



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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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

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

22nd February 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: NEVER SINK SO LOW? Everyone has temptations. Some are small, like the urge to finish off all the chocolates in the box. Others are great, like the tendency to get so wrapped up in myself that I fail to see the needs of others. Most of us will admit to certain weaknesses, but there are some temptations that we are really ashamed of and would not like the person next to us to know about. We feel so demeaned by this sort of temptation. If people knew about it they would surely change their opinion of me? And we wish we didn't have it.

Lent teaches us three important lessons about temptations. The first is that no one can escape them. However much we might like it to be otherwise, every one of us suffers temptations. It is part of our human nature that we have urges and desires to do things that we know to be wrong, know to be harmful to us in the end. It can be so hard for us to make a right judgment about the long term effects of our actions, rather than giving in to what seems to be good for us at the moment. Lent's second lesson is hard to grasp, and it seems incredible at first sight. It is that Christ, when tempted by Satan, experienced the depths of our temptations. The temptation which we are ashamed to talk openly about, the one we don't want broadcasting, that one was put before Jesus. It had to be if he was going to redeem it. If the only temptation Jesus ever suffered was the one about the chocolates in the box, then he would be powerless to know our real human nature and to conquer it. He had to sink lower. He had to be tempted at the very depths of human existence, to be brought to rock bottom. We begin Lent every year by reminding ourselves that Christ has conquered the very worst of sin and evil. The good news, and the third lesson, is that temptations are not sins. To be tempted is not to do wrong. However repulsive we may find temptations, if we do not give in to them, then we have nothing to blame ourselves for. On the contrary, by examining carefully the sort of temptations we face, we can come to understand those areas of our life that need attention. By becoming spiritually aware of our danger areas, we can begin to work on our behaviour to change it for the better. The best thing to do with a temptation is to face it. The worst thing is to pretend it is not there.

So Lent is a time for doing penance for our sin. But it is also a time for rejoicing in the fact that sin can no longer have any permanent hold over us if we live our lives for Christ. *Author unknown*

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✕ Try to get to Mass at least **once during the week.** ✕ Attend Stations of the Cross at St Peter's on **Friday evenings.** ✕ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✕ Contribute to CAFOD (especially of Lent Fast Day, **27th February**; envelopes for your savings are available. This Lent, every pound you give will be increased to £2 by the UK government up to the value of £3.5M. CAFOD has asked that this year we join the global movement to stop climate change pushing people into poverty. For more information see cafod.org.uk/oneclimate.) or our parish Lenten Appeal for MISSIO. ✕ Give up a favourite luxury *but keep it between you and the Lord (don't tell people what you have 'given up' for Lent)! ✕ Try to get to the Lent Lunches in Bearsted: beginning at Holy Cross, 12.30pm, this Friday, 27th February: Rev. Chris Key, Vicar of St Luke's Maidstone, talking about his bible society work with China. ✕ Pick up a copy of Walk With Me (prefaced by our Archbishop) which has a scripture reading and meditation for each day of Lent.*



**DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 22nd FEBRUARY 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (B)** ✕

Sun 22nd February	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Paul Beattie RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Thomas Lawson RIP
Mon 23rd	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 24th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 25th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 26th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 27th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
	<i>Lent Fast Day</i>	7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 28th	Feria	<i>5:00-5:30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (B)** ✕

Sun 1st March	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Peter Gollop RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Ray Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Adriana and Ted Bullock RIP

PARISH LENTEN APPEAL FOR MISSIO The Society of St Peter the Apostle (SPA). This appeal supports the vocations of seminarians and religious brothers and sisters in the Church overseas. These men and women will bring the light of Christ into their communities.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2015 Please remember the children and their families in your prayers, especially as they prepare for the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation next month.

CHOIR NEWS Sung Mass **today**. Next rehearsals: this Tuesday, **24th February** in the evening. **All are welcome!**

St PETER'S YOUTH GROUP Monday **23rd February**, 7 - 8.30pm, in the church hall: **Marie's drama games and a badminton match**. Please bring a badminton racket if you have one, thank you. Open to any young people aged 10 - 15 years old, older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.**

LENT 'LITE' A 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 are now on sale, and as usual you can bring your own team of 6-8 people or we will make up teams on the night. Please bring your own food and drink. The cost will be £5 for adults, but there will be no charge for school children.

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** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Tom Lawson and Paul Beattie; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board. For those who are to be received into the Church at Easter.
- **That prayer, penance and almsgiving** will dispose more men and women to follow the Holy Spirit as he leads them to discover their vocations in Christ.
- **For those who are persecuted for their faith**, that they may be strengthened and upheld by the Holy Spirit; we remember especially the Coptic Christians murdered in Libya last week: may they rest in the peace of God's love.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£433.35** Gift Aided, **£275.66**. ♦ Last Sunday's collection for **Poor Parishes** (formerly *Needs of the Diocese*) came to **£147.29**. ♦ Throughout Lent we are encouraged to contribute to CAFOD: HM Revenue and Customs will match every £1 we save.

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. ✕ A full programme of events will be offered at St Francis' in Maidstone: <http://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/pdfnewsletters/2015/150215.pdf>.

FUNDRAISING FOR RETIRED CLERGY As yet no response. If you feel up to helping in this vital work of fundraising for the retired and sick clergy of the dioceses please speak to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. See the article on the diocesan website: southwarkclergysupportfundcampaign.org/.