



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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

24th May 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: LETTING THE SPIRIT IN A great temptation for Jesus must have been to go it alone. He had a tremendous sense of mission from the Father, and it must have seemed a daunting task. Yet he knew that as a man he could not achieve the work he was sent to do. It was humanly quite impossible, therefore it had to be divinely wrought. Instead of launching out alone on his teaching journeys, he waited to be anointed by the Spirit when he was baptized by John, his cousin. Only by the Spirit's power could the "word" of God become the "Word" of God. We have the same problem. How many times have you heard people say, "It all depends on me"? We can end up thinking that we have to go it alone, ploughing whichever lonely furrow we find ourselves faced with. We can fall into the trap of presuming that our own human effort is all that is required to make things work. And so we become muscular Christians.



The Church too becomes caught up in this pattern. In the face of worldwide problems, when attendance numbers seem small, when scandals appear and society seems deaf to the gospel message, we can feel swamped, and the commission given us by Jesus to go and teach all nations looks an uphill task.

Pentecost gives the lie to all these feelings. It reminds us that we are not alone, that the Paraclete (literally "the one called to our side") has been given to us. It is not as if we are required to ensure the salvation of the world. What we are asked to do is simply to co-operate with God as the Spirit enlightens, encourages and sanctifies those who listen to God's call. We are sharers in the mission, but the prime mover and the lead part is God.

If we are not to forget the presence of the Spirit, then we need to develop the habit of prayer. We need to bring our hopes and fears, our plans and our worries before God so that just as the Spirit transformed the early Church, so too will the same Advocate transform our efforts. Jesus reminds us that with the Spirit on our side, even the gates of hell will not prevail against us. So we are not alone; we are co-workers in God's plan of salvation. That is why, strictly speaking, the Church does not have a mission. Rather, the Mission has a Church. And Pentecost encourages us to be part of it.

Author unknown

MARGARET MOSES RIP Margaret's Funeral Requiem Mass will be at Good Shepherd on Wednesday **10th June**, at **12noon**, followed by interment at Lenham. ✱ Margaret died on 9th May aged 96 and was a faithful and regular member of our congregation at Good Shepherd until quite recently. ✱ May she rest in peace.

YOUTH GROUP Mondays (no meeting this week, bank holiday). For young people 10 - 15 years of age. Older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. New members welcome!

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsal: Tuesday **26th May**, 8 - 9pm at St Peter's. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Musicians wanted, please: can you play the recorder, flute, violin or cello? Please join us for the First Holy Communion Mass on **Sunday 7th June** (Corpus Christi), 10.30am, rehearsal at 10am. Thank you! For more information speak to Bob or Erika (☎ 07760 385672).

DEANERY EVANGELISATION DAY Saturday **30th May** at St Francis' Primary School, Queen's Road, Maidstone and will begin with Mass at 9.30am, running until 2pm. There will be a very short break for a packed lunch to be eaten and refreshments and cakes, etc., will be available. The day will be led jointly by Mark Nash of the Diocesan Education Centre and Fr Paul Mason. **It is very important that as many parishioners and members of parish teams attend as possible**, as Fr Paul will be discussing the shortage of priests and how this can be managed positively. If our parish is not represented, then there can be no realistic expectation of a say in the allocation and planning of resources for the future. **Please do your best to ensure our parish is well represented next Saturday.**

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 24th MAY 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ PENTECOST SUNDAY, WHITSUN (B) ✕			
Sun 24th May	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: May Walsh RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: G. Parecky RIP
Mon 25th	St Bede the Venerable	10.00am	✕ Mass
Tues 26th	St Philip Neri	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 27th	St Augustine of Canterbury	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Margaret Moses RIP
Thu 28th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 29th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 30th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (B) ✕			
Sun 31st	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass

PARISH BARBECUE Make a note of the date: **12th July** at St Peter's.

CONFIRMATIONS Maidstone area Confirmations will take place on Sunday **11th October**, with a retreat at Whitstable on **11th** and **12th July**. The preparation day will be on Sunday **4th October**. As before we are inviting those who are not confirmed (School Year 9 or above) to apply and we shall be joining the course at St Francis' parish. The programme will begin at the 6pm Mass at St Francis' on Sunday **7th June** finishing at 8.15pm. Application forms are available along with details of the course.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for May:** *that Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularised cultures to be ready to proclaim Jesus.*
- **For all the sick** especially Barbara Casey and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Margaret Moses; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board. For those who were received into the Church this Easter.
- **For an increased devotion to the Holy Spirit** among our young people, as he leads them in their prayerful discernment to discover their vocation in Christ.
- **For all those who face persecution for practising their faith**, or for standing up against injustice and oppression; remembering the sacrificial witness of Blessed Oscar Romero, we join our prayers with his for the voiceless poor of our world; for the people of Iraq and Syria, for South Sudan, and for all those parts of the world suffering from conflict and violence: *may the ways of peace and justice prevail.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£347.41** (Gift Aided, **£187.00**). ♦ The retiring collection for **World Communications** came to **£134.04**.

25th ANNIVERSARY St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Headcorn will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on **25th June** at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. ♣ Pick up a copy of Fr Michael Woodgate's book *A Rabbit's Eye View*. £4.50 – funds to Aid to the Church in Need.

CATECHISTS The Diocesan Day for Catechists is Saturday **27th June** at St George's Cathedral and runs from 11am till Mass at 4pm. Registration forms are available.

JOB OFFER The Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office, based at Cathedral House in Westminster Bridge Road, is looking for a new co-ordinator to be responsible for all the administration associated with the promotion of JPIC issues. This is a part-time job, for around 21.5 hours per week. Salary £27,000pa to £30,000pa, depending on experience, pro rata for part-time hours. If you would like to apply, please email your CV to sarah.wood@finance-rcdsouthwark.org by the closing date of 12th June. Full details are on the diocesan website www.rcsouthwark.co.uk.

CAFOD EVENTS THIS SUMMER ♦ *Speak Up for Climate Change* - Lobby of Parliament: **Wednesday 17th June**, 12.00noon – 5.00pm, Palace of Westminster, London SW1A 2PW. ♦ *CAFOD Southwark Summer pilgrimage*: **Saturday 27th June**, 12.00noon – 4pm. St Francis de Sales Church, Church Road, Hartley, DA3 8DW. ♦ *Campaign workshop and talk* from CAFOD partner Fr Edwin Gariguez about Typhoons and Climate Change in The Philippines: **Saturday 11th June**, 11.00am – 4pm (provisional timings), Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB. If you would like any further information, or want to book a place at any

of these events, please get in touch at the CAFOD Southwark Office on **020 8466 9901** or email southwark@cafod.org.uk. Many thanks for your continued support of CAFOD.