



# 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 Catholic Secondary**, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

**Year A**

**THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (A)**

**4th May 2014**

### **FAITH IN FOCUS: DAY TRIP TO EMMAUS**

We're all on our way to Emmaus like the two disciples in today's gospel. We're all busy going somewhere, doing something important, our days filled with chores and charms, with pleasure and pain. And when the journey gets long and tiresome we become dejected. We end up thinking that it all depends on us, that things are going to the dogs, that the effort isn't worth it, that other people we thought we could rely on have let us down. Just like the disciples. They'd put great stock in Jesus, but now he was dead and the whole thing was over. And like them we fail to see Jesus approaching and walking by our side, bothered about what bothers us, encouraging us when courage falters.



And it takes the story of the scriptures to give us new heart, to remind us that God has promised to be with us to the end of time, through thick and thin, to speak the words which make life bearable, worthwhile, liveable. It takes God's word to warm our hearts once more, to make us burn with gratitude. Then when we reach Emmaus, like the disciples, it is in the breaking of the bread that our whole lives make sense. We take the bread and wine and with it we present all our hopes and fears, our joys and tears, that God may redeem and renew us at our very core. We bless God for the indescribable tenacity with which he surrounds us with his loving care, with his never ending offer of forgiveness and new start. As we break the bread and pour the wine, we ask God to break us and use us for his purposes that we may speak the word to others. And in sharing the food of life we become one body in Christ; in fact, we become the very thing that we eat: the Body of Christ. And all of this wonder is repeated every time we consciously set out on the journey to Emmaus. Wherever it may be, we go there daily. *(Author unknown)*

**DEANERY MASS of HEALING** The annual Deanery Mass for Healing takes place at Aylesford Priory **today 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.

**CANON JOHN CLARK** Two weeks ago it was announced that Mgr Nicholas Hudson, the former rector of the English College in Rome and currently parish priest of the Sacred Heart Parish, Wimbledon, has been appointed by Pope Francis as Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster. Mgr Hudson will be ordained bishop on 4th June at Westminster Cathedral. Archbishop Peter has appointed Canon John Clark to succeed Mgr Hudson as parish priest of the Sacred Heart Parish, Wimbledon. It is with great sadness that Canon John leaves St Francis where he has served for the past 19 years. He is looking forward to sharing his new ministry with the clergy and people of the Sacred Heart Parish and asks for your prayers at this time. Canon John will be leaving the parish on **22nd May**.

**DEANERY YOUTH DAY** next Saturday, 10am till 6pm, Holy Family Parish Hall, Park Wood. See notice.

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE BENEDICTION** Sunday **11th May**, 3.30pm. It's not long now to our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes (1st – 5th September), and next Sunday we will hold a **Benediction Service** at St Peter's with prayers for the success of the pilgrimage. This service is not just for those travelling to Lourdes - it is a parish pilgrimage, and those who travel will take your prayers to Lourdes with them on your behalf. So please come along to the Benediction (with tea and cake after!). ✦ It's still not too late to join us at Lourdes! Call Terry on 01622 730119 for details.

**YOUTH GROUP** no meeting this Monday, bank holiday. Monday **12th May**: rounders. Meet and come back to the hall at usual times (7 - 8.30pm); consent forms needed, please. New members very welcome!

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th MAY 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✕			
Sun 4th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Matthew Lewis RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Eliza Martin RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 5th	Feria	<u>10.00am</u>	✕ Mass
Tues 6th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Deacon Reginald Grimmette RIP
Wed 7th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 8th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 9th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Father William Dinan RIP
Sat 10th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✕ World Day of Prayer for Vocations			
Sun 11th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Kathleen Mary Byrne RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Henry Pinto RIP
		3.30pm	Rosary and Benediction

**CHOIR NEWS** Next rehearsal: Sunday 11th May after our 10.30am Mass (date to be confirmed).

**CHILDREN'S PARTY** There will be a children's party after 10.30 Mass on Sunday 18th May until 1.30pm. There will be fun and games for the children and a chance for parents to meet and have a chat. The event is free, but if you could bring a plate of food, that would be great. To give us an idea of numbers attending, please could you ring Paul or Angela Dixon on Maidstone 880991 or e-mail [info@wellcottagekent.co.uk](mailto:info@wellcottagekent.co.uk).

**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).

**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 Julienne Oates; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now and for all our relatives and friends.*
- *As the disciples on the road to Emmaus recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread, so may the young people of our parish know that the Lord desires to draw close to them and to enflame their hearts with his love. We pray especially that some of them will respond to a vocation to serve as priests.*

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£512.14** (of which **£291.58** was Gift Aided). ♦ The retiring collection for **St George's Cathedral**, the Mother Church of the Diocese, amounted to **£137.06**. ♦ **Next Sunday** is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There will be a retiring collection for **Ecclesiastical Education**.

**REV. GEOFFREY SIDAWAY** Rev. John Corbyn's predecessor, who served for 14 years at Holy Cross and previously at St Martin's Shepway, died on Easter Day. His funeral is at Gloucester Cathedral at 10am on **Monday 12th May**. There will be a simultaneous service at Holy Cross: all are invited. May he rest in peace.

**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** parish barbecue, Sunday **29th June**. More information as we get it.

**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 Geoff or Deacon Cyril know.

**GIFT AID SCHEME** Thank you to all donors for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme. I shall soon be submitting the annual Gift Aid tax reclaim; if any donor has not paid sufficient tax to cover the amount being reclaimed please advise me or Fr Geoff. We always welcome new donors and if any parishioner who is a tax payer would like to join the scheme please see me or Fr Geoff. - *Mark Smith, Gift Aid Organiser.*