



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: Father Geoffrey Pointer: 01622 736100, email: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

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 B

SECOND SUNDAY

18th January 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: WHERE DO YOU LIVE? The disciples' question to Jesus was a simple one. They were not interested in what type of furniture Jesus had, but in what sort of person he was. What was it about him that made John the Baptist point him out in front of everybody as the Lamb of God? And what did this mean? Where does Jesus live today? It seems still to be a simple question. Where would we expect to find him? Christians answer this by seeing Christ present in the Church. Not simply in the reserved sacrament in tabernacles, but in the men and women who carry him with them through their baptism. Not only in acts of worship, but in each proclamation of the word of God, in every act of charity, in the service of love which Christians render to others. Christ lives wherever charities and development agencies relieve need. He lives wherever citizens devote themselves unselfishly to public service, wherever committed people work to help build a better world, taking on causes of justice and freedom.



Yet Jesus is to be found outside the confines of the Church. Jesus is present in our world through his Spirit, and the Holy Spirit blows wherever he wills. As Lamb of God, Jesus took upon himself the sins and sufferings of the world, the hopes and yearnings of the human race. He died not to redeem Christians but all creation. And he is to be found wherever men and women foster and promote, sometimes unwittingly, the values of the Cross. Where people accept the redemptive power of suffering, Jesus is there. Where people bring true healing, Jesus is there. Where they engage in whole-hearted work to encourage growth and development of individuals, communities and nations, he is in their midst. Sometimes Jesus takes up home in places that we find it hard to stomach, and with people we would least expect to be his lodgers. He lives on our streets and in our road. Have you seen him recently? *Author unknown*

PEACE SUNDAY Today. The work of *Pax Christi* is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. The vision of *Pax Christi* is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, *Pax Christi* work with all who share their values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. In tribute to those innocent ones whose lives have been violently cut short in recent days please pick up an envelope and use it to put towards the collection this week.

UNITY OCTAVE From **18th until 25th January** the Church observes eight days' prayer for Christian Unity. The theme this year is: 'The Well is Deep' and challenges us to acknowledge that diversity is part of God's design, to approach one another in trust and to see the face of God in the face of all men and women. There is to be a service for Christian Unity at St Peter's at **2pm this Sunday, 18th January** (the beginning of the Church Unity Octave of Prayer) preceded by lunch (provided) in the hall. ✖ **Coming up:** Bearsted Churches Together Lent Lunches: **27th February to 27th March**, beginning at Holy Cross Church (St Peter's, **13th March**). More information soon.

FR JOSEPH WRITES: On my way to Germany for a one year apostolate I have had the joy of spending my very first Christmas in England with you, arriving on the evening of your Carols and celebrating it with you. I want to thank you all for your warm hospitality and for all that I have enjoyed with Fr Geoffrey coming to us as your Christmas sharing. I leave for Germany after Mass next Sunday, 25th January. Before

then make my joy regarding my first Christmas in England complete by letting me experience some real

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 18th JANUARY 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ SECOND SUNDAY (B) ✕			
Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Anne Clark RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Bernard Gane RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass Pro Populo
		2.00pm	United Service for Unity Octave
Mon 19th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: In thanksgiving
Tues 20th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 21st	St Agnes	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: David and Nancy Mendes RIP
Thu 22nd	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 23rd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 24th	St Francis de Sales	5:00-5:30pm	Confessions
✕ THIRD SUNDAY (B) ✕			
Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: George and Mary Combes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Ray Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass Pro Populo

snow!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2015 The programme has now commenced and we are not taking any further applications for this year. Please remember the children and their families in your prayers, especially as they prepare for the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation in March.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for January:** that in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal. We pray for the Pope as he travels to visit his flock in distant places: may they hear God's message through him; and may he stay safe and well as he journeys.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead Fr Anthony Richins and Fr Robert Kaggwa M.Afr.; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **On this Peace Sunday for all those caught up in the recent troubles in France and Belgium** that God's unfailing love and compassion help the wounds to heal.
- **That all baptized Catholics recognize their responsibility** to discover their vocation in Christ and follow him, especially those chosen for the unique calling to the priesthood or consecrated life.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£411.09** (Gift Aided, **£238.00**). ♦ This Sunday is **Peace Sunday**, a day of prayer for Peace on Earth. There is no official collection for this, but if you wish to contribute to the work of *Pax Christi*, the International Catholic Movement for Peace, envelopes are available and can be placed in the collection as you leave Mass.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL meeting this Monday, 19th January, at St Peter's, Bearsted.

ADVENT APPEAL COLLECTION: Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter. The total amount collected and forwarded was **£879.52** made up of the envelope donations of **£631.35** plus the Christmas card donations of **£248.17**. Thank you for your generosity.

TOOLS WITH A MISSION Lent speaker. On Friday 6th March at the Methodist Church lunch there will be a speaker from TWAM (Tools With A Mission). If you have any tools (gardening, DIY. etc.) that are surplus please be looking them out ahead of this talk and bring them along, or ring 01622 739411 for collection.

FROM THE CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC FORMATION Pope Francis has requested that all parishes observe a **24 Hours for the Lord** to take place on **Friday 13th** and **Saturday 14th March**. The Theme is

God rich in mercy (*Ephesians 2:4*). He is asking that churches be open on those days, and make Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration available. See the poster.

FROM THE VOCATIONS CENTRE Please pick up a copy of the first edition of the diocesan vocations newsletter.