



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

Year A

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

25th May 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: ON OUR SIDE

It's quite common these days to see on the TV news that someone is starting an appeal against the justice system. They believe that all the evidence did not come out, that their confession was made under duress, or that they were wrongly convicted due to a miscarriage of justice. Usually they don't understand the law well enough, so they employ an expensive high-profile lawyer to put their case. These lawyers are paid to do two things for their clients: they act as an advocate and they appeal.



An advocate is someone we call to be by our side when we are in need. (Paraclete is the same word in Greek.) Having an advocate simply means that by ourselves we can't cope; the situation is too complex for us to be able to deal with it alone. When a lawyer appeals, he or she acts on behalf of the client to ensure that the court sees the individual not in a biased light but in a sympathetic way. An appeal commends the person to the court, asks that any negative decision be removed and that the client be treated in a favourable way. This is how Jesus describes the Holy Spirit. He asks the Father to send us an Advocate or Paraclete and he says that the Advocate will be with us for ever. There are many situations in life that we feel we are not up to. We are daunted by the prospect of committing ourselves to a partner, of bringing up our children, of educating our family in faith, of feeding and clothing them etc. At the same time we find ourselves at crossroads in life when our decisions are going to have long-term implications for our future. This is when we need an Advocate.

Jesus tells us that the Spirit will be by our side if we call upon him. He will defend us and direct us towards the truth, he will sustain us when things prove difficult and he will put words into our mouths when we don't know how to express ourselves. But, unlike other advocates, he won't charge a fee.

(Author unknown)

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.

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).

MISSIO We recently sent off a cheque for **£286.73** to Missio (APF) – the result of our Lenten Appeal this year.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 25th MAY 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✕			
Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mary Ashworth RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Matthew Lewis RIP (month's mind)
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 26th	St Philip Neri	<u>10.00am</u>	✕ Mass
Tues 27th	St Augustine of Canterbury	10.00am	✕ Mass: Jack Hayward RIP
Wed 28th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Donor's Intention
Thu 29th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 30th	Feria: <i>Novena to the Holy Spirit begins</i>	10.00am	✕ Mass: In honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Sat 31st	The Visitation of the B.V.M.	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ The ASCENSION of THE LORD (A) ✕			
Sun 1st June	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: The Pass Family
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: The Family of Matthew Lewis RIP

YOUTH GROUP No meeting this Monday (half term). Back on **Monday 2nd June**, 7 - 8.30pm, in the church hall: fun with art and craft. Please bring £2 to cover costs and an old pair of tights if possible - we are creating some grass heads! New members always welcome! **Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders.**

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsals: Sunday **1st June** after our 10.30am Mass; Tuesday **17th June**, 8-9pm.

FIRST COMMUNION MASS Callum, Lucas, Coralie, Darcey, Max, Nathan, Sofia and Sebastiano make their First Communion on Sunday **8th June** at St Peter's (Pentecost Sunday). Please remember them and their families in your prayers. Classes continue on Friday with a break the following week for half term. ☺ As we have 8 children making their First Holy Communion this year there is sure to be a big crowd! If you like crowds and don't mind forfeiting your usual seat please join us, otherwise you may wish to attend Mass either on the Saturday evening or at Good Shepherd on the Sunday morning.

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; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends especially Canon John Clark as he takes up his new parish appointment at Sacred Heart Wimbledon.*
- *For Christian families, the source of religious vocations, that the life of love and virtue which is learned in the home, may be a solid preparation for sons and daughters to dedicate themselves generously in religious life.*

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£389.69** (of which **£188.44** was Gift Aided). • **Next Sunday is World Communications Day.** There will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Communications Network** to enable it to engage with the media in a professional way and communicate the message of the Gospel.

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

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**.

SOUTHWARK CARITAS ROADSHOW **21st June**, 10.30am – 3.30pm at St Peter's, Woolwich. An opportunity to reflect of Pope Francis' call to be a church for the poor: www.csan.org.uk/events/southwark-caritas-roadshow.

THE FRIARS Summer Fair, **22nd June**; Young Adults' Festival, **27th – 29th June**; Annual Pilgrimage, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, **13th July**. Visit: <http://www.thefriars.org.uk/retreatpilgrim/Programme%202014.pdf> or see poster.

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.

GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE Passing on the faith... a day of faith and fun for all the family. **Saturday 12th July** from 11am to 4.30pm at Aylesford Priory. See poster for details or contact Jan Mann on 07808 299628.

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.