



# 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](mailto: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**

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

**3rd April 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: CASTING A SHADOW** When we talk about casting a shadow over something we usually mean it in a negative way. We mean that something is ruined or spoilt. But today, in the Acts of the Apostles, everyone wants to get close to Peter, just on the off-chance that his shadow will fall over them and they will be healed. The Acts of the Apostles is really the account of how the Church grew and spread in the days and years that followed the resurrection of Jesus. It's wonderful to see how the apostles became transformed from frightened men, huddling together in a locked room, into forthright preachers of the word of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit. There's a vibrant sense of excitement in the early chapters as we see that God has not stopped working wonders and marvels and that the number of new Christians starts to grow and the Good News begins to be broadcast over new territories. Of course, because of our baptism, each of us is called to keep this message alive in our world today. We are the new Easter messengers who are fired with enthusiasm by the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. God in Christ has tackled head-on all that corrodes our humanity, all that eats away at our dignity, and has emerged triumphant, even over the ultimate threshold of death. Now we can really live and breathe.



Some time ago the Church in Britain used a slogan which said, "We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song." Being part of an Easter people summons us to be joyful, for we sing of a great victory that God has achieved in Christ. And our Easter song is echoed on every one of the other fifty-one Sundays of the year because each Sunday is a mini-Easter, a making present of the saving acts of Jesus. Every Sunday, even in Lent, is a day not for fasting but for feasting. To "celebrate" liturgy is to broadcast what our "celebrity" God has done and is still doing for us here and now. In worship celebrity and celebration are intimately linked. So let's be the Easter people. Let's be proud of our God. Let's celebrate the wonders God is performing for us. And, yes, let's cast a wide shadow.

*Author unknown*

**THE ANNUNCIATION** Since 25th March was in Holy Week (Good Friday), the solemnity of the Annunciation is transferred this year to this Monday, **4th April**. Mass at St Peter's at 7pm as usual.

**READERS and EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of COMMUNION** Father Kevin Alban from the Friars is leading a morning of recollection at St Andrew's Church, 47 Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6LL next **Saturday, 9th April**. The programme for the morning is: 9.00 to 9.30 arrivals; 9.30 to 11 talk and discussion; 11 to 11.15. break. 11.15 to 12noon. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 12 noon Mass. If you were unable to attend the session last October here at St Peter's (or even if you did) this is your opportunity. Fr Kevin gave an inspiring day.

**DELICES de FRANCE** 7pm, Saturday **30th April** in St Peter's Hall. Tickets for this extravaganza of French wine, food and song (with a very easy quiz, too!) will be available after Masses or can be obtained from Ian Bruce-Russell on 736811 or Jenny Lovelock on 734908. A family ticket, including food and wine or soft drink, will cost £20 (2 adults and 2 children), adults £8 and children £4. Please see the poster on the noticeboard for all other details.

**THANK YOU** Sinead and Julius Ainsworth hope to have Fergus home soon. 'There are not enough words to express our heartfelt thanks for all of your support and prayers...' We keep them in our prayers.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 3rd APRIL 2016  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

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

Sun 3rd	Saturday	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: John McNamara RIP
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass
Mon 4th	<b>The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 5th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Margaret Ann Mason RIP
Wed 6th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 7th	St John Baptist de la Salle	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 8th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 9th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (C)** ✕

Sun 10th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pierina Binnebesel RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Elizabeth Adibe RIP

**JUBILEE YEAR of MERCY PILGRIMAGE** Holy Family Parish has spaces on the coach for this event at St George's Cathedral, leaving Holy Family at 9.15am on **Saturday 16th April**, returning by 5.30pm. Contact Peggy Arnold for details: 01622 734340 / 07702 306194 or e-mail [peggyarnold1@me.com](mailto:peggyarnold1@me.com).

**St FRANCIS' ROOF** At a recent finance meeting it was agreed to donate £2,500 to assist St Francis' in Maidstone with their roof fund. We wish them well as work commences.

**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 all those whose livelihoods are at risk** in the present uncertainty about the future of the steel industry in this country, *that they might discover the support and the solutions they need at this time.*
- **For those killed and injured in the flyover collapse in Calcutta** and for the emergency service personnel and grieving families.

**Thank you:** the sum received on Good Friday for the Holy Places was **£175.67**. ♦ Fr Geoffrey is very grateful for the offerings last Sunday which amounted to considerably more than **£2,000**. ♦ The Lent Appeal brought in another **£70** for CAFOD.

**COMING UP:**

**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.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE** People in Kent concerned about issues of social justice get together to discuss these matters from time to time at the Area Bishop's house ("The Hermitage", More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN). The next such gathering is scheduled to run from 2 till 4 pm on **Sunday 17th April**. All are welcome to join us then, or to contact Phil Kerton on 01474 873802 to get informed about future events. [*Our Concerns: Prayer, Peace, Poverty, Prisoners, Persecution, Pollution.*]

**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 by the end of April 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.