



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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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 EASTER (A)

18th May 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: KEEP ON THE GRASS

Peter was not known for being a shrinking violet. Time and time again we see him jumping in with both feet, saying the wrong thing or reacting without thinking things through. He doesn't seem to have changed much after Christ's death, for last week we caught a glimpse of him in action preaching to the crowd. And he came out with all guns firing. You backed a loser, he said, by killing Jesus of Nazareth. You killed him but God raised him up and made him Lord of all things. So now you're at odds with God. Naturally, the crowd were cut to the quick and wanted to know how to make amends. Peter tells them to repent and turn their lives over to Jesus.



In many parishes throughout the world there are people who have only been Christians for the last four weeks. They were baptised or received into the Church at Easter. During this fifty-day period until Pentecost we look each Sunday at some of the consequences of being a Christian. We tease out just some of implications of turning our lives over to Jesus and we try to enter the mystery of our faith more deeply.

And so we reflect, as we did last week, that Jesus is the gate of the sheepfold and the shepherd of the flock. Those who are new Christians can be very good teachers of those who have been around for a while. This is because they teach us about enthusiasm for faith. They can rekindle in us the old fire that we once had but which may have dimmed a little over the years. New Christians are in no doubt that if you want to find your way into the sheepfold (if you want to be in place where life makes sense), then Jesus is the way in. To seek God with all our hearts, to live according to his teaching, to follow the shepherd to springs of water and fresh pasture...this is why people become Christians. Easter is a time for remembering old truths, and we're left in no doubt why people take the plunge of baptism for Christ's sake. It's because the grass is always greener on God's side. *(Author unknown)*

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE BENEDICTION We had a rare celebration of Benediction last Sunday and it was lovely to see so many. Well done for remembering the Latin! This was followed by a delicious tea party and a useful first full meeting of our pilgrims. Our thanks to those who came and those who provided the tea. Our next meeting, again preceded by Rosary, Litany and Benediction, will be on Sunday 6th July.

CHILDREN'S PARTY Unfortunately, owing to low take-up, this event, scheduled for today, has had to be postponed. Sorry for the disappointment but thank you to our gallant organizers, to those who showed interest and to those who had already made a contribution.

PRAYER VISITING *Bearsted Area Churches Together needs you.* This is our eleventh year of prayer visiting. This is very simple (but effective) outreach on behalf of all the churches in Bearsted whereby we ask people if they have any prayers they would like us to offer on their behalf. We are asking for probably about 40 minutes to 1 hour on one evening for one or two of the weeks listed below. The dates for your diary are **2nd, 3rd and 4th June**, or **7th, 8th and 9th July**. There will be more information given in church and if you have any questions or are willing to be involved phone Angela Legood (739808) Helen Lumb (737425) or Steve Jubb (738633). We need as many helpers as possible to lighten the load so we can visit as many homes as we can. • **A.G.M. / Committee Meeting** is this Thursday, 22nd May at Holy Cross at 7.30pm; there will be an address from Chris Ruddle, County Ecumenical Officer at Churches Together in Kent.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th MAY 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✕			
Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mary and Edward Jenner RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 19th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Special Intention
Tues 20th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Christine Thompson RIP
Wed 21st	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
Thu 22nd	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 23rd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 24th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✕			
Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mary Ashworth RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Matthew Lewis RIP (month's mind)
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

GOOD SHEPHERD June - September readers' rota now available.

YOUTH GROUP Mondays 7 - 8.30pm, in the church hall: this Monday, 19th May, volleyball and other games. New members always welcome! **Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders!**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE Meeting this Tuesday, **20th May**, 8pm at the usual venue.

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsals: Sunday **1st June** after our 10.30am Mass; Tuesday **17th June**, 8-9pm.

FIRST COMMUNION MASS Callum, Lucas, Coralie, Darcey, Max, Nathan, Sofia and Sebastiano make their First Communion on Sunday **8th June** at St Peter's (Pentecost Sunday). Please remember them and their families in your prayers. Classes continue on Friday with a break the following week for half term. ☺ As we have 8 children making their First Holy Communion this year there is sure to be a big crowd! If you like crowds and don't mind forfeiting your usual seat please join us, otherwise you may wish to attend Mass either on the Saturday evening or at Good Shepherd on the Sunday morning.

COMING UP parish barbecue, Sunday **29th June**. More information when we get it.

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, *Monica Flynn, Pierre Niebergall, Cyril Adam and Barbara Casey*; for those recently dead especially the victims of the mining disaster in Turkey; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now and for all our relatives and friends.
- **For the bishops, priests and deacons of our archdiocese**, especially the elderly, infirm and those who are retired. We ask God to give them the joy of seeing new vocations from among the young people they serve.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£392.38** (of which **£233.31** was Gift Aided). ♦ The retiring collection for **Ecclesiastical Education** amounted to **£177.34**.

DIOCESAN EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCE 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. There is no charge, **but please let us know today if you would like to go**; lunch will be provided.

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

DIOCESAN DAY for CATECHISTS Saturday **28th June** at 11am finishing with Mass at 4pm. This annual event takes place at St George's Cathedral. Catechists, please pick up an invitation after Mass.

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. ♦ This year we are combining with St Francis' parish programme; the course begins at **6pm Mass** there on **Sunday 8th June**.

SAFEGUARDING At our recent meeting it was noted that whilst we have good access at St Peter's for the disabled and wheelchair users, the same cannot be said for Good Shepherd (steps into church). This is of particular interest to those new to the parish, and those enquiring 'online'.

SOUTHWARK CARITAS ROADSHOW **21st June**, 10.30am – 3.30pm at St Peter's, Woolwich. An opportunity to reflect of Pope Francis' call to be a church for the poor: www.csan.org.uk/events/southwark-caritas-roadshow.

THE FRIARS Summer Fair, **22nd June**; Young Adults' Festival, **27th – 29th June**; Annual Pilgrimage, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, **13th July**. Visit: <http://www.thefriars.org.uk/retreatpilgrim/Programme%202014.pdf> or see poster.