



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

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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)

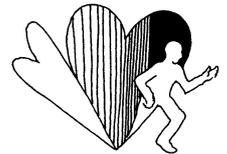
Year A

PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD

13th April 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: MOMENTS OF PASSION

Strangely enough, the events of that first Holy Week, when Jesus was led through suffering to a brutal execution on the cross, are a cause for rejoicing. For we glory in Christ's death and resurrection since they have set us free and saved us from ultimate oblivion and meaningless. What God accepted willingly, he accepted for me. But the passion and death of Jesus are not magic. We don't simply look back at history, recall the awful events and then say all's well with the world. The Calvary event is not some sort of magic moment with golden dust that has floated down to today. It's an invitation to join in with the daily passion we see on our streets. It's all about now and how we react to our own and other people's distress. As our TV screens show horrific images of people who are famished, war-torn or denied human rights, what do we do? Do we join the crowd with their "hosannas" or do we offer to lift the burden of the cross? When given the chance to sell out on our principles do we take the hard road or go for the 30 pieces of silver? Are we good at proffering a kiss in public but a knife in the back? Who's being crucified on our streets this week and how are we responding?



The passion is not magic. It does not offer instant salvation. It has to be shared to have its effect. We can sing all the hymns in Christendom, carry all the palms we can get our hands on, even ride in procession on a donkey. But it's pure idolatry if we don't pledge to unite ourselves to the passion of Christ in a real way. We need to make up in our own bodies what is lacking in the suffering of Christ. Christ's suffering was not imperfect, but it calls out to us to be imitated, to find completion in our own embrace. The way we accept suffering and the way we react to the suffering of others is the key to the passion. We can embrace the cross as something which can enrich us, or we can run in fear from pain. We can rush to the aid of our neighbour, or show a crucifying indifference to the suffering of others. Our choice will either diminish or ennoble us. *(Author unknown)*



THE GREAT WEEK Holy Week, the seven days before Easter, comes as the climax of the 40 days of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday. Those who took the ashes on their foreheads agreed to spend six weeks trying to deepen their relationship with God by prayer, fasting and good works. When the ashes are washed off the commitment remains. Christians are called to a daily conversion. We never fully finish our work of overcoming sin within us. Lent recalls us to our task of becoming the baptized people that we really are, and it comes to an end when we baptize new members into our community at Easter. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday which come immediately before Easter are called the Triduum, from the Latin word for "three days". It is not really three separate feasts, but more of a "three day" feast, - an extended preparation for the great event of Easter. That's why, wherever possible, Christians try to be present on each day, taking up where they left off the day before. It is like the three acts of a single play. In our celebration of these three days which changed the world we use symbols which both remind us of what happened at the first Easter and help us to understand how they affect our lives today. With these symbols we remember, re-enact and recommit ourselves. ✠ **Please take a Holy Week poster and display it in a prominent window.**

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th APRIL 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD (A) ✕

Sun 13th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Finn & Alicja Egan, in thanksgiving
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass (<i>starts in the hall</i>): Donor's intention
Mon 14th	Monday in Holy Week	NO MASS	Penance Service at St Francis', 7.30pm
Tues 15th	Tuesday in Holy Week	10.00am	✕ Mass: Alfredo Cannavina RIP
Wed 16th	Wednesday in Holy Week	(H) 12.30pm	✕ Requiem Mass: Henry Pinto
Thu 17th	Maundy Thursday	8.00pm	✕ Mass of The Lord's Supper (followed by watching until 11pm)
Fri 18th	Good Friday (<i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i>)	11.00am	<i>Stations of the Cross (for children)</i>
		(H) 12noon	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
		3.00pm	✕ Solemn Liturgy of The Passion of The Lord (<i>followed by Confessions</i>)
Sat 19th	Holy Saturday	<i>5.00-6.00pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of the LORD (A) ✕

Sun 20th	Saturday	8.30pm	✕ Easter Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Tom Moses RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass

MASS INTENTIONS If you have booked a Mass recently please check in the sacristy to make sure they are properly recorded. Thank you.

PENANCE SERVICE St Francis', 7.30pm this Monday, **14th April**.

BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER EASTER EGG HUNT Holy Saturday, **19th April**. Thank you to those who have donated Easter Eggs.

EASTER COFFEE Back by popular demand: coffee and tea after Mass at Good Shepherd on Easter Sunday morning, **20th April**. Many thanks to our organizers!

LENTEN APPEAL 2014 This year our Parish Lenten Appeal is supporting a future priest in Cambodia. Religion was completely destroyed in Cambodia in the 1970s. 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. 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.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for April:** *that governments may foster the protection of creation and the just distribution of natural resources; and that the Risen Lord may fill with hope the hearts of those who are being tested by pain and sickness.*
- **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 Henry Pinto; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now and for all our relatives and friends especially **our children** preparing to celebrated their First Holy Communion in June.
- **For the seminarians of our diocese**, that they may welcome Christ into their hearts and that by following him closely their faith may never fail.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£433.71** (Gift Aided, **£242.90**. Weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£110.00**). • Please continue to hand in your Fast Day savings and Lent Appeal contributions as you leave Mass. • **Today** there is a retiring collection to help cover the cost of **flowers for Maundy Thursday and Easter**. • On **Good Friday** there will be a **papal collection for the Holy Places**. • The **Easter Collection** next Sunday is your **personal offering to the priest** (it is not for parish expenses). *Envelopes are available for your convenience*. Along with the Christmas Collection this is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. Thank you.

MISSIO RED BOXES are once again due for counting please; thank you.

NOTICE BOARD Our notice board at St Peter's has been given a 'makeover'. Our thanks to Terry and Jenny for their help. We have included a prayer intention list both at St Peter's and at Good Shepherd that parishioners might find helpful.

YOU'RE CREATING a FAIRER FOOD SYSTEM Throughout CAFOD's Hungry for Change campaign, over 55,000 of you joined us in asking the government for checks on the power of global food companies. Now, thanks in part to your incredible efforts, a new EU law has been passed requiring large EU public companies to publish information on how they affect the environment, their impacts on human rights, as well as the measures they take to tackle corruption. This is good progress, but more needs to be done so *all* companies are truly transparent. In particular CAFOD wants the largest privately-owned companies, not just those listed on stock exchanges, to have to be transparent about the impact their businesses are having.

DEANERY MASS of HEALING The annual Deanery Mass for Healing will take place at Aylesford Priory on Sunday **4th May** at 3pm. The principal celebrant will be Father Paul Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Kent.

MASS for MIGRANTS Westminster Cathedral, Monday **5th May**, 11am.

ROSARY and BENEDICTION at St Peter's, Sunday **11th May**, 3.30pm followed by Lourdes Tea Party, especially for those booked on our pilgrimage to Lourdes in September, but all are welcome.

MASS for NEW CATHOLICS St George's Cathedral, Saturday **17th May**, 11am.

DIOCESAN EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCES *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. The aim is that having reflected on the papal exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and having discussed ways of evangelizing, the parishioners who attend will return to their parishes to form the nucleus of a parish evangelization team. Begins at 11:30am registration and coffee, for a 12:00noon start, and ends with Mass at 4:00pm. There is no charge, but you **must book by 19th May**: lunch will be provided.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS Sunday **8th June**, 10.30am (Pentecost Sunday).

MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday **21st June**, 3pm. If you are celebrating your 1st / 10th / 25th / 40th / 50th / 60th + wedding anniversary this year, please give in your names as soon as possible (they have to be with the organizers by **30th April**). Please use the form provided and write very clearly so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.