



# 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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

Diocesan Website: [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

Prayer: [www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk); [www.holyspiritinteractive.net](http://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**

**THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER**

**19th April 2015**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: ONLY JUST?** "Have you been saved, brother?" said the street evangelist to everyone who passed by. Most people didn't know how to reply and hurried on, embarrassed in case they got caught up in his sales drive. Of course, the way to stop the evangelist in his tracks is to reply, "Well, I've been justified, but my salvation is still being worked out." Justification is a word which frightens people. In the past Christians have fought over whether we are justified simply by believing in Jesus, or by the type of lives we lead. Catholics hold that we are justified by our faith in Christ, but that this faith is valueless if it does not show itself in good works. At points in history, Protestants felt that the Church emphasized the "good works" more than the "work" of Christ in redeeming us. Today we are much closer to resolving this difference of emphasis. To be justified means to be made "just". In scripture "just" means something very specific, more than simply being nice, kind, decent etc. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter calls Jesus "the Holy One, the Just One." A person is just if he is righteous, that is, if he stands in the right relation to God because of his faith. He becomes caught up in the Just One who is Christ.



Our faith teaches us that Jesus, by his death and resurrection, has justified us. God, therefore, does not point the finger of blame or dwell upon our guilt. This does not mean that we are automatically wonderful people. What it does mean, though, is that because of Christ, God has brought in a verdict of acquittal on our behalf. Even though we remain sinners, God declares that we can be granted forgiveness through Christ's actions, a forgiveness that we could not earn for ourselves. So as a result of Christ's work, and in the Holy Spirit, God accepts and values us. It is this gratuitous love of God which gives meaning to Christians' lives and is their cause of hope. No one can compel us to act upon this. Christ has rendered us just before God, but we may choose to live in a way that ignores it. In that sense our reply to the street evangelist remains true: we have been justified, but our salvation is still being worked out. *Author unknown*

**CLERGY SUPPORT FUND CAMPAIGN** At last week's clergy deanery meeting Mr Tom Mullally, Kent Area Leader of the Clergy Support Fund Campaign, showed a video and gave a short presentation on the campaign. He asked the clergy to give the campaign publicity and to ensure that each parish had **two volunteers** to assist in the campaign. A meeting for volunteers is to be held at The Hermitage, West Malling, at 7.30pm on **Monday 11th May**. Please, if anyone is able to attend this meeting let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know. There is no commitment; all we need is for our parish to be represented.

**CHOIR NEWS** Forthcoming rehearsals: this Sunday, **19th April**, after our 10.30am Mass; Tuesday **28th April**, 8 - 9pm. Sung Mass on Sunday **26th April**, 10.30am at St Peter's. **ALL ARE WELCOME !**

**YOUTH GROUP IS BACK!** This Monday **20th April**, 7 - 8.30pm in the church hall. For young people between 10 and 15 years of age. Older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. **New members welcome!**

**PARISH SOCIAL** St Peter's Hall, Saturday **2nd May**. We are still taking bookings.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 19th APRIL 2015**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✕

Sun 19th	Saturday	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Fr Terence Dolan RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
Mon 20th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Kate and Bob, anniversary
Tues 21st	St Anselm	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 22nd	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Colin Goddard RIP
Thu 23rd	<b>St GEORGE</b>	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 24th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 25th	St Mark	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✕

Sun 26th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Richardson RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Alfredo Cannavina RIP

**MINISTRY of THE WORD** Would parish readers (Ministers of the Word) please pick up a copy of the notes arising from last month's meeting.

**BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER** Prayer Visiting in Bearsted: unfortunately we were unable to find someone to coordinate the organization at the moment so there will be no prayer visiting this year. However it is hopeful that prayer visiting will resume next year; plans for this will start in the autumn. There will be more information when it becomes available.

**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**. Application forms are available and details of the course will follow.

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

**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 especially John Kilby (funeral 2pm Monday at Charing Crematorium); 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 awareness among our young people** of the closeness of the Lord in their vocation discernment and their responsibility to recognize and follow him.
- **For those drowned near Libya** as they attempted perilous journeys in difficult and crowded conditions, and for God's blessing on all those at sea.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£361.63** (Gift Aided, **£235.23**). ♦ Our Lent Appeal brought in a further **£72.80** and our Missio Red Boxes **£61.02**. ♦ There is a retiring collection this weekend for the **maintenance of St George's Cathedral**, the mother church of the diocese. This collection helps with the upkeep of the cathedral. ♦ And there will be a further retiring collection next Sunday for **Ecclesiastical Education**, which helps to meet the costs of training students for the priesthood and permanent diaconate. It also supports certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy.

**SOUTHWARK JUSTICE & PEACE** *From prayer to action and back again.* The Southwark Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission will be holding their Spring Assembly next Saturday, **25th April** in the New Barn, Aylesford Priory from 10.30am until 4.00pm. Group facilitators will include Susan Kambalu (CAFOD), Louise Zanre (JRS), Barbara Wilson (London Citizens), James Trewby (Columbans) and Daniel Hale. FairTrade Tea & Coffee available from 10am. Bring lunch or use the café next door. Free - all welcome

**MARRIAGE 'MoT'** Next Saturday, **25th April**, 9.45am – 4.30pm, Holy Cross School, New Malden, Surrey. For couples to explore their relationship more deeply. Details: [marriage2014@virginmedia.com](mailto:marriage2014@virginmedia.com).

**DEANERY MASS for the SICK** The annual Deanery Mass for the sick, with a celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, will take place at Aylesford Priory on Sunday **3rd May** at 3pm. Please make a special effort to enable sick or housebound members of your family or of the parish to attend. Canon Luke Smith of Maidstone will preside and Fr Damian Cassidy O. Carm., the Prior at Aylesford will preach.

**ALTAR SERVERS' RALLY** Aylesford Priory, Spring Bank Holiday, Monday **4th May**. See poster.

**DEANERY FAMILY DAY** At Holy Family School on Saturday **23rd May** from 2 to 9pm, with activities for children, a crèche and barbecue. Booking is required (tel: 01622 752637).

**DEANERY DAY** St Francis' School in Maidstone on Saturday **30th May**, beginning with Mass at 9.30am and ending at 2pm. Items to be discussed will be evangelization, with parishes working together, and the effects of any parish re-organization in the deanery. Fr Paul Mason and Mr Mark Strong will lead the day. Open to all parishioners.

**PAX CHRISTI AGM** Saturday **6th June**, Holy Apostles Church Hall, Pimlico. See notice.

**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** so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop (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**.

**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.

**GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE** Saturday **11th July**, 11am - 4.30pm, Aylesford Priory.

**ROSARIES ABROAD** Please search your cupboards and drawers for surplus rosaries and help the Catenians to get them into the hands of those who will love, cherish and pray them in countries where they are hard to find. A collection box will be available at the back of the church.

**SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES** (with the Catholic Association): in conjunction with Tangney Tours (01732) 886666 will take place from **Friday, 21 to 28 August**. Basic price £770 by Air, £705 by Train. Young helpers (17 - 25) £513 by Coach: contact John Toryusen 01227 272900 or [info@scys.org.uk](mailto:info@scys.org.uk). [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/Lourdes.htm](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/Lourdes.htm). FFI contact Canon Perera 020 8399 9550 or [info@olionline.co.uk](mailto:info@olionline.co.uk)

**COMMON OBJECTIONS to CATHOLICISM** A series of talks addressing popular objections to the Catholic faith, and how to answer them. **Venue:** Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral; **Time:** 7.30 - 9pm. **Remaining Programme:** **23rd April:** 'The Catholic Church is anti-women and anti-gay' – Mrs Joanna Bogle; **30th April:** 'Faith and reason are irreconcilable' – Mr Sebastian Morello **7th May:** 'The Catholic Church is unbiblical' – Dr Mark Nash; **14th May:** 'An all-male priesthood is sexist and an anachronism' - Fr Ignatius Edet; **21st May:** 'The Catholic Church is stuck in the past.' - Ms Marie Mann. These talks will be of interest to all who wish to pass on the faith to others. No charge; please register at the CCF ([office@ccftootingbec.org.uk](mailto:office@ccftootingbec.org.uk) or 020 8672 7684).

**47th ANNIVERSARY of the ABORTION ACT** coming into force in England and Wales is on Monday, 27th April. Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. **Pray especially that 'bubble zones' will not be introduced around abortion 'clinics'**. With over 190,000 abortions each year, your prayer and fasting is urgently needed: [www.goodcounselnetwork.com](http://www.goodcounselnetwork.com).