



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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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 Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Year A

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (A)

11th May 2014

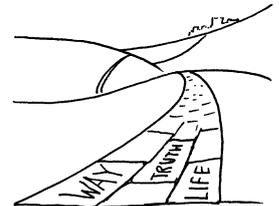
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

FAITH IN FOCUS: ALL RELIGIONS EQUAL?

A public figure, interviewed recently, said that if he carried rune stones around people would be interested to talk about them. If he meditated under a pyramidal dome in his dining room, practised an obscure form of Himalayan exercises, took regular colonic irrigation or sang American Indian chants under a dream-catcher whilst bathing himself in aroma-therapy oils, people would be equally tolerant. But if he were to tell them that he believed Jesus Christ was the Son of God and the saviour of the world, then they would run a mile and refuse to interview him about it.

Christianity has become the new taboo. Pop singers who make no secret of their Christian faith are rubbished as "squeaky-clean" and public figures whose faith motivates them are dismissed as "do-gooders". It's almost as if there is something dangerous about being a follower of Jesus. At the other end of the scale it's become politically correct to be tolerant of all beliefs, no matter how implausible they may appear. Of course, there's a good side to this. No one should be mocked for what they believe or persecuted for their faith. But acceptance of every set of teachings that claims to be a religion simply means that you don't have to deal with any of them.

So it's not uncommon to hear people say that since there's only one God all religions must be equal because all people are trying to approach the same God. Or alternatively, all religions are to be shunned because there has been an element of religion in many of the major wars throughout history. The problem is that once you stop believing in God, you don't start believing in nothing: you start believing in anything. Today Jesus claims that there is only one way of attaining union with God and that is through him. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: no one can come to the Father except through me. He's either telling the truth or he's a liar. The choice is yours.



(Author unknown)

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE BENEDICTION 3.30pm today. It's not long now to our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes (1st – 5th September), and **today** we will hold a **Benediction Service** at St Peter's with prayers for the success of the pilgrimage. This service is not just for those travelling to Lourdes - it is a parish pilgrimage, and those who travel will take your prayers to Lourdes with them on your behalf. So please come along to the Benediction (with tea and cake after!). ✦ It's still not too late to join us at Lourdes! Call Terry on 01622 730119 for details.

PRAYER VISITING *Bearsted Area Churches Together needs you.* This is our eleventh year of prayer visiting. This is very simple (but effective) outreach on behalf of all the churches in Bearsted whereby we ask people if they have any prayers they would like us to offer on their behalf. We are asking for probably about 40 minutes to 1 hour on one evening for one or two of the weeks listed below. The dates for your diary are **2nd, 3rd and 4th June**, or **7th, 8th and 9th July**. There will be more information given in church and if you have any questions or are willing to be involved phone Angela Legood (739808) Helen Lumb (737425) or Steve Jubb (738633). We need as many helpers as possible to lighten the load so we can visit as many homes as we can. • **A.G.M. / Committee Meeting** is on Thurs. 22nd May at Holy Cross at 7.30pm; there will be an address from Chris Ruddle, County Ecumenical Officer at Churches Together in Kent.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 11th MAY 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✠ FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✠ <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>			
Sun 11th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Kathleen Mary Byrne RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Henry Pinto RIP
		3.30pm	Rosary and Benediction
Mon 12th	Feria	7.00pm	✠ Mass
Tues 13th	Our Lady of Fatima	10.00am	✠ Mass: Special Intention
Wed 14th	St Mathias, Apostle	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
		4.00pm	To receive the body of Julienne Oates
Thu 15th	Feria	<u>12noon</u>	✠ Requiem Mass: Julienne Oates
Fri 16th	St Simon Stock	10.00am	✠ Mass: Special Intention
Sat 17th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✠			
Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Mary and Edward Jenner RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Donor's Intention
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION Help is **urgently** needed with the house-to-house collection this Christian Aid Week (11th – 18th May) in Bearsted. If you can help please email: hjudges@christian-aid.org.

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsal: **today** after our 10.30am Mass.

YOUTH GROUP this Monday, **12th May**: rounders. Meet and come back to the hall at usual times (7 - 8.30pm); consent forms needed, please. New members very welcome! **Open to young people aged 10 - 15, older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders!**

CHILDREN'S PARTY There will be a children's party after 10.30 Mass next Sunday, **18th May** until 1.30pm. There will be fun and games for the children and a chance for parents to meet and have a chat. The event is free, but if you could bring a plate of food, that would be great. To give us an idea of numbers attending, please could you ring Paul or Angela Dixon on Maidstone 880991 or e-mail info@wellcottagekent.co.uk.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for May:** that the media may be instruments in the service of truth and peace; and that Mary, Star of Evangelization, may guide the Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.
- **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 especially Julienne Oates; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now and for all our relatives and friends.
- **For the young people of our Archdiocese** who are considering a vocation to priesthood or religious life, that they will find support and encouragement in their homes and among their friends.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£494** (of which **£285** was Gift Aided). ♦ **Today** is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There will be a retiring collection for **Ecclesiastical Education**. ♦ Our savings during Lent meant that we could send **£239.96** to **CAFOD**. See acknowledgment letter on notice board.

REV. GEOFFREY SIDAWAY Rev. John Corbyn's predecessor, who served for 14 years at Holy Cross, died on Easter Day. A memorial service will be held at 10am on **Monday 12th May** at Holy Cross: all are invited. ✠ May he rest in peace.

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. There is no charge, but you **must book by 19th May**: lunch will be provided.

NATIONAL SHRINE of St JUDE Summer Celebration at the Shrine of St Jude, Faversham, Saturday **31st May**.

COMING UP parish barbecue, Sunday **29th June**. More information when we get it.

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 on **Sunday 8th June**.

HEALTH & SAFETY All our premises were checked last week by the diocesan agent and were given a favourable report. (Observant parishioners will notice various recent additions in this regard but all are warned that it may be necessary to hold a fire drill occasionally on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning.)

GIFT AID SCHEME Please be sure to collect your new set of envelopes if you have not already done so.