

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)

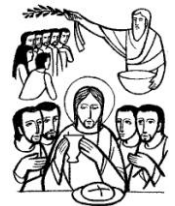
St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Year B

THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST

7th June 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: 360 DEGREES Today's solemnity is a 360° celebration because it asks us to look in all directions. We look back to the sacrifice of Christ and to the Last Supper. Christ asked us to take, bless, break and share bread and wine which through the power of the Holy Spirit become his body and his blood. The basis of this feast is that Christ is present, really present, in our world in many ways but none more sublime than in the eucharist. Christ is the food and drink of life (which is why we are encouraged to complete the symbolism by both eating and drinking at the eucharist). It is the eucharist which sustains us on our daily journey of faith and which brings us strength, comfort and courage as we strive to make God's name known and loved.



We also look inwards. Familiarity with the eucharist has its dangers: St Paul had to warn the early Christians about their behaviour which was a scandal to non-Christians who witnessed their drunken and raucous celebrations. We look to ourselves because eating the body and blood of Christ demands faithfulness to what Christ teaches us. Are we really striving to lead a life that is more closely linked with Jesus Christ, or are we simply going through the worship motions? We look outwards too. Although there are many of us at the celebration we form one body because we share the one bread and one cup. Eucharist challenges us to unity, to care and concern for each other, to genuine community, to fully participative worship and to being the "body of Christ" or Church for each other. Our celebration should not only resound within the Church but also have an impact on the world. And finally we look to the future. No liturgical feast is ever simply about the present, about what we are doing now; every feast has a future dimension. On Corpus Christi we are reminded of St Paul's words that when we eat and drink the body and blood of the Lord we proclaim his death until he comes again. Our actions are forward-looking since we are rehearsing that moment when we shall meet Christ face to face and be called to share the eucharistic banquet which passes all our expectations, when we join family and friends who have gone before us in faith, and unite with angels and saints in praising and thanking our God. *Author unknown*



We are delighted to celebrate with our children: Abbie, Daniel, Lindsey, Stephanie, Erin, Luke and Maya who are making their First Communions at 10.30 Mass today. Congratulations and best wishes to them! Our thanks to Shelagh and Eileen, our catechists, and to the parents for all their time and support in leading our children to this special day. *Truly "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us." (Romans 5:5.)*

YOUTH GROUP Mondays, 7-8.30pm. This week: your favourite games. For young people 10 - 15 years of age. Older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. **New members welcome!**

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting **this Wednesday** at Cranbrook, 7.30pm.

CHOIR NEWS Sunday rehearsal: **14th June** after 10.30 Mass.

PRAYER VIGIL There will be a prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament exposed at St Peter's from 5pm until Mass, on Saturday **11th July** to pray for the success of the National Catholic Evangelization Conference beginning at the same time. **Please put this date in your timetable and join us.**

PARISH BARBECUE Make a note of the date: **12th July** at St Peter's; more information next week.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 7th JUNE 2015 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (B) ✕			
Sun 7th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Malcolm Channing RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: For First Communion children and families
		12noon	Baptism: Samuel Mickleburgh
Mon 8th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 9th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 10th	Feria	(H) 12noon	✕ Requiem Mass: Margaret Mary Moses
Thu 11th	St Barnabas	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 12th	The MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 13th	The Immaculate Heart of Mary	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ ELEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 14th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday/	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Anna McCarthy RIP

THE PILGRIM Pick up a copy of this month's diocesan periodical.

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**.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY A day focusing on people with disability at the heart of the Church: Aylesford Priory, Sunday **5th July**, 12 till 4.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June:** that the personal encounter with Jesus may give rise to the desire in many young people to offer their lives in the priesthood or the consecrated life.
- **For all the sick** especially Barbara Casey and Elsie Hampshire and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Barbara Samson; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **That all Catholics will adore the great gift of the Holy Eucharist** given to them by Jesus Christ at the hands of his priests and that those chosen to nourish his body as priests and in the consecrated life will inspire many more to follow him.
- **For all those suffering from mental health problems**, that they may receive the understanding and help that they need, and in time live a full and healthy life.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£472.25** (Gift Aided, **£275.50**). ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Trust for England and Wales** which supplies our bishops with the revenue necessary for the central administration of the Church in this country.

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.

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 July**, 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.

ADVISER for DISABILITY, CATECHESIS & ADULT FORMATION Applications are invited from for this vacant post from practising Catholics with suitable experience and qualifications in the fields of evangelization, lay formation, and adult faith formation as well as disability inclusion. Salary: £31,749.20 pa. Closing date: Sunday **28th June**. Further details on the CCF website (www.ccftootingbec.org.uk).