



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

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

10th May 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: LOVE IS IN THE AIR Depending on whether you're a cynic or a romantic, you'll say it's either money or love which makes the world go round. Christians are convinced that it's love, because of the romantic affair they are involved in with a God who loves them passionately. But the problem with saying "God is love" is that we can't cope with what it really means. It's only three little words, but its significance is vast.

If God is love then God is not fair. Fairness would mean that God would have to treat us as we deserve. But lovers are biased towards those they love, and God is biased in our favour. In fact God is so biased in our favour that, even though we are still sinners, he sends his only Son to reveal even more of his love. God doesn't claim to be fair. He goes further and claims to be loving.

If God is love then so are we. We are created in the image and likeness of God, and therefore it is love which is to be found when we peel away the layers of selfishness, tiredness and cynicism which we have allowed to grow on us over the years. The loving smile of the small child can never be totally eradicated from us. As we grow older it stays with us at our very roots, even when we weave our complicated webs of intrigue. It stays with us because God does. Our call to be Christians is the call to let that love surface and triumph over what wants to drag us down. If God is love then those we love bring us back to God. Those feelings of tenderness, those yearning and aching moments we experience, are all signs that the love of God is present in our world through men and women. God's love is not a thing; it has been made flesh in husbands, wives, family, friends and neighbours. To love another is to experience the love of God, to be a channel through which it passes into the world. Only if God is love can we feel love. That is why God says: Love one another as I have loved you. *Author unknown*



NEPAL EARTHQUAKE APPEAL Please place your donations in the collection (use the envelopes available).

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND CAMPAIGN Thank you to the two volunteers who came forward (each parish is asked to assist in the campaign). The meeting is at The Hermitage, West Malling, at 7.30pm on **Monday 11th May**.

YOUTH GROUP Monday **11th May**, rounders at the park and chips. Usual times 7 - 8.30pm: meet at 7 at the church hall, and come back to the hall again for 8.30. Parents: consent forms needed, please. For young people between 10 - 15 years of age. Older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. New members welcome!

PARISH FINANCE Committee meeting **this Monday**, 7.30pm, at St Peter's.

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsals: Sunday **17th May** after Mass at St Peter's; Tuesday **26th May**, 8 - 9pm at St Peter's. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

St SIMON STOCK 750th Anniversary Celebrations, Aylesford Priory, Saturday **16th May** from 10am onwards: 2.30pm Mass, talk on the origins of the Brown Scapular tradition and enrolment; veneration of the relics.

CONCERT at St MARY'S, THURNHAM: Saturday, **16th May**, 7.30pm. Two local parishioners will be giving a concert at St Mary's, Thurnham: John Hayden, the son of Anne Hayden, will be joined by Rachel Lloyd, the daughter of Beth Lloyd, who has won international acclaim. Tickets are available from the newsagents on Bearsted Green at £10 each, to include a drink for a varied programme.

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

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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 10th MAY 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✕

Sun 10th May	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass
Mon 11th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Fr William Dinan RIP
Tues 12th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 13th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 14th	St Matthias	7.00am	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Fri 15th	Feria (<i>Begins Novena to the Holy Spirit</i>)	10.00am	✕ Mass: For the reunion of all Christians
Sat 16th	St Simon Stock	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THE ASCENSION of THE LORD (B) ✕			
Sun 17th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mary Jenner RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

GIFT AID SCHEME We always welcome new donors and if any parishioner who is a tax payer would like to join the scheme please see myself or Fr Geoff. *Mark Smith, Gift Aid Organiser.* ♦ Our thanks to Mark for all the hard work involved in running this scheme for us. **The new envelopes for those in the scheme are still available.**

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; 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 all those chosen by the Lord** to go and bear fruit as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, that they will respond to his love with conviction in their vocations.
- **As we remember VE Day in 1945,** for all those who are affected by war today: those who are injured or disabled; those who have lost loved ones; those who are now displaced, homeless or hungry. We pray that those in authority and power continue to work for just and lasting peace throughout the world.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£434.20** (Gift Aided, **£293.70**). ♦ The retiring collection for **The Nepal Earthquake Appeal**, realized **£774.10**. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for **World Communications**: supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

EASTER DUTIES The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, **31st May**. Canon 2042 of *The Catechism* states: The third precept ('You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season') guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.

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, Queen's Road, Maidstone on Saturday **30th May**, beginning with Mass at 9.30am and ending at 2.30pm. 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.** Refreshments available; bring a packed lunch.

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. ♣ 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.

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 is available at the back of the church.