



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

THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST

29th May 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: 360 DEGREES The solemnity of Corpus et Sanguis Christi, as today's feast is more properly called, is a 360° celebration because it asks us to look in all directions. We look back to the sacrifice of Christ and to the Last Supper. Christ asked us to take, bless, break and share bread and wine which through the power of the Holy Spirit become his body and his blood.

The basis of this feast is that Christ is present, really present, in our world in many ways but none more sublime than in the Eucharist.

Christ is the food and drink of life (which is why we are encouraged to complete the symbolism by both eating and drinking at the Eucharist). It is the Eucharist which sustains us on our daily journey of faith and which brings us strength, comfort and courage as we strive to make God's name known and loved. We also look inwards. Familiarity with the Eucharist has its dangers: St Paul had to warn the early Christians about their behaviour which was a scandal to non-Christians who witnessed their drunken and raucous celebrations. We look to ourselves because eating the body and blood of Christ demands faithfulness to what Christ teaches us. Are we really striving to lead a life that is more closely linked with Jesus Christ, or are we simply going through the worship motions? We look outwards too. Although there are many of us at the celebration we form one body because we share the one bread and one cup. Eucharist challenges us to unity, to care and concern for each other, to genuine community, to fully participative worship and to being the "body of Christ" or Church for each other. Our celebration should not only resound within the Church but also have an impact on the world.

And finally we look to the future. No liturgical feast is ever simply about the present, about what we are doing now; every feast has a future dimension. On Corpus et Sanguis Christi we are reminded of St Paul's words that when we eat and drink the body and blood of the Lord we proclaim his death until he comes again. Our actions are forward-looking since we are rehearsing that moment when we shall meet Christ face to face and be called to share the Eucharistic banquet which passes all our expectations, when we join family and friends who have gone before us in faith, and unite with angels and saints in praising and thanking our God. *(Author unknown.)*

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, **this weekend**. The renewal will take place after the homily; ministers will be called forward.

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 29th MAY 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (C) ✕			
Sun 29th May	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Finn Egan RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Robert (Bob) Smith RIP
Mon 30th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Michael Koppel RIP
Tues 31st	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	N o M a s s (<i>Episcopal Ordination at the Cathedral</i>)	
Wed 1st June	St Justin	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr David Freeman RIP
Thu 2nd	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 3rd	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 4th	The Immaculate Heart of the B.V.M.	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ TENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C) ✕			
Sun 5th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Mary Shelagh, Countess of Lisburne RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Daniel Daly RIP

CONGRATULATIONS to **Joseph, Elizabeth, Malachy and William** who celebrated their First Communion Day last Sunday. Our thanks to Shelagh and Eileen, our catechists, and to the parents and all those who helped to make this such a memorable day for the families and for our parish.

JUSTICE & PEACE A meeting will be held **this Tuesday** at 7.30pm at St Peter's.

CHOIR PRACTICE Second Tuesday of each month, 8pm to 9pm, at St Peter's. Next practice on **Tuesday 14th June**. All are welcome.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June:** that seminarians and men and women entering religious life may have mentors who live the joy of the gospel and prepare them wisely for their mission.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Fr Michael Koppel (of Plymouth diocese) and Fr David Freeman (of Portsmouth diocese); for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For all those who are facing exams at this time**, that they might approach their exams in confidence and peace, and that they achieve the results they need.
- **For families facing job insecurity, redundancy and possible unemployment**, that they may find hope and a good solution to their many difficulties.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£423.80** (gift aided, **£114.10**; 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, **this 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. For this reason there will be no Mass in the parish this Tuesday.

AYLESFORD YOUTH FESTIVAL Saturday 25th June – 10am to 7pm. Join groups from the Diocese and Southwark Catholic Youth Service for a day of conversation, games, music, art and drama. The day concludes with Mass at 6pm. Please book in advance. £10 per person. School years 7-11 welcome. Contact jean@scys.org.uk to book, or call 01227 272900.

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) if you are willing to give up a short time (45-60 minutes) on a weekday night that week.