



# 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)

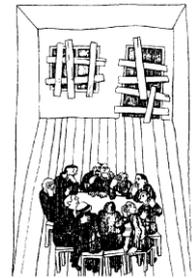
**The Holy Family Primary**, Bicknor Road, Park Wood, Maidstone ME15 9PS (Telephone: 756778)

**St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary**, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

**Parish Website and YouTube:**  
[www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

### Year C EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of THE LORD 27th March 2016

**FAITH IN FOCUS: GET OUT THERE!** If you won the lottery would you keep the news to yourself? The fact is that no matter how good your intentions were, very quickly the news would slip out because there are some things that you just can't keep the lid on. Even if your new car, yacht and foreign villa did not give the game away, the smile on your face would reveal all. It seems odd that the apostles locked themselves in a room after the resurrection because they were afraid of what might happen to them if they went out and preached that Jesus had risen from the dead. It took the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to give them the courage to go and tell everyone what had happened.



Well, we already have the Holy Spirit, and the news that Christ is risen from the dead is too life-changing to be handled with kid gloves. It has to be proclaimed from the rooftops, and it has to be proclaimed by you and me. The resurrection is what makes life worth living. It even makes death worth dying. It is the central point of our Christian faith. As St Paul says, if Christ did not rise from the dead then our faith is in vain. But he did and it isn't.

To say "amen" to the resurrection means that we are adopted as children of God with all the glorious consequences. Any good that there is in the world takes its root from and grows out of the resurrection. It is about promoting life and wholeness. So Easter Sunday is our day of vindication, our source of confidence, our commission to go out and let the world know just what sort of God we have: a God who is prepared to shoulder our weakness and turn it into strength. No longer can sin overpower us, and we even have just cause to laugh in the face of death.

So to a world that knows little of Christ, to a society whose values may be legal but not always moral, and to a Church whose members may sometimes feel under siege from all quarters we say clearly and without shame: Christ has won the victory over all that makes life a drudge, has vanquished defeatism and apathy, has opened for us a way of life that makes sense of our time here on earth and offers the promise of a deep and eternal happiness.

The message of the resurrection is too good to be kept behind Church doors. Let's not be afraid to go out and hit people with it.

*Author unknown*



**EASTER OCTAVE** This is Easter Week: the solemn celebration of the Resurrection spills over this week into one continuous Solemnity of the Lord (a week of Sundays).

**THANK YOU!** Sincere thanks to those of you who worked solidly and quietly in so many ways to ensure that our Holy Week ceremonies were prepared and celebrated with great dignity and devotion. Also, many thanks to those of you who distributed the church service times around Bearsted. And well done to those who turned up over the three great days to make this a truly prayerful experience. ✠ **May God bless you and your family this Easter, Father Geoffrey and Deacon Cyril.**

**EASTER COFFEE** Please stay for a cup of coffee after Mass at Good Shepherd **this morning**. Many thanks to our organizers!

**THE ANNUNCIATION** Since 25th March was in Holy Week (Good Friday), the solemnity of the Annunciation is transferred this year to Monday **4th April**.

**PARISH SOCIAL** Saturday **30th April**. See poster for booking information.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th MARCH 2016**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of THE LORD (C)** ✕

Sun 27th	Saturday	7.30pm	✕ Easter Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Victims of Brussels bombings
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Colin Otterson RIP
Mon 28th	<b>Easter Monday</b>	10.00am	✕ Mass: Special Intention, Greenrod
Tues 29th	<b>Easter Tuesday</b>	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 30th	<b>Easter Wednesday</b>	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 31st	<b>Easter Thursday</b>	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 1st April	<b>Easter Friday</b>	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 2nd	<b>Easter Saturday</b>	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy) (C)** ✕

Sun 3rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: John McNamara RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass

**THE GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION** for the Holy Places is used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. It also helps the work of the Church in the holy Land and neighbouring countries by the relief of poverty and suffering. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres there rely very much on assistance from the Collection, especially at this difficult time. Gift Aid Donors are asked to place their contribution in one of the spare envelopes supplied in your box (writing 'Holy Places' on front) thereby boosting their donation by an additional 25% tax relief. **If you were unable to attend the Good Friday service, please consider making a donation: place it in the collection clearly marked.** Thank you.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- *With the Holy Father for April: that amid political and religious conflicts, Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ.*
- *For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially Baby Fergus Ainsworth (doing well) and Finbarr Egan; 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 the people of Brussels, in the wake of the attacks there, and for those throughout the world who suffer as a result of acts of violence; may those who have died rest in peace, and may those who have been wounded or bereaved know the comfort of God's love.*
- *For all who are receiving the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, and those received into communion in our churches throughout the world this Easter: may this be for them a joyful time of deepening of faith.*

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£340.02** (Gift Aided, **£169.90**). ♦ Throughout Lent we were encouraged to contribute to CAFOD: HM Revenue and Customs will match **every £1 we save**. • Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes: HM Revenue and Customs will match every £1 we save **but only if you are a taxpayer and provide your name and address** (use the 'Give Today' slip in the CAFOD envelope). • The **Easter Collection** today is your **personal offering to the priest** (it is not for parish expenses). *Envelopes are available for your convenience.* Along with the Christmas Collection this is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. Thank you.

**COMING UP:**

**READERS and COMMUNION MINISTERS** There will be a day of recollection at Tenterden on **Saturday 9th April**.

**MARMALADE MORNING** at St Nicholas' Church, Otham, from 9.30, **Saturday 16th April**. Probably the best marmalade and chutney in Kent! For more information, contact Joan Palmer, 202239.

**ALTAR SERVERS' RALLY** Aylesford Priory, **Monday 2nd May**. See poster.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS** Sunday **22nd May**, 10.30am (The Most Holy Trinity).

**MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL** Saturday **18th June**, 3pm. If you are celebrating your 1st / 10th / 25th / 40th / 50th / 60th + wedding anniversary this year, please give in your names as soon as possible so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is a great affirmation of the value of marriage. All are welcome to attend.