



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

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

9th March 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: GIVE UP GIVING UP

We can't help thinking of Lent as a time for "giving up" things. Ever since we were small we have been told that Lent is a time for giving up sweets, giving up watching TV, giving up cakes, giving up alcohol, giving up....

There's nothing wrong with giving up things. It can be a good way of concentrating our minds on higher issues. Of course, the bible warns us about giving up things whilst not doing anything about those in need. There's no point in doing without food and drink if you don't also clothe the naked and release the oppressed, says God.

So what makes giving up good or bad is the motive behind it. But better than "giving up things" is "giving up self". Rather than miss out on the 'movie', bypass the brandy or pass on the pudding, think of giving up something of your own self and handing it on to others.

It doesn't take a genius to realise that if each one of us did one small thing to help a person in need during Lent, then we could do much to alleviate the plight of the naked and oppressed. For today's naked and oppressed are the homeless, those struggling to make ends meet, those who will die of starvation, those whose basic human rights are denied them, those who face the world alone and confused, and those who find it hard to survive.

Our Lenten fast takes flesh if we are prepared to give something of ourselves to another person. It does not have to be someone thousands of miles away. Our giving can be a few minutes of "quality time" with a young person who feels that adults don't really care, or a visit to an elderly person who craves for human contact, the touch of a human hand and a chat with somebody who is bothered and who will listen.

So, by all means, give something up for Lent. But like Christ who fasted for forty days in the desert, make it a gift of yourself.

(Author unknown)

LENT FAST DAY Please remember to fast this Friday and enclose your savings in the envelope attached. The theme this year is: "Dig deep this fast day to transform land and lives".

CHURCHES TOGETHER Bearsted Churches Together **Lent Lunches** begin this week at Holy Cross Church, **Friday 14th March at 12midday:** Nigel Downs from Street Pastors. Shared lunch followed by talk at short service. Please join us!

YOUTH GROUP Mondays, 7 - 8.30pm in St Peter's Hall. This week: join in the games! UNO, giant game of Monopoly and 'Creationary'. • 17th March: art and craft for Mother's Day, cost £2. • 24th March: no meeting. • 31st March: bowling. New members welcome! Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders.

MURDER in the 'CAFÉ RESISTANCE' 'Allo, 'Allo! In 1945, a murder most foul was committed in Rene's Café. This dreadful event will be re-enacted in St Peter's Hall **this Saturday, 15th March at 7.30pm**. Will the murderer be brought to book this time? See poster for full details including prices.

PARISH CaFE Three Wednesday evenings during Lent: 19th, 26th March and 2nd April, another series of DVDs, talks and discussions on aspects of our faith in an informal atmosphere. More information soon.



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 9th MARCH 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (A)** ✕

Sun 9th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Peter Gollop RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Fr Joseph Whooley RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 10th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
Tues 11th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 12th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Anne Hamilton RIP (Foundation Mass)
Thu 13th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 14th	Feria - Lent Fast Day	10.00am	✕ Mass
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 15th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (A)** ✕

Sun 16th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Sheila Tipper RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM Meeting this Wednesday, 12th March, at 7.30pm at St Peter's.

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsal: Tuesday 18th March, 8 - 9pm; Sunday practice TBC. *All are welcome!*

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March:** *That all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women; and that many young people may accept the Lord's invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially, Cyril Adam and Barbara Casey; **for those recently dead** especially Father Joseph Whooley, Jacqueline Wakeman and Pauline Comerford; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now and for all our relatives and friends especially **our children** who celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation this weekend for the first time.
- **For those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life**, that the cares of this world will not deflect them from God's will and that the lenten practices will dispose them to put their trust in God's grace.

<p>Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £572.51 (Gift Aided, £288.01. Weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to £121.00).</p>

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting this Monday at St Thomas More, West Malling at 7.30pm.

THE JOY of the GOSPEL Come and celebrate Lent in a series of DVDs and discussions on the Tuesdays of Lent at 7.30pm in St Francis' Church, Maidstone. 11th March: The Lord Jesus Christ; • 18th March: Saint Francis – A Heart for the Poor; • 25th March: Being a Witness for Christ; • 1st April: Passion for Jesus; • 8th April: Making Mission Possible.

LENTEN APPEAL 2014 This year our Parish Lenten Appeal will support a future priest in Cambodia. As you may already know, religion was completely destroyed in Cambodia in the 1970s when the Khmer Rouge regime forcibly attempted to create a communist country. All missionaries were expelled and the local priests and sisters, including the newly ordained Bishop, Joseph Chhmar Salas, were either killed by the army or died later in work camps. There were 60,000 Catholics in Cambodia in 1974, now there are 20,000 Catholics. Missionaries were only allowed back in 1990 and so it has taken a long time to rebuild the local Church. It costs over £700 to train a seminarian for one year with £200 raised locally by the seminarian's family, parish and diocese. However, the reality is that it is impossible for them to raise the remaining £500. This is why we are promoting this appeal in our parish. No good vocation should be turned away for lack of funds. By supporting and by praying for vocations across the world we are helping to train the future priests and sisters who will share the Good News with all and build the future of our Church. • **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS** is a scheme run by Christian Aid where rather depriving yourself of something you really like you give thanks for something that is often so basic you take it for granted. The overall aim is to inspire and challenge yourself during the season of Lent while at the same time making the 40 days count for the world's poorest people. Some of the world's poorest communities give up nothing during Lent because quite simply they've not got enough to start with. For more information or to download a Count Your Blessings calendar visit <http://bit.ly/cyblessings>.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE The next meetings will be on Sundays **11th May** and **6th July** at St Peter's at 3.30pm for Benediction in the church followed by tea / coffee and discussion in the church hall.