



# 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**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**15th May 2016**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: ADVOCATING CHANGE** There's a medieval song that was sung in Latin at Pentecost while the deacon carried the gospel-book in the procession at Mass, before proclaiming the gospel itself. It's called the Pentecost Sequence and it contains line after line that speaks about the gift of the Holy Spirit. It describes the Spirit as Lord of Light, Father of the Poor, Best Consoler, Sweet Comfort, Healer, Giver of Strength, Renewer, etc. In today's gospel Jesus says he will ask the Father to send the "Advocate". We tend to think of an advocate as someone who campaigns on a particular topic: an advocate for equal rights or an advocate for better housing conditions. In fact, the word advocate really means someone whom you call to stand by your side in solidarity. It's the equivalent of the other strange sounding word, Paraclete.

Pentecost rounds off Jesus' saving work on earth as the Spirit completes the action of Jesus in taking on our humanity and humanising it to the point where it can glimpse the divine. What we see happening at that first Pentecost is that Jesus has not left us alone like orphans; he has sent the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to be by our side. And the effects are immediate. From being a frightened bunch of weak men, huddled for safety behind a locked door, the apostles are transformed by the Spirit's presence, are emboldened to go out and confront their fears, proclaiming their faith in Christ to people from every race and nation. Someone once said that we should pray as if everything depended on God but act as if everything depended on us. Certainly this is true of the Spirit. We are only too aware of our weakness and our inability to "go it alone" when it comes to living out our faith and telling others about it. That's why we pray constantly for the outpouring of the Spirit in our lives, that we may be transformed, strengthened, inspired and supported in our Christian lives. One thing that we cannot do is to restrict the Spirit. If we ask for the Advocate then we agree to an adventure in faith that has no boundaries. After all, we call on the Spirit just to make us feel good; we ask for the Spirit to come and transform creation: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth!

*(Author unknown.)*



**PENTECOST** The Day of Pentecost is the culmination of the Easter season. It is also referred to as "Whit Sunday", from the phrase "White Sunday", referring to the practice of the newly baptized appearing in their white baptismal garments on that day. The paschal candle is now moved to the baptistry and is lit at the celebration of Baptism and the candles of those baptized are lit from it. It is also used at funerals. **EASTER DUTIES** The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, **next Sunday**. 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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS** Next Sunday, **22nd May**, 10.30am (The Most Holy Trinity). Please keep the children and their families in your prayers: **Joseph, Elizabeth, Malachy** and **William**. There will be a rehearsal for the children **this Saturday** at 10am at St Peter's.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK SERVICE** To mark the end of Christian Aid Week, Bearsted Area Churches Together are holding an ecumenical service on Sunday **22nd May** at 5pm at Holy Cross. There will be a guest speaker, and refreshments afterwards to allow us to share in fellowship with each other. All are welcome. For more information speak to Bob Piggott.

**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, **29th May**.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 15th MAY 2016 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ PENTECOST SUNDAY, WHITSUN (C) ✕			
Sun 15th May	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Anne Sheridan RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Mary Jenner RIP
Mon 16th	St Simon Stock	7.00pm	✕ Mass: In honour of Our Lady
Tues 17th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Charles Richardson RIP
Wed 18th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 19th	St Dunstan	<b>No Mass</b>	
Fri 20th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 21st	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (C) ✕			
Sun 22nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Christine Thompson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ First Communion Mass: For the children and their families

**CAFOD** The Catholic charity is very grateful to us for the support we showed during its Lent Appeal. A grand total of **£3.5 million** was achieved from donations from throughout the UK, and as promised the government will give the full amount promised at the start of the campaign: another **£3.5 million**. Please continue to donate, but be aware that this will no longer be matched by the government.

**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.

#### 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 especially Fr Charles Richardson; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **For migrants struggling to escape unjust regimes,** *that they find compassion, consolation and welcome without discrimination.*

<p><b>Thank you</b> for your offerings last week to help run our parish: <b>£375.42</b> (Gift Aided, <b>£214.50</b>; weekly standing orders amount to <b>£149</b>). ♦ Last Sunday's collection for <b>World Communications</b> amounted to <b>£157.49</b>.</p>
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**CHRISTIAN AID** This week there is 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 next **Sunday, 22nd May** at 5pm at Holy Cross Church to which all are warmly invited.

**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 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.