



Parish of St Peter, Bearsted
and
The Good Shepherd, Harrietsham
Newsletter



St Peter's Church, Button Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8NJ

Church of The Good Shepherd, Rectory Lane (off East Street), Harrietsham, ME17 1HS

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

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)

Parish Website and YouTube:

www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year C

FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

31st JANUARY 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE BILL BLOGGS SYNDROME About fifty years ago there was a priest in Britain who did a series of unheard of things that shocked and confused many people while convincing others that he was mad. Let's call him Fr Bill Bloggs. Fr Bloggs was a local lad and so was well known by his peers and those with whom he worked. His interest in the liturgy meant that he had studied developments in Europe which convinced him of the need for Catholics to be able to worship in their own language, and he had for a long time been a proponent of "vernacular liturgy" as it was called. His fellow clergy thought him a bit odd but harmless. When Fr Bloggs was appointed to a new parish he began to implement changes that could be used in the future. He built an altar that was able to be used with the priest's back to the people but also with him facing them. He had a source of constantly running water that led to a baptistery with a pool that you could step inside. A little chapel at the side of the sanctuary had no altar but did have a plinth where the tabernacle could later be housed. Instead of a pulpit on high, he had a lectern fashioned from where the scriptures could be proclaimed. All of this only served to convince everyone that Fr Bloggs was at least a little eccentric, if not mildly deranged. A few years later the Church throughout the world was faced with liturgical changes that were a result of the Second Vatican Council. No one was really prepared for the extent of change that was being proposed and voted in by the bishops in Rome. Suddenly there was a need for prayers in English, for new creations, for training courses for clergy and others connected with the liturgy, for re-ordering of sanctuaries, for a complete updating in the way the liturgy and the sacraments were now to be celebrated. Where were we to turn in order to be updated and educated in a new vision of worship? When there was still time to do so, his fellow practitioners failed to seek Fr Bloggs' help because, like Jesus in today's gospel, he was just Joseph's /son. He was nothing special. Who's the son or daughter of Joseph and Mary that we're ignoring today because, like Bill Bloggs, we know where they come from and they're nothing special? *Author unknown*



WELCOME! to Fr John Roche who is celebrating this weekend's Masses. Parishioners will remember Fr John from last November when he gave our diocesan appeal. We do hope he enjoys his brief visit. ♦ Fr Geoffrey is away on his pre-Lent break to focus on preparing the 2017 diocesan calendar; there will be no weekday Masses.

JUSTICE AND PEACE This Bearsted group consists of members from the Methodist Church, Holy Cross and St Peter's. They promote much of our ecumenical outreach on matters of justice and peace. New members are always welcome. We meet monthly at St Peter's on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is **2nd February** at 7.30pm.

St PETER'S CHOIR PRACTICE Wednesday **3rd February**, 8pm - 9pm. New singers welcome - no audition! Contact Mary Hannant (07792 321215) for further details or information.

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 31st JANUARY 2016
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FOURTH SUNDAY (C)** ✕

Sun 31st	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Wellbeing of Steven Coleman
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Christina Rapinet RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 1st Feb.	Feria	Monday - Friday Sorry, no parish Masses	
Tues 2nd	PRESENTATION		
Wed 3rd	Feria		
Thu 4th	Feria		
Friday 5th	St Agatha		
Sat 6th	St Paul and Companions	5:00-5:30pm	Confessions
✕ FIFTH SUNDAY (C) ✕			
Sun 7th <i>Day for the Unemployed</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Len Richardson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Truda Ryans RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

CHILDREN'S LITURGY If you are interested in helping our children to get more out of the Liturgy of the Word at Sunday Mass at St Peter's, please have a word with Fr Geoffrey, Deacon Cyril or Angela Dixon. Angela coordinates the programme which helpers take it in turn to lead. We are always in need of additional leaders/helpers to join our team.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Preparations continue this Friday afternoon at St Peter's.

COFFEE AT ST PETER'S Help still needed please: see Joyce.

LENT Stations of the Cross on the Friday evenings of Lent this year will alternate between St Peter's and Good Shepherd, starting at St Peter's on **12th February**. Lent Fast Day is Friday **19th February**; gift-aided donations to CAFOD will again be doubled this year: the government has agreed match each £1 given. ♦ Bearsted Churches Together Lent Lunches: **19th February to 18th March**, beginning at Holy Cross Church (St Peter's, **4th March**). More information soon.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for February:** *that opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.*
- **In this Holy Year of Mercy,** *that in this coming year we may better reflect the love of God for our world, and open our hearts to show God's mercy towards all people.*
- **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 for the intentions on the notice board.*

Thank you for your offerings last weekend. There will be a retiring collection **next Sunday** for Poorer Parishes; this collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes of the diocese.

MASS OF HEALING Maidstone Deanery, Holy Year of Mercy: Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick Aylesford Priory, **this Saturday, 6th February** at 2pm. Principal Celebrant: Canon Luke Smith, Dean of Maidstone; homily: Rev. Fr Victor McClean Parish Priest of Goudhurst.

JUSTICE AND PEACE **21st May – Spring Assembly, 2016:** 10am – 4pm, North Barn, Aylesford Priory.