



# 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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Diocesan Website:** [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

**The Catholic Church in England and Wales:** [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

**Prayer:** [www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk); [www.holyspiritinteractive.net](http://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**

**FIFTH SUNDAY**

**8th February 2015**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: DECISIONS . . . DECISIONS!** They say that if you want something doing for you, then ask a busy person. The implication is that busy people can fit more in than others who take things casually. Certainly, the busier you are the more you need to plan your time; otherwise you'll run yourself ragged and get yourself in a mess. We only have to think of how some people become worked up at Christmas time as they rush around trying to sort out all the arrangements with no real plan of action. So often it ends in tears.

St Mark's account of Jesus' ministry at Capernaum paints a picture of a very busy Jesus. He was certainly in demand. The whole town crowded round and watched as he was brought people who were sick and possessed. And the gospel accounts show no let-up in the workload that Jesus undertook. Yet in the midst of all of this, early in the morning before dawn, we see that Jesus got up and went off to a lonely place to pray. A lie-in might have seemed more suitable given all he had been doing the night before. But prayer was what Jesus wanted.

We know that Jesus prayed at all the crucial points in his life; the gospels tell us this. But praying was like breathing for him. He recognised that he needed that intimacy with the Father in order to fulfil his mission. If he stopped praying he would lose that overall sense of direction and support that kept him going.

Our lives can sometimes become like an obstacle race, an assault course or a daily trip through a labyrinth. We have so much to do, so many decisions to make, such a lot that we'd like to achieve. Prayer allows us not to be paralysed by the decisions we have to make. Prayer puts God's values at the heart of our choices. Prayer means that we do not face the sometimes daunting tasks of daily living entirely by ourselves. It enables us to draw on a strength that is greater than our own, and as we walk through the daily maze of living it reminds us that we are not alone. For the busy person prayer is not a luxury but a necessity. *Author unknown*



**DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 8th FEBRUARY 2015**  
**(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

**✕ FIFTH SUNDAY (B) ✕**

Sun 8th February	Saturday	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Len Richardson RIP
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass
Mon 9th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: In thanksgiving
Tues 10th	St Scholastica	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 11th	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Anne Hamilton RIP ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
Thu 12th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 13th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 14th	SS Cyril & Methodius	5:00-5:30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
<b>✕ SIXTH SUNDAY (B) ✕</b>			
Sun 15th February	Saturday	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass

**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 February:** that married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.
- **For all the sick, especially Trish Talbot,** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For religious men and women** consecrated to God by the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, that they may live their calling with joy and have the grace to persevere in their commitment to serve the Lord and his people with open hearts and willing spirits.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£ 354.19** (Gift Aided, **£216.73** ). ♦ The collection for the Catholic Education Service came to **£190.72** ♦ Next Sunday there will be collection for **Poor Parishes** (formerly *Needs of the Diocese*). This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

**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.

**LENT BEGINS** on Ash Wednesday, **18th February**.

**CHURCH CLEANING: Volunteers are desperately needed** to help with the cleaning rota, we have lost several and need help at St Peter's! Names to Anne Vanstone- (phone number is 01622 738605.) or Fr. Geoff or Deacon Cyril

**▲ Date for your Diary!**

Laetare Sunday in the middle of Lent, gives us all the opportunity to take a break from the rigours of Lent and have a little fun! So we will be marking this weekend by having a 'Lent-Lite Quiz Night' on Saturday 14th March in St Peter's Hall. Tickets will be on sale from next Sunday, and, as usual, you can bring your own team of 6-8 people or we will make up teams on the night. Please, also, bring your own food and drink. The cost will be £5 for adults, but there will be no charge for school-children.'