



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

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

1st May 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: PARTING GIFT When two Hebrew-speaking people greet each other, they say "Shalom aleichem" which means "Peace be with you." When two Arabic-speakers give the same greeting, they say "Salaam aleichem." Shalom/salaam refers to the state of integrity, harmony, serenity and completeness within a person's life. Peace is not merely the absence of struggle but the abiding presence of calm. In today's gospel Jesus gives his disciples a parting gift, a gift that he says the world cannot give: peace. To have faith in Jesus and be possessed by the Holy Spirit means that we enjoy the peace of Christ. Of course, in everyday talk, peace usually means the end of war (which often is not peace but simply truce) or the idea of peace and quiet, when we are not troubled and are allowed just to "chill out" or have a few moments to ourselves. But the peace that Jesus offers us is that deep-down sense of wellbeing that comes from knowing that we are loved by God, have been called to be God's children in baptism and are permanently held in the hand of a God who will never let us be lost, unless we absolutely insist on it. Christian peace brings calmness. However, the peace we enjoy is not a static thing; it's something active and dynamic. Consequently, we have to work at keeping this peace alive, which is what Jesus meant when he said "Blessed are the peacemakers". We have to work with the Holy Spirit to keep our relationship with God alive and active and then we have to work for unity among ourselves so that the gift of peace may be a reality in our communities. Some people can have a false sense of security. Others can have a false sense of peace. If our peace is just built on not being troubled by others, not having worries about our job, our family or our finances, then we are simply enjoying freedom from anxiety. If, however, our peace is built on our relationship with God, on our trust in his promises to us and the confidence that his always keeps his word, then we enjoy that peace of Christ which the world cannot give. And this is what we wish each other at every Mass when we turn to each other and say, "Peace be with you"



(Author unknown.)

MARY'S MONTH of MAY "May is Mary's month, and I muse at that and wonder why; her feasts follow reason, dated due to season: Candlemas, Lady Day; but the Lady Month, May, why fasten that upon her, with a feasting in her honour? Ask of her, that mighty mother: her reply puts this other question: What is Spring?: growth in every thing, all things rising, all things sizing Mary sees, sympathizing with that world of good, nature's motherhood. Their magnifying of each its kind with delight calls to mind how she did in her stored magnify the Lord. Well but there was more than this: Spring's universal bliss much, had much to say to offering Mary May. This ecstasy all through mothering earth tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth to remember and exultation in God who was her salvation." (Gerard Manley Hopkins)



FINN EGAN RIP Alicja would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support after Finn died, and for coming to his funeral: it was such a comfort to Alicja. Alicja simply asks that we keep Finn in our prayers. ✠ May he rest in peace ✠.

CHOIR PRACTICE Second Tuesday of each month, 8pm to 9pm, at St Peter's. Next practice, **10th May**. All are welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS Sunday **22nd May**, 10.30am (The Most Holy Trinity). Please keep the children and their families in your prayers: **Elizabeth, Malachy, William** and **Joseph**.

EASTER DUTIES The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, **22nd 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.

CONFIRMATIONS Maidstone area Confirmations will take place on Sunday **9th October**, with a retreat at Whitstable on **8th to 10th July**. The preparation day will be on Sunday **2nd October**. If you wish to be confirmed see Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. (School Year 9 or above).

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 1st MAY 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C) ✕			
Sun 1st May	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Eliza Martin RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Eliza Martin RIP
Mon 2nd	St Athanasius	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Tues 3rd	SS Philip and James	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 4th	The English Martyrs	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 5th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Fri 6th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: John Delahunst RIP
Sat 7th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THE ASCENSION of THE LORD (C) ✕			
Sun 8th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Finn Egan RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass

JUSTICE AND PEACE A meeting will take place on **Tuesday evening** at St Peter's.

CHRISTIAN AID There will be a house to house collection in Bearsted and Thurnham (**15th-21st May**). If **anyone can help**, please give your contact details to Father Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril who will pass them on to the organizer. *They are still short on numbers and for this reason this will probably be the last year they hold this event.* There will also be an ecumenical Christian Aid Week Service on **Sunday 22nd May** at 5pm at Holy Cross Church to which all are warmly invited.

PRAYER VISITING Churches Together in Bearsted will hold this event during the week of **4th July**. More information as we get it.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for May:** that families, communities and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for Evangelization and Peace.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Bruna O'Dea; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For Fr Paul Mason** appointed auxiliary bishop in Southwark, as he prepares for ordination (consecration) on 31st May.
- **We pray for all those who have a part to play in the management and smooth running of the NHS**, so that the needs of those who are sick or vulnerable might be at the forefront of their planning and decision-making.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£375.23** (Gift Aided, **£199.00**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**). ♦ Last Sunday's collection for the **maintenance of St George's Cathedral**, amounted to **£137.74**. ♦ Pope Francis asked that all Catholic Churches in Europe take up a special collection for those who are suffering the consequences of violence in Ukraine **this weekend**. *Listen and Read* soundcloud.com. In this Catholic News podcast, Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, Eparchial Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, explains the Holy Father's appeal and reminds us of the painful human suffering that continues two years after the conflict started. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for **World Communications** which supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Donate online: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/donate-wcd>.

PARISH ACCOUNTS Our thanks to Ian for his clear presentation of the accounts last weekend. We are currently looking into the likely costs of replacing the two boilers at the church and priest's accommodation.

GIFT AID SCHEME Thank you to all donors for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme. The Gift Aid tax reclaim will be submitted soon and if any donor has not paid sufficient tax to cover the amount being reclaimed can they please advise myself or Fr Geoff. 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*

THE PILGRIM Pick up a copy of May's edition of the diocesan newspaper.

RED BOXES We banked **£94.96** from the Red Boxes so far received. Our thanks to Ann for counting!

SAMARA AID A note from Jacqui Elliott: *Thank you for promoting the Samara Aid Appeal over the last few months and thank you for helping Syrian and Iraqi refugees in a practical way. We had a very generous response from the people of Bearsted.* Jacqui hopes to have more information in June's Bearsted parish magazine.

THANK YOU to Valley Park school for choosing St Peter's for their Spring Concert last week and for their donation to the church. Sorry for not advertising this more widely but at least 'Bearstedians' now know where St Peter's is!