



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

**THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST
(CORPUS CHRISTI)**

22nd June 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

PAST: 2,000 years ago on a Thursday evening Jesus ate what was probably a Passover meal with his disciples in the Upper Room. This meal was a memorial of how God had freed the Jewish people by liberating them from slavery and providing them with a promised land. During his meal Jesus told the disciples that from now on they were to eat this meal not in remembrance of Moses and the Exodus but in memory of him. For the bread that they would eat was his body that the next day would be nailed to the cross, and the wine that they would drink was his blood that on the same Friday would be shed on Calvary.

PRESENT: Today we Christians have a living memorial of that saving action of Christ. It is the eucharist. Over the centuries Christians have never ceased to follow that command of Jesus at the Last Supper. They have gathered together, listened to God's word in the scriptures and then, when they have taken, blessed and broken the bread, they have shared communion by eating and drinking what Christ tells us is his body and blood. In this sacrament of the eucharist Jesus is really present to those who receive him. His flesh is real food and his blood is real drink because both of them nourish, they sustain us and keep us spiritually healthy. As we eat and drink from the one bread and cup the eucharist becomes a sign of the unity that we share and at the same time it also makes us one in Christ.

FUTURE: The eucharist is food for our journey, medicine for our health and strength for our future. Not simply about the past and present it directs us towards two futures. The first future means that the eucharist is a sign of our commitment to building up the kingdom of God here on earth. So receiving the eucharist is not just an act of devotion; it commits us to action. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit we pledge ourselves to playing our full part in the Church's work of bringing about a world in which justice, peace and holiness reign. And the second future is in the afterlife. The eucharist is a pledge of the heavenly banquet that God has promised to those who listen to the voice of his Son. What we experience in the food of the eucharist is a foretaste of an eternal feast with God. The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ allows us to thank God for this wonderful gift. *(Author unknown)*

PARISH BARBECUE next Sunday, 29th June (feast of Saints Peter and Paul). Please buy your tickets this weekend. It starts immediately after Mass next Sunday (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 online – 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**; more information soon. Next meeting, 16th July.

YOUTH GROUP Monday **23rd June, 7 - 8.30pm** - come and join in with our Giant Monopoly. New members always welcome! **Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders.**



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 22nd JUNE 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI) (A)** ✕

Sun 22nd June	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Gilbert Monckton RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pat Talbot and family
Mon 23rd	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 24th	THE NATIVITY of ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	10.00am	✕ Mass: Frank Rafferty RIP
Wed 25th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Monica Flynn RIP
Thu 26th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: George Albert and Calerine Aline Weedon RIP
Fri 27th	THE MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS (A)	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 28th	The Immaculate Heart of Mary	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ✕			
Sun 29th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Veronica Aniemeka and Agnes Adibe RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Frank Wrennal RIP

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.

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

CHOIR NEWS Sunday 20th July, after our 10.30am Mass; sung Mass on Sunday 27th July. **All are welcome!**

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; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.*
- **For the members of our parish who receive Holy Communion in their homes** - we ask God to increase our faith in the great gift of the Eucharist made available to us through the ministry of our priests. *For Ian Black from Maidstone, preparing for ordination to the permanent diaconate in July.*

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£365.10** (of which **£260.00** was Gift Aided). ♦ Last Sunday's collection for the Catholic Trust raised **£117.57**. ♦ **Next weekend** there is a retiring collection for the **Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father which assists him and the Apostolic See to exercise their service of the Universal Church.

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

THE FRIARS Summer Fair, **today**; 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 **this 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.

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.

HOMELESS CARE (formerly Maidstone Christian Care) is looking for one or two new trustees. HC runs a Day Centre for the Homeless in Knightrider Street. Its short term aim is to provide immediate help to those who are homeless; its long term objective is to help them back into society. It also operates a Food for Thought project which collects food from supermarkets and other sources and redistributes it to individuals and families in need. If interested please speak to Fr Geoff.

SAFE JOURNEY! *...summer's lease hath all too short a date...* Fr Joseph Aduse Poku from Ghana has paid us an all-too-brief visit. We wish him a safe onward journey and look forward to welcoming him again soon!