



# 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

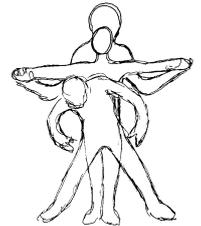
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

15th June 2014

### FAITH IN FOCUS: FAMILY TRAITS

Don't be scared of the Trinity. It doesn't have to be complicated even though in our heart of hearts we know we can never fully grasp what it's all about. The Trinity means that although there is only one God, that same godhead comprises three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Together they form a family.

When St Paul used the name of the Trinity to bless people, he spoke of three broad activities that each one was responsible for. Of course, the Trinity is much more than these three things, and each person has a share in all of them. There are no demarcation disputes where the Trinity is concerned! The thing that sprang to Paul's mind for the Father was "love". This may seem old hat to us, but in a pagan world, where the gods controlled people's lives and demanded all sorts of sacrifices to ward off their wrath, the idea that God actually loves us seemed quite novel. God the Father not only loves us, he is love itself. And love cannot be kept to itself; it needs some sort of expression. The Father expressed his love by making men and women and giving them a wonderful place to live. When we show love to anyone else, it is really God's love that we are passing on, since we can only love because we have God's ever-present love within us. "Grace" was the catch-all word that Paul used to describe Jesus. Grace is not a thing, even though our minds sometimes think of it in that way. Grace is the freely given state of favour that rests with us. God is on our side and provides us with the means to be fulfilled if only we ask for this favour. The ultimate sign of this was when Jesus set us right with God by atoning for our sinfulness through his death on the cross. And Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit in terms of "fellowship". The Holy Spirit is the bond of closeness and communion that completes the family of the Trinity. If we experience God's grace and love it is through the Holy Spirit and this same Holy Spirit unites us with all those who are also sustained and comforted by God. To live a life in the Trinity means to experience God's love, to enjoy God's favour and to be held together in a family of fellowship with God and with each other. *(Author unknown)*



**CONGRATULATIONS** to our children, Callum, Lucas, Coralie, Darcey, Max, Nathan, Sofia and Sebastiano who celebrated their First Communion Day last weekend. Our thanks to Shelagh and Eileen, our catechists, to the parents for all their time and support in leading our children to this special day, and to those who helped with the flowers, music and service sheets on the day. Truly "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us." (Romans 5:5.)

**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). 🌸

**FLOWER FESTIVAL** St Peter's 30th anniversary flower festival, 26th – 28th September. Next meeting, 16th July.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 15th JUNE 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✧ THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (A) ✧			
Sun 15th June	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Donor's Intention
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Desmond Roche RIP
Mon 16th	Feria	<b>SORRY, NO MASSES</b>	
Tues 17th	Feria		
Wed 18th	Feria		
Thu 19th	Feria		
Fri 20th	St Alban, Proto-martyr of Britain	10.00am	✧ Mass: Canon Terence Walsh RIP
Sat 21st	St Aloysius Gonzaga	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✧ THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)(A) ✧			
Sun 22nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Gilbert Monckton RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Pat Talbot and family

**DEANERY CONFIRMATION** This year's Confirmations are on Sunday **12th October**, probably at St Francis'. Preparations continue **this Sunday** at St Francis' with Mass at 6pm followed by group session.

**YOUTH GROUP** Monday **16th 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: this Tuesday, **17th June**, 8-9pm.

**LOURDES** Benediction and meeting, **Sunday 6th July**, 2.30pm.

**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 Pierre Niebergall, Cyril Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead especially Monica Flynn; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **That Catholic fathers** will be an example of faith and virtue to their children and that they will encourage their children to discover their vocation. For Ian Black from Maidstone, preparing for ordination to the permanent diaconate in July.

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£547.69** (of which **£208.04** was Gift Aided). ♦ **Today** there is 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.

**GIFT AID MEMBERS** Please pick up a letter addressed to all those currently in the scheme.

**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 **today** (Sunday) at The Hermitage (Bishop's House), West Malling.

**DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL** Tuesday **17th June** at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst at 7:30pm.

**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. ♦ Ministers are asked to renew their commitment at whatever Mass they attend **next weekend**. *Forms are available.*

**FAIRTRADE** Our Fairtrade stall is open most weekends at St Peter's. There is also a new independent shop in Maidstone specializing in Fairtrade and environmentally friendly products. See the notice.

**St JOHN BOSCO SUMMER CAMP** See the notice board for information about the annual St Vincent De Paul Society Summer Camp for boys and girls.

**NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER and FASTING** for the end of Abortion and Euthanasia, **Monday 23rd June**. Please remember to pray and to fast in any way possible. This could be fasting on bread and water or it could be fasting from a particular thing e.g. alcohol, cigarettes, TV. For details see; [www.goodcounselnetwork.com](http://www.goodcounselnetwork.com).