



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

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)

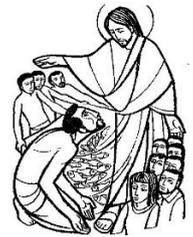
Parish Website and YouTube:
www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year C

FIFTH SUNDAY

7th February 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: DEEPER WATER We all like to feel comfortable and we all have our own little ways of doing things that we've got used to. That's because by nature we're creatures of habit. We don't like to be put out or troubled by having to learn new ways. We like a quiet life. Religious people sometimes use their faith in the same way. It becomes a comfort and a crutch, a way of doing things that makes them feel secure and unthreatened. Faith becomes the spiritual insurance policy that guarantees peace of mind. But at the heart of faith is risk. Faith involves making that leap, walking along the path with no signs, trusting when you know that everything could go wrong. Faith is an invitation not to remain where we are but to seek ever new and more enriching pastures, to stretch ourselves, to be challenged in ways that we cannot even suspect but which will carry their own rewards. Christian faith, in particular, is not an anaesthetic but an adventure. In today's gospel we see Jesus telling Simon Peter to put out the boats into deeper water. Normally you don't catch many fish by the edge of a lake; you have to be bold and move into the middle. And, sure enough, having fished all night long and caught nothing, it was when the disciples obeyed Jesus' request to put out into deeper water that they not only caught fish but netted a catch that astounded them. The deeper the water the more uncomfortable people feel, because you can't touch the bottom. But the deeper the water the greater the catch. Our sluggishness encourages us to remain static in faith. We're content to catch fish when Jesus promises us that we could be catching people, encouraging men and women to come to Christ. We're prepared to do the basic minimum in our faith, to enjoy the view close to the shore, when Jesus promises us a magnificent experience on the high seas. Today's liturgy challenges us to be bolder in our relationship with God and with others, to grow in faith and trust, to move to areas in our lives that are as yet uncharted. Yes, we're bound to have doubts about our safety. But God does not promise us a calm passage, just a safe landing. *Author unknown*



RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✘ Try to get to Mass at least once during the week. ✘ Attend Stations of the Cross either at St Peter's or Good Shepherd on **Friday evenings**. ✘ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✘ Contribute to CAFOD (especially of Lent Fast Day, **19th February**) or our parish Lenten Appeal for MISSIO. ✘ 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: beginning at Bearsted Methodists, 1pm, **19th February**.

LENT FAST DAY Friday **19th February**. Once again this Lent, every pound you give will be increased to £2 by the UK government.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Please remember the children and their families in your prayers, especially as they prepare for the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation.

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 7th FEBRUARY 2016
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SIXTH SUNDAY (B)** ✕
Day for the Unemployed

Sun 7th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Len Richardson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Truda Ryans RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 8th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 9th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 10th	✕ Ash Wednesday ✕ <i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i>	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Barbara Amos RIP
		7.30pm	✕ Mass: Edward Bullock RIP
Thu 11th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 12th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 13th	Feria	<i>5:00-5:30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✕			
Sun 14th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Elizabeth White RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Rita Kimber

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for February:** *that married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.*
- **For all the sick** *and for 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 unable to find work.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£488.36** (Gift Aided, **£342.50**). ♦ This Sunday there is a collection for **Poor Parishes** (formerly *Needs of the Diocese*). This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese. ♦ Throughout Lent we are encouraged to contribute to CAFOD: HM Revenue and Customs will match every £1 we save.

Volunteers needed

As mentioned last weekend Deacon Cyril will be pleased to receive names of anyone who wishes to take part in the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday.

And

We *still* need people to help with the preparation and serving of after mass tea/coffee on Sundays; names to Joyce Gibson please.

And

Helpers for Children's Liturgy are needed; for details see Angela Dixon.

And also

If you can help with cleaning the church, counting the collection, reading at mass or any other aspect of our church community life please have a word with either Fr. Geoff or Deacon Cyril.

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!