



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

FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT

22nd March 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: Our thoughts are now being directed to the most solemn period of the Church's calendar: Paschiontide, Holy Week and Easter. Next week we shall look more closely at the events commemorated during Holy Week. At this moment let us begin carefully to consider the events we are about to recall - the story of our salvation. This Sunday is the fifth in Lent. The instructions in the Directory invite us to veil crucifixes and images in purple. Crucifixes remain so until the solemn afternoon liturgy on Good Friday. (Images of the saints are unveiled before the Easter Vigil.) The Church wants us, as it were, to clear our minds of all the trappings of our religious devotion and concentrate on just one subject - the events leading up to the Betrayal, Passion. Death and Resurrection of the Lord. Anything that might hinder us from that objective, however worthy, must be put aside, for there *is* nothing more important than the recalling of these events. The Church wants us to concentrate on the price of our salvation. Even the images of good saints and portrayals of the crucified Christ cannot stand alongside the reality. For the Church confronts us with the reality of Christ's Passion during these sacred days. As we recall the actual events of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, we make those events present. *No one wants images when we can touch the reality.*

So having cleared our minds of all distractions let us together make one concerted effort. Let us redouble our efforts and renew our personal Lenten commitments. Let us read and reread the gospel passages covering the events in Jerusalem that were taking place at this period of the life of our Saviour. Let us hold close to our Mother the Church, arranging our lives so that nothing hinders us from being present at the liturgical celebrations occurring over these next days. And, the better to do this, let us seek the Lord's forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation. The timetable covering these events in our parish is available now. The Lord, who has done so much for us is asking so little from us: *Could you not watch one hour? (Mark 14:37)*



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**. ✘ 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 (as Lenten Alms) 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 at St Mary's Langley this Friday, **27th March** at 12.30pm (lunch) followed by speaker: Jonathan Jankowski continues our theme "Mission Around the World" speaking about the mission to Turkey. ✘ Pick up a copy of *Walk With Me* (prefaced by our Archbishop) which has a scripture reading and meditation for each day of Lent.

NEXT SUNDAY is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Morning Mass at St Peter's will **begin in the parish hall** with the blessing of palms and the Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. This will be followed by the procession to church for the Mass.

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!

St PETER'S YOUTH GROUP Mondays, 7 - 8.30pm, in the church hall. **This Monday:** Fun with Easter activities, *Easter baking: make a pretzel and a hot cross bun, decorate Easter eggs for an Easter tree and finish with an Easter Egg Hunt!* 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 22nd MARCH 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT (B)** ✕

Sun 22nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Holy Souls
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
Mon 23rd	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 24th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 25th	The ANNUNCIATION of THE LORD	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 26th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 27th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 28th	Feria	<i>5:00-5:30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD (B)** ✕

Sun 29th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass (<i>starts in the hall</i>): Colin Otterson RIP

BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER Holy Week and Easter Service times will need to be delivered by this week. 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. † **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.

EASTER COFFEE Back by popular demand yet again: coffee after Mass at Good Shepherd on **Easter Sunday**.

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!

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

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 especially Angelo Dwight; 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 God's name will be glorified** by the faithful love of those men and women being called by Christ to serve and follow him as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life.
- **For those who suffer persecution for their faith:** may the Lord uphold them and bring them freedom from oppression.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£384.12** (Gift Aided, **£253.00**). ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes throughout Lent: HM Revenue and Customs will match every £1 we save **only if gift-aided**. ♦ Our Lent Appeal brought in **£59** last weekend.

FUNDRAISING FOR RETIRED CLERGY Please speak to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. See the article on the diocesan website: southwarkclergysupportfundcampaign.org/.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL This **Monday, 23rd March**, 7:30pm, at St Francis', Maidstone.

ABORTION and EUTHANASIA On **Tuesday 24th March**, the Vigil of The Annunciation, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. **Pray especially that 'bubble zones' will not be introduced around abortion 'clinics'**. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. www.goodcounselnetwork.com.

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

JUBILEE YEAR of MERCY On 13th March, in St Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis declared the celebration of an extraordinary Holy year. The Jubilee announcement was made during the homily of the penitential celebration with which he opened the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative. This "Jubilee of Mercy" will commence with the opening of the Holy Door in the Vatican Basilica on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 8th December, and will conclude on 20th November, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The Papal Bull will be made public on Divine Mercy Sunday, 12th April, the feast day instituted by Pope St John Paul II and celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter.