



# 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

TRINITY SUNDAY

22nd May 2016

**FAITH IN FOCUS: THE MYSTERIES OF GOD** If we thought we could adequately describe God, then we would surely be fooling ourselves since God is too great for our limited minds to be able to grasp and process. In fact, St Anselm's famous statement about God was that God is that being greater than which nothing can be imagined. If it takes you a while to work out what that means, then don't worry; you're not alone! But we're still left with the problem of having to use some words to talk about God. What we tend to do is to use our daily human experience to try to come close to what God is really like. The bible compares God to a parent, usually to a father but sometimes to a mother. Parents are the authors of life for their children. So to call God a father is to say that he is responsible for all that lives and breathes in our universe. He is our creator. When we talk about Jesus as the Son, it does not mean that he is less important than the Father; it simply implies closeness of relationship. We speak of the Son as communicating what God is, as the loving embodiment of God who does not want to see us floundering in the ups and downs of life, but wants us to enjoy every moment of our God-given existence to the full. He is our redeemer. The Holy Spirit is on a par with both Father and Son, and is the natural outflowing of their love. The Spirit is the daily presence of God among us, inspiring us to good, uplifting us to better things, leading us into the truth. He is our sustainer. This is how we tend to talk about God, inductively; using our own life experiences as a measuring-stick for what God is and what God does. But it comes as no surprise to learn that each of the three persons in this Trinity is co-equal and that their activity overlaps. So if we want to be correct we cannot simply equate the Father with being the creator, because the Son and the Holy Spirit both create, the father and the Spirit redeem and the Son and the Father sustain! Maybe what we can do on this feast of the Trinity is simply to thank God just for being our God and for bothering to have us as his sons and daughters. We may never understand God until we see him face to face. But that shouldn't stop us loving him. (Author unknown.)



**We are delighted to celebrate with our children, Joseph, Elizabeth, Malachy and William,** who are making their First Communions at 10.30 Mass today. Congratulations and best wishes to them! Our thanks to Shelagh and Eileen, our catechists, and to the parents for all their time and support in leading our children to this special day. Truly "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us." (Romans 5:5.)

**CONFIRMATIONS** "The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285.) 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**. As before we are inviting those who are not confirmed (School Year 9 or above) to apply. We hope to be able to run a short course in Bearsted later in the summer. If you wish to be confirmed see Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 22nd MAY 2016  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (C)** ✕

Sun 22nd May	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Christine Thompson RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ First Communion Mass: For the children and their families
Mon 23rd	Feria	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues 24th	Feria	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wed 25th	St Bede	<b>No Mass</b>	
Thu 26th	St Philip Neri	<b>No Mass</b>	
Fri 27th	St Augustine of Canterbury	<b>No Mass</b>	
Sat 28th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions

✕ **THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (C)** ✕

Sun 29th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Finn Egan RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Robert (Bob) Smith RIP

**CHRISTIAN AID** There is an ecumenical Christian Aid Week Service this **Sunday, 22nd May** at 5pm at Holy Cross Church to which all are warmly invited.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST** Customarily, at Mass on Corpus Christi, ministers renew the commitment to their ministry. Ministers are therefore asked to renew their commitment at whatever Mass they attend on Corpus Christi, next Sunday, **29th May**.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for May:** *that families, communities and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for Evangelization and Peace. On this day of prayer for the Church we pray for the Pope and the Bishops: may the Holy Spirit bring them wisdom, understanding and compassion. We pray for ourselves.*
- **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 who have died in the loss of the Egyptian airliner,** *that they may rest in peace, and that their family and friends may find comfort in their bereavement and answers to their questions.*
- **For those Nigerian girls who were kidnapped two years ago:** *that many more of them may be found and returned to their families safe and well.*

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£374.61** (gift aided, **£206.10**; weekly standing orders amount to **£149**).

**FATHER PAUL MASON** Pope Francis has appointed Father Paul Mason as the new Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark. Father Paul is currently Episcopal Vicar for Kent. His Episcopal Ordination will take place in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark, **on Tuesday 31st May**, at midday, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He will join Bishop Patrick Lynch and Bishop Paul Hendricks as Auxiliary Bishops of the Diocese of Southwark, succeeding Bishop John Hine.

**PRAYER VISITING** Churches Together in Bearsted will hold this event during the week of **4th July**. Please give your name to Bob Piggott ([bob\\_piggott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bob_piggott@hotmail.co.uk)) if you are willing to give up a short time (45-60 minutes) on a weekday night that week.

**CARETAKER NEEDED** St Francis' Parish, Maidstone, is looking to employ a part time caretaker for general duties around the church, presbytery, old school buildings and grounds. The post is for 10 hours a week (currently £7.80 per hour with annual increments); ideally 2 hours a day, Monday to Friday but this is negotiable. A full job description is available from the St Francis' Parish Office, telephone: 01622 756217 or email: [stfrancis\\_parity@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stfrancis_parity@yahoo.co.uk). If you are interested in the position please send a letter or email of application for the attention of Canon Luke Smith, Grove House, 126 Week Street, Maidstone, ME14 1RH.