



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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

8th June 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: ALL DOWN TO US?

Thank God that the Church is bigger than you and me. Thank God that the Church is no mere human institution. Thank God that it does not stand or fall by my efforts and yours.

If it were all down to us then every scientific or medical advance that ran the risk of debasing human nature would see us running for cover. If it were all down to us then any scandal that hit the Church would find us dumb and unable to respond. If it were all down to us then our worship would quickly become a dry and arid performance of rubrics. But it isn't all down to us. Pentecost celebrates the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit who is ever present to the

Church, guiding and sustaining, emboldening and inspiring us in the myriad circumstances of our modern world. To celebrate Pentecost is remember that Jesus is still alive and active in his Church through the Holy Spirit. We call Whitsunday the birthday of the Church because on that day the first proclamation of the gospel took place after Christ's death and resurrection.

And the apostles were just as daunted at the prospect as we sometimes are. They feared for their lives. Yet the tongues of fire which is the Spirit gave them the courage boldly to proclaim the good news of Jesus. For the Church is the living Body of Christ and anything we do as the Church will produce results only if it is grounded in the Spirit. We cannot boast of our own efforts; it is the Spirit of God working through us that is effective. So if we are reticent about bearing witness to our faith, if we want our prayer to be more heartfelt and our worship to come alive, if we feel that we need to recapture the joy and first commitment of our faith, then Pentecost is for us. Our prayer is that of the Church throughout the ages: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful! (Author unknown)



We are delighted to celebrate with our children, Callum, Lucas, Coralie, Darcey, Max, Nathan, Sofia and Sebastiano on their First Communion Day. Congratulations and best wishes to them! Our thanks to Shelagh and Eileen, our catechists, and to the parents for all their time and support in leading our children to this special day. Truly "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us." (Romans 5:5.)

PRAYER VISITING Prayers will be offered this weekend. Thank you to those who took part.

FLOWER FESTIVAL Thank you to those who attended the ad hoc meeting last week. We shared some exciting ideas to mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of St Peter's. There will be a follow up meeting **this Wednesday** at 7.30pm in the parish room at St Peter's. Notes of last week's meeting are available to those who attended.

COMING UP Parish Barbecue, Sunday **29th June (feast of Saints Peter and Paul)**. Please confirm this date in your diary and sign up for tickets. It starts immediately after Mass on Sunday 29th (food served shortly after 12.00). We provide the barbecue, bread and meat, etc., but please bring your own drinks, and either a salad or pudding to share. This year is a special year: the barbecue is one of the first events to celebrate the **30th anniversary of St Peter's Church**, and so we are holding it on the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul. We price this barbecue just to cover our costs, but any profits (e.g. from a raffle) will go towards the 'facelift' we have been giving to St Peter's – we currently need to replace some lead on the roof, and we are also working on televising our Mass so people in the parish room – or even at home on the internet – will be able to share regularly our celebration. Cost: **£4 Adult, £2.50 Child, or £10 Family Ticket**. Tickets available from Ian Bruce Russell after Sunday Mass (or call 736811).

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 8th JUNE 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ PENTECOST SUNDAY, WHITSUN (A) ✕			
Sun 8th June	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Jeffery Allison RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ First Communion Mass: for the children
Mon 9th	St Columba	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 10th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 11th	St Barnabas	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
Thu 12th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Jim Lessey RIP
Fri 13th	St Anthony of Padua	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 14th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (A) ✕			
Sun 15th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Desmond Roche RIP

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 today, **8th June**.

YOUTH GROUP Monday **9th June**, 7 - 8.30pm, in the church hall. Rounders and ice cream (if dry) - walk to Mallard's Way playing fields and back. Meet and come back to the hall. New members always welcome! **Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders.**

CHOIR NEWS Rehearsal: Tuesday **17th June**, 8-9pm.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June:** *that the unemployed may receive support and find the work they need to live in dignity; and that Europe may rediscover its Christian roots through the witness of believers.*
- **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; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.*
- **For vocations:** *for the young people of our diocese who will be confirmed this year. May the Holy Spirit strengthen them to give witness to God's love to their friends and open their hearts to serve him more closely each day.*

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£536.63** (of which **£278.90** was Gift Aided). ♦ **The World Communications Day** collection amounted to **£131.36**. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Trust for England and Wales** which supplies our bishops with the revenue necessary for the central administration of the Church in this country. Thank you.

CAFOD The *Hungry for Change* campaign has ended. It was an incredible journey with a new EU law which will require listed companies to be more transparent around their impact on human rights and the environment. Almost 60,000 took action to ask the prime minister to create a fairer food system. More updates soon. See the notice of thanks for further contributions to the Lent Fast Day.

SOCIAL JUSTICE All interested are welcome to join the next informal gathering of Kent people concerned for issues of Justice and Peace. This will be held from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Sunday **15th June** at The Hermitage (Bishop's House), West Malling.

THE FRIARS Youth Festival, **21st June**; Summer Fair, **22nd June**; Young Adults' Festival, **27th – 29th June**; Grandparents' Pilgrimage, **12th July**, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pilgrimage, **13th July**. See posters.

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.

DIFFERING NEEDS A day for celebrating the love of God for all, **Sunday 6th July**, 12 – 4pm, Aylesford Priory.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION Following the successful Deanery Consultation Day in February all Extraordinary Ministers are invited to a **Deanery Training Day** on Saturday **13th September** at St Thomas More, West Malling, ME19 6HN, 9.30am – 12noon. More information soon.

St FRANCIS The new Parish Priest of Maidstone is to be Canon Luke Smith, at present parish priest of Saints Austin and Gregory with St Anne, Margate. Canon Luke served as an assistant priest at St Francis twelve years ago for a few months before being made Parish Priest of Margate. He will take up his post on 1st September.

GIFT AID Please find attached a Gift Aid promotion leaflet explaining the mutual benefits of joining the scheme.