



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 EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of THE LORD 5th April 2015

RISE ABOVE IT! Don't be fooled into thinking that the new life we hear so much about at Easter is all in the mind. It's not. It's real. It's no mere religious phrase. What Christ's rising from the dead offers us is resurrected life. If we take him at his word then he can transform our deadness into vitality. If we're prepared to enter into the Easter death then we are assured of being born again to accept a deeper, fresher, richer life than the one we have at present. If we really do die to those areas of our lives which have become lifeless, then what awaits us is the gift of unlimited grace.

If we die to the outdated vision of self, we can live life to the full. It's about no longer clinging to the delusion that we're eighteen; it's about surrendering our very self, the clothes of our lifestyle which no longer fit, the outward quest for eternal youth. By dying to the faded mannequin of yesterday we are freed to live in the present.

Easter is about dying to the hurts of our past and reclaiming a new wholeness. Sometimes we have become so wounded that part of us dies. If we embrace and accept this death in Christ, then we recover the new life of integrity, we recover our sense of being held together in the hand of God.

If we die to self-delusion, to the idea that we are much greater than we really are, then we can learn to enjoy the genuine gifts and skills we are endowed with, and we can rise to any occasion safe in the knowledge that the talents we possess are blessings from God.

Dying and rising at Easter is about realising that things don't always have to be the same. Whether it's about our relationships with others or our longing for the "hey-days" of the Church, the new resurrected life on offer is an invitation to constant growth, to change, to development. No one need be stuck in the tomb of his past. Being born again is a real option. Easter is about singing a new song to a God who has worked wonders in raising Christ from the dead, and who offers us the chance of a completely new life ourselves. All we have to do is claim it. *Author unknown*



EASTER OCTAVE This is Easter Week: the solemn celebration of the Resurrection spills over this week into one continuous Solemnity of the Lord (a week of Sundays).

THANK YOU! Sincere thanks to those of you who worked solidly and quietly in so many ways to ensure that our Holy Week ceremonies were prepared and celebrated with great dignity and devotion. Also, many thanks to those of you who distributed the church service times around Bearsted. And well done to those who turned up over the three great days to make this a truly prayerful experience. ✕ **May God bless you and your family this Easter, Father Geoff and Deacon Cyril.**

EASTER COFFEE Please stay for a cup of coffee after Mass at Good Shepherd **this morning**. Many thanks to our organizers!

MISSIO RED BOXES Boxes are once again due in for counting; thank you.

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

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 5th APRIL 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ 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
Mon 6th	Easter Monday	<u>10.00am</u>	✕ Mass
Tues 7th	Easter Tuesday	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 8th	Easter Wednesday	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 9th	Easter Thursday	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 10th	Easter Friday	10.00am	✕ Mass: Kathleen Mary Byrne RIP
Sat 11th	Easter Saturday	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions

✕ SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy) (B) ✕

Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Alex Anderson's welfare
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Reg Meunier RIP

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. **If you were unable to attend the Good Friday service please consider making a donation: place it in the collection clearly marked.** Thank you.

THE PILGRIM This month's edition of the diocesan newspaper is now available.

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 especially Alan Flynn and Graham Gibson and 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 being received into the Church this Easter.*
- *That more men and women will joyfully answer the call of the Lord to proclaim his life, death and resurrection as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life.*
- *For the victims of the massacre in the al-Shabab attack on the university campus in Kenya.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£462.12** (Gift Aided, **£277.80**). • Our Lent Appeal brought in **£36.00** last weekend. • **The** collection to help cover the cost of flowers for Maundy Thursday and Easter came to **£214.90**. • The **Easter Collection** 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.

CAFOD We were able to send **£325.91** off to CAFOD recently; see the thank you letter.

PARISH FINANCES Our parish treasurer, Mr Ian Fraser, will be presenting our parish accounts at all Masses **next weekend**.

BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER 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.

COMING UP:

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** (Corpus Christi), 10.30am.

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 to the parish priest by **30th April** (booking is essential). This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.

YOUTH FESTIVAL Aylesford Priory, years 7 – 11, **20th June**.