



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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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

PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD

29th March 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: WHO IS THE "SUFFERING SERVANT"? There is a mysterious character who appears from time to time in the Old Testament. Not much is known about this person except that he is going to be called on to play a big part in God's plans for the chosen people. He will suffer greatly and become a sort of scapegoat for the faults of the nation. Hence, he is known as the "suffering servant" of God. **Today** he appears in our reading from Isaiah and will reappear on **Friday** in the first reading: "On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through his wounds we are healed."

The "suffering servant" is also found elsewhere in

the Bible. Who is he? A king, a politician, a soldier, a religious leader or God himself? Certainly Jesus knew that he was to suffer on behalf of others and become the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. Was he the "suffering servant"?

One wonders . . .

Faithful Cross! above all other,

One and only noble tree!

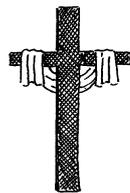
None in foliage, none in blossom,

None in fruit thy peer may be;

Dearest wood and dearest iron!

Dearest weight is hung on thee.

(Ancient Good Friday Hymn)



THE GREAT WEEK ✘ Please take a Holy Week poster and display it in a prominent window. ✘ **Holy Week**, the seven days before Easter, comes as the climax of the 40 days of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday. Those who took the ashes on their foreheads agreed to spend six weeks trying to deepen their relationship with God by prayer, fasting and good works. When the ashes are washed off the commitment remains. Christians are called to a daily conversion. We never fully finish our work of overcoming sin within us. Lent recalls us to

our task of becoming the baptized people that we really are, and it comes to an end when we baptize new members into our community at Easter. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday which come immediately before Easter are called the Triduum, from the Latin word for "three days". It is not really three separate feasts, but more of a "three day" feast, - an extended preparation for the great event of Easter. That's why, wherever possible, Christians try to be present on each day, taking up where they left off the day before. It is like the three acts of a single play. In our celebration of these three days which changed the world we use symbols which both remind us of what happened at the first Easter and help us to understand how they affect our lives today. With these symbols we remember, re-enact and recommit ourselves.

DAY FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD We had a useful session with our parish readers (Ministers of the Word) last Saturday; understandably not all could make it, but thank you to those who did, and thank you to our leaders and caterers. Notes from the day and guidelines will be available soon.

St PETER'S YOUTH GROUP Mondays, 7 - 8.30pm, in the church hall. **This Monday:** Party time: all your favourite games! Please bring some food to share, thank you! Open to any young people aged 10 - 15 years old; older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. New members welcome!

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 29th MARCH 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD (B) ✕			
Sun 29th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Philomena O'Hare RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass (<i>starts in the hall</i>): Colin Otterson RIP
Mon 30th	Monday in Holy Week	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 31st	Tuesday in Holy Week	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 1st April	Wednesday in Holy Week	NO MASS	(Chrism Mass at Cathedral)
Thu 2nd	Maundy Thursday	8.00pm	✕ Mass of The Lord's Supper (<i>followed by watching until 11pm</i>)
Fri 3rd	Good Friday (<i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i>)	11.00am	Stations of the Cross (especially for children)
		(H) 12noon	Stations of the Cross
		3.00pm	✕ Solemn Liturgy of The Passion of The Lord (<i>followed by Confessions</i>)
Sat 4th	Holy Saturday	5.00-6.00pm	Confessions
✕ EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of the LORD (B) ✕			
Sun 5th	Saturday	8.30pm	✕ Easter Vigil Mass: Patricia Mary Sloan RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Margaret and Patrick Keatings RIP

CHOIR NEWS Thank you for coming to the rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter music and for your support and time: we're nearly there!

EASTER COFFEE Back by popular demand: coffee and tea after Mass at Good Shepherd on Easter Sunday morning, **5th April**. Many thanks to our organizers!

HELP WITH CLEANING Volunteers please, for help with the cleaning at the Good Shepherd. Our numbers have recently been reduced. Our beautiful chapel is always clean and welcoming; please help keep it that way!

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for April:** that persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.
- **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 those who are to be received into the Church at Easter.
- **That in imitation of Christ who emptied himself for our salvation** more men and women will share in his passion for souls through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.
- **For those who suffer persecution for their faith:** may the Lord uphold them and bring them freedom from oppression. For the victims of the air crash in the Alps, for grieving families and for those facing the grim task of recovery.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£338.27** (Gift Aided, **£206.96**). We made a profit of **£250** from the recent quiz night, for parish funds. • Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes: HM Revenue and Customs will match every £1 we save **only if gift-aided**. • Our Lent Appeal brought in **£11.99** last weekend. • **Today** there is a retiring collection to help cover the cost of **flowers for Maundy Thursday and Easter**. • On **Good Friday** there will be a **papal collection for the Holy Places** (see below). • The **Easter Collection** next Sunday is your **personal offering to the priest** (it is not for parish expenses). *Envelopes are available for your convenience*. Along with the Christmas Collection this is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. Thank you.

DEANERY PENANCE A Penitential Service, with celebration of individual confessions, will be held at St Francis' this **Monday, 30th March** at 7.30pm.

MISSIO Members' red boxes are due in for counting again please.

PARISH FINANCES Our parish treasurer, Mr Ian Fraser, will be presenting our parish accounts at all Masses on **11th and 12th April**.

BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER Thank you to those who supported our Lent Lunches and Talks: it's always a joy to share our faith, our ambitions and outreach in this way. ♦ 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 (thank you if you have already donated). † **PRAYER VISITING in BEARSTED**: There will be a meeting on **Tuesday 14th April**, 8pm at St Peter's, to discuss the future organization of Prayer Visiting in Bearsted.

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL recently had a full OFSTED inspection which saw the school make great strides forward from an inadequate rating to 'good' (a full copy of the report can be found on the School website: <http://www.st-francis.kent.sch.uk/>). The school would like to thank all who have supported them, with their prayers and good wishes, on their journey out of Special Measures.

ST SIMON STOCK SCHOOL had an OFSTED Section 48 Inspection which meets the Canonical inspection of the Archdiocese of Southwark as well as the state judgement on the Catholic life of the School and provision of R. E. The School has been judged: outstanding in all areas which is a rare achievement. *Our heartfelt congratulations to all involved in the life of our schools for their determination and hard work.*

CHRISM MASS Wednesday **1st April**, 11.30am at St George's Cathedral, Southwark.

THE GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION for the Holy Places is used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. It also helps the work of the Church in the holy Land and neighbouring countries by the relief of poverty and suffering. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres there rely very much on assistance from the Collection, especially at this difficult time. Gift Aid Donors are asked to place their contribution in one of the spare green envelopes supplied (writing 'Holy Places' on front) thereby boosting their donation by an additional 25% tax relief.

COMING UP:

PARISH SOCIAL St Peter's Hall, Saturday **2nd May**; see attached.

DEANERY MASS of HEALING The annual Deanery Mass for Healing will take place at Aylesford Priory on Sunday **3rd May** at 3pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS Sunday **7th June**, 10.30am (Corpus Christi).

MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday **20th June**, 3pm. If you are celebrating your 1st / 10th / 25th / 40th / 50th / 60th + wedding anniversary this year, please give in your names as soon as possible so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.