



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

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

21st February 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: There's an air of anxiety in our scripture readings at the liturgy today. God shows Abram (before he became Abraham) that he will stand at the top of a lineage with many descendants and that he will take possession of the land. But Abram is still worried about the future: "My Lord, how am I to know that I shall inherit it?" And God has to reassure Abram, to keep him persevering in faith. The same is true with Peter, James and John. Jesus gives them a real boost to their faith by letting them see him being transfigured on the mountain top, talking with Moses and Elijah... a sure sign that he is from God. But Peter, like Abram, is worried that things won't always be like this and so he tries to get three booths or tents set up to preserve the atmosphere of the moment. Both Abram and Peter are privileged to be in the presence of God, yet they are worried about the road ahead and whether or not they will really see things through. Sound familiar? No matter how strong our faith is, we still have moments when we wonder what it's all about, whether we can cope with present difficulties and how we will match up to the demands of the future. Of course, that's what faith is all about. If faith were a manual of answers, an instruction book that couldn't fail, then it would no longer be faith. When we stop praying for perseverance in faith we have become muscular Christians who think they can reach heaven by religious effort. But as we go through life we come across people and events that strengthen our faith. It seems that when everything is rumbling on in a mundane way we suddenly are given a glimpse of what lies beyond. These mountain-top experiences boost our faith because they redirect our hope and recharge our enthusiasm. Last week we began Lent by looking at the temptations that lie in wait for us as we try to follow Christ. This week we are given a shot in the arm as we glimpse something of the glory of Jesus in the Transfiguration. So Lent isn't just about sin. It's also about faith, promise, perseverance, hope, dreams, compassion, trust, reconciliation and renewal. Have a Happy Lent! *Author unknown*



LENT FAST DAY CAFOD Lent Fast Day, please hand in your envelopes this week. Please continue to give as much as you can so that more girls around the world are able to live lives free from the burden of the long walk for water. For details, visit cafod.org.uk/privacy.

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✕ Try to get to Mass during Lent **at least once** during the week. ✕ Attend Stations of the Cross either at St Peter's or Good Shepherd on **Friday evenings**. ✕ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✕ Contribute to CAFOD, which is our parish Lenten Appeal this year. ✕ Give up a favourite luxury *but keep it between you and the Lord (don't tell people what you have 'given up' for Lent)*! ✕ Try to get to the Lent Lunches in Bearsted: continuing (the editor is led to believe) at Bearsted Methodists, 12.30 this Friday, **26th February** with Canon Caroline Pinchbeck, speaking on diocesan mission initiatives (Madagascar or refugee work). We host the lunch here at St Peter's on **4th March**.

CHAIR of St PETER the APOSTLE This Monday, **22nd February**. No we haven't set aside a feast day for a 'chair' as such! Like the committee chair, this chair refers to the occupant, not the furniture. Its first occupant stumbled a bit, denying Jesus three times and hesitating to welcome gentiles into the new Church. Some of its later occupants have also stumbled a bit, sometimes even failed scandalously. As individuals, we may sometimes think a particular pope has let us down. Still, the office endures as a sign of the long tradition we cherish and as a focus for the universal Church.

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 21st FEBRUARY 2016
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (C)** ✕

Sun 21st	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Noel Millbrook RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Vera Seager RIP
Mon 22nd	Chair of St Peter	7.00pm	✕ Mass: For our benefactors
Tues 23rd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
Wed 24th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Elizabeth White RIP
Thu 25th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 26th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Peter Gollop RIP
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 27th	Feria	<i>5:00-5:30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (C)** ✕

Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Tom Husband RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Charles Ryan RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

FINANCE COMMITTEE There is a meeting this Monday, **22nd February**, at 7.30pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Please remember the children and their families in your prayers, especially as they prepare for the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation **this Friday**.

PASTORAL TEAM There is a meeting on **Tuesday 1st March** at 7.30pm at St Peter's.

St PETER'S CHOIR Wednesday **2nd March**. 8pm to 9pm: practising for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. All welcome.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for February:** *that opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially *Baby Fergus Ainsworth; for those recently dead, especially Barbara Casey; 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 Syria;** *that peace, forgiveness and reconciliation will replace the fighting and violence that has destroyed people's lives and devastated their land.*
- **For European leaders** *as they grapple with the complicated situations that face them; may the Lord grant them the wisdom, compassion and humility to make good decisions.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£404.87 (Gift Aided, £165.87)**. ♦ Throughout Lent we are encouraged to contribute to CAFOD: HM Revenue and Customs will match **every £1 we save.**

WALK WITH ME This pocket size publication is once again available and is a good source of devotion for each day of Lent. There is a preface by our Archbishop.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD **Friday 4th** and **Saturday 5th March** at St Francis', Maidstone. An expanded opportunity for continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (apart from Mass times), devotions and extended times for Confession. Contributions from local deanery parishes (see poster).

BEARSTED AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER As usual we are looking for donations of Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, which will take place *before* Easter on Holy Saturday, **26th March**. It seems that St Peter's share is in the region of 82 eggs. Thank you.

DEANERY There is to be a meeting of the Deanery Pastoral Council at Holy Family, **Monday 7th March**.

BBC RADIO 4 LENT TALKS Wednesdays in Lent 8.45-9.00pm. The Christian season of Lent is traditionally a time for self-examination and reflection on the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.

Throughout Lent, six writers will reflect on these events through a variety of locations as they explore the theme of “**Lent in the Landscape**”. The second of six episodes.