



# 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**

**THIRD SUNDAY of LENT**

**28th February 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS:** LAST CHANCE SALOON? I always meant to sort out that kitchen shelf and now that it's crashed to the floor with all the crockery it's too late. The same goes for that little chip in the windscreen that now looks like a spider's web, and of course there's that faulty old plug on the TV set which probably caused last night's loud explosion during Coronation Street! We love to put things off. Yes, we'll get round to them some day but at the moment I'm a bit tired, a bit busy or a bit too distracted to do anything about them. There's always tomorrow. In today's gospel, one of the most frightening episodes according to many people, Jesus issues a real warning. Don't think that you can put off repentance until tomorrow because repentance is a "now-thing" and, what's more, you never know what's lurking around the corner. He reminds his listeners of two awful events that had just taken place in and around Jerusalem: a murderous attack on worshippers in the Temple, and a disaster that killed eighteen people when a building collapsed on them. Do you think these people had any idea they wouldn't return home that day, says Jesus, and do you think they were more guilty than anyone else? Of course not. Then, he tells them, you too must repent now or you will perish like they did. Lent reminds us that repentance is not a once-and-for-all action; we don't make a grand act of repentance and then sit back and relax. Repentance is a constant activity of the Christian, not continually worrying about our stance before God, but striving all the time to be as close to God as we can by the way we treat other people. Repentance means taking a regular reality check that what we are doing and saying is consistent with our desire to belong to God's family. And although we concentrate on repentance a great deal in Lent, it is something that should be a daily activity for all of us, and we need to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be able to repent. Is there something in your life that niggles at you? Something that you know you should do something about which will improve your quality of life with God and with others? Well, don't worry about it; you can always do something about it tomorrow, after Easter, in the summer or in the run-up to Christmas... Or perhaps not!



*Author unknown*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** Please remember the children and their families in your prayers: the children celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation last week and are now preparing for their First Eucharist on **Sunday 22nd May**.

**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 here at St Peter's, 12.30 this Friday, **4th March** with Hannah, formerly of Christian Aid, speaking about her work in Gaza.

**PASTORAL TEAM** There is a meeting this **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.

**DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 28th FEBRUARY 2016**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (C)** ✕

Sun 28th	Saturday	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Tom Husband RIP
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Charles Ryan RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 29th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 1st	St David	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Adriana Bullock RIP
Wed 2nd	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 3rd	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 4th	Feria <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
		<b>12.30pm</b>	Lent Lunch ( <i>in St Peter's Hall</i> )
		<b>7.30pm</b>	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 5th	Feria	<i>5:00-5:30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (C)** ✕

Sun 6th	Saturday	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Irene and Newport Horne RIP
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Eric Smith RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

**JUSTICE AND PEACE** A meeting will be held **this Tuesday, 1st March.**

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 29th February -13th March.** This year's theme is BREAKFASTS! PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March:** *that those Christians who are discriminated against or are being persecuted on account of their faith, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the whole Church.*
- **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; 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 Fiji,** in the wake of the cyclone that has devastated their land: may they receive the aid they need to enable them to recover and rebuild their homes and lives.
- **For all those preparing for baptism,** confirmation and reception into communion in our churches this Easter: may this be for them a joyful time of growth and deepening of faith.

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£468.93** (Gift Aided, **£303.76**). ♦ Your Lent Fast Day savings brought in **£163.00**. Throughout Lent we are encouraged to contribute to CAFOD: HM Revenue and Customs will match **every £1 we save.**

**LENT REFLECTIONS** The Southwark Stewardship Team is offering 'online' daily meditations. Simply log on and sign up at <http://eepurl.com/bF0b6P>.

**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. ♦ Holy Week and Easter Service times will need to be delivered as usual. Please pick up a set for a road near you.

**DEANERY** There is to be a meeting of the Deanery 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 third of six episodes.