



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

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

8th March 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: COMMAND PERFORMANCE A national newspaper once published a story about the clergy and the ten commandments. Apparently, when asked about them, a large number of clergy could not remember them all. It's not helped by the fact that Catholics and Protestants have different numbers for some of the commandments. Sometimes people mock the ten commandments as being out of date and old fashioned. They ask which commandment says anything about some fertility practices, nuclear weapons or international trade. The implication is that ten rules are inadequate as a guide for modern life. In a way, of course, they are right. The Jewish people quickly added to the list by including all sorts of everyday regulations. They realized that the ten commandments covered the broad areas but there were many smaller issues which needed particular legislation.



Other people claim that the commandments did not come from God, but are man-made. To a certain degree they are right too. But only to a certain degree. If you look at the ten commandments, they try to promote the sort of life that any society would want. What sort of society would want to promote adultery, theft or greed? The values of the commandments are about fairness, respect, justice and integrity. They are excellent foundations for any society to build upon. But the fact is that the ten commandments were accepted by the Jewish people as a consequence of their belief in God. They were seen as the natural results of having Yahweh as their God, and of their being his people. If we want to live God's life, they said, then this is how we must go about it. The commandments form the basis of our agreement or covenant with God. They are not negotiable; they do not change to suit the moment; their values are timeless.

According to the story in the Book of Exodus, Moses smashed the tablets with the ten commandments on them when he saw the Israelites worshipping the golden calf. God had to write them out again on two fresh stone tablets. For us today, once we have heard them and agreed to them by our baptism, they are written on our hearts, and each time we celebrate. *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 (but excluding this Friday** when Fr Geoff will be helping out at St Francis'). ✘ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✘ Contribute to CAFOD: *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. ✘ Contribute to our parish Lenten Appeal for MISSIO: the Society of St Peter the Apostle (SPA): **envelopes are now available**. 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. ✘ 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, continuing here at St Peter's this Friday, **13th March** at 12.30pm (lunch) followed by speaker: Mr David Muir continues the theme "Mission Around the World". ✘ Pick up a copy

of *Walk With Me* (prefaced by our Archbishop) which has a scripture reading and meditation for each

| DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 8th MARCH 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham) | | | |
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| ✕ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (B) ✕ | | | |
| Sun 8th March | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Holy Souls |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Eric Smith RIP |
| | | (H) 12noon | <i>Baptism: Laurence Emsley</i> |
| Mon 9th | Feria | 7.00pm | ✕ Mass |
| Tues 10th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Wed 11th | Feria | (H) 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Thu 12th | Feria | 7.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Fri 13th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| Sat 14th | Feria | 5:00-5:30pm | <i>Confessions</i> |
| ✕ FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (B) ✕ | | | |
| Sun 15th <i>Laetare and Mothering Sunday</i> | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Luis and Conchita Vecino RIP |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP |

day of Lent.

St PETER'S YOUTH GROUP Mondays, 7 - 8.30pm, in the church hall. **This Monday:** Art and craft for Mother's Day. Please bring a photo of yourself and £2 subs to cover costs. Thank you! Open to any young people aged 10 - 15 years old, older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.**

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS YET? Our 'Lent Lite Quiz Night' is next **Saturday, 14th March**, so now is the time to get your tickets! You don't have to be Brain of Britain or Mastermind! It's not going to be University Challenge! It's just an evening of fun so do come along, either with a team of your own or we can make up teams on the night. The cost is just £5 for adults and nothing at all for school-age children. Please bring your own food and drink - and may the best team win!

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter music: Tuesday **17th March**, 8 - 9pm; Sunday **22nd March**, after our 10.30am Mass. **All are welcome!**

PARISH READERS An informal gathering for readers on **Saturday 21st March** in St Peter's Hall, 10.30am, finishing with light lunch.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March:** that the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may always be acknowledged and valued.
- **For all the sick** 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 Lawrence Emsley being baptized this Sunday and for those who are to be received into the Church at Easter.
- **That all those seeking to discover their vocations in Christ** will take heart in the faith that he is the Lord our God and calls them to the glorious perfection of love.
- **For those who suffer** because of a failure to respect human rights: may they experience God's loving presence through the genuine goodness of those they encounter.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£470.63** Gift Aided, **£347.50**). ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes throughout Lent; the recent Lent Fast Day realized **£302.91** - **£147.10** of this was gift-aided and will therefore be doubled: HM Revenue and Customs will match every £1 we save **only if gift-aided.**

BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER Holy Week and Easter Service times will need to be delivered as usual. Please pick up a set for a road near you. Easter Egg Hunt, **Saturday, 4th April**, 12 – 1 at the Memorial Hall, Bearsted with clues on the Woodland Trust Land. Free entry, refreshments in the Memorial Hall. Donations of eggs needed; please leave them in the office at St Peter's.

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**. ✕ A full programme of events will be offered at St Francis' in Maidstone (see notice board or website). *"Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer! The 24 Hours for the Lord initiative, which I hope will be observed on 13-14 March throughout the Church, also at the diocesan level, is meant to be a sign of this need for prayer."* (Pope Francis) The Holy Father invites parishes to participate in this evangelizing event, by opening churches where possible, offering Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration. ♦ **Dementia and Disability - At the Heart of the Church** A day of study and reflection, for parishioners, carers, Ministers of Holy Communion, etc. Saturday **14th March**, 2:00 - 5:30pm, at Our Lady of the Crays, 312 High Street, St Mary Cray, BR5 4AR. ♦ **Church and State** - A conference to mark the 800th anniversary of *Magna Carta*: Friday **27th March**, 11:00am - 3:20pm, at the Centre for Catholic Formation, Tooting Bec Road, SW17 8BS. Cost: £5 to include Lunch. Booking is required (ring the CCF on 020 8672 7684). ♦ **Common Objections to Catholicism**: A series of talks on Thursdays in Easter-tide addressing popular objections to and misconceptions about the Catholic faith, and how to answer them. At the Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road, SE1 7HR, 7:30 - 9:00pm. The first talk is on Thursday **16th April**: Bishop Paul Hendricks will talk on the question *"Doesn't science disprove religion?"*

JUSTICE AND PEACE Coming up: **21st March**: Annual Romero Ecumenical Memorial Service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. Preacher: Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Details: Contact Archbishop Romero Trust at info@romerotrue.org.uk, 8 Dean Mews, London W1G 9EE. ♦ **CAFOD Campaigns**: Since September 2014, you've been calling on all UK party leaders – including David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg – to make tackling climate change and poverty a top priority. In February, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition have agreed to work together across party lines to tackle climate change. To read the full story, go to: cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news. On Wednesday 17th June, CAFOD and the Climate Coalition invite us to an event drawing thousands of people to Parliament to ask MPs to tackle climate change. There will be an ecumenical service and a rally with music and guest speakers. To sign up for the event, visit cafod.org.uk/SpeakUp. If you can't make the event, but want to speak up, you can order a campaign card or add your name to the climate petition online at CAFOD.org.uk/oneclimate.

A REQUEST If you happen to have borrowed any hymn books from St Peter's, please let us have them back: we are running low. Thank you!

FUNDRAISING FOR RETIRED CLERGY Please speak to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. See the article on the diocesan website: southwarkclergy-support-fund-campaign.org/.

BISHOPS' LETTER You can download a copy of the bishops' letter about voting in the forthcoming General Election: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/General-Election-2015/Election-Letter>. Topics to quiz candidates about include: **Respecting life**; **Supporting marriage and family life**; **Alleviating poverty**; **Educating for the good of all**; **Building communities**; **Caring for the world**. We need to ask the question: **How, in the light of the Gospel, can my vote best serve the common good?**

THE PILGRIM Pick up a copy of the March edition of the diocesan monthly.