May**, 10am till 6pm, Holy Family Parish Hall, Park Wood, Maidstone. See notice.

**DEANERY MASS of HEALING** The annual Deanery Mass for Healing will take place at Aylesford Priory next Sunday, **4th May**, at 3pm. The principal celebrant will be Father Paul Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Kent. The organizers would be grateful if any musicians would turn up and lend a hand.

**ALTAR SERVERS' RALLY** At Aylesford Priory, Monday **5th May**. See notice.

**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.

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

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th APRIL 2014  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

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

Sun 27th	Saturday	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Richardson RIP
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Mgr Michael Connelly RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 28th	<b>St GEORGE</b> (transferred)	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 29th	St Catherine of Siena	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Anthony Laundry RIP
Wed 30th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 1st May	St Joseph the Worker	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Canon Nigel Larn RIP
Fri 2nd	St Athanasius	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 3rd	SS Philip and James	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

**✕ THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✕**

Sun 4th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Matthew Lewis RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Eliza Martin RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

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

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

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for May:** *that the media may be instruments in the service of truth and peace; and that Mary, Star of Evangelization, may guide the Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.*
- **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 Matthew Lewis (head of RE at St Simon Stock); for all those whose anniversaries occur about now and for all our relatives and friends.
- **On this Divine Mercy Sunday**, on which Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II are to be canonized, we ask their intercession as we pray for young men and women who hear Christ's voice in their hearts calling them to follow him more closely.

**Thank you:** the sum received on Good Friday for the Holy Places was **£148.21**. ♦ Fr Geoffrey is very grateful for the offerings last Sunday which amounted to just over **£2,000**. ♦ The Lent Appeal brought in **£126** and CAFOD **£55.21**. ♦ This 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.**

**CHOIR NEWS** Thank you to you all for coming to all the Holy Week and Easter services and singing so beautifully! Next rehearsal: Tuesday 29th April, 8 - 9pm. **All are welcome!**

**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** Summer Celebration at the Shrine of St Jude, Faversham, Saturday 31st May.

**COMING UP** Children's party, Sunday 18th May; parish barbecue, Sunday 29th June. More information soon.

**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.

**MARRIAGE 'MoT'** All married couples, no matter how long ago they wed, are welcome on this one-day event celebrating marriage. The day will enable them to explore their relationship more deeply and improve their communication skills. Couples will also gain valuable insights into the call of the Church to the married. It takes place on Saturday 10th May at Amigo Hall next door to St George's Cathedral, between 9.45am and 4.30pm. There is a suggested donation of £25 per couple. More details: email [philandmary@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:philandmary@blueyonder.co.uk), 020 8651 2477.

**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.