



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 A

EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

26th February 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY! Imagine shouting at the bailiffs through the letterbox that you haven't paid your bills because you have been living your life like the lilies of the field or the birds of the air. How far would it get you? Jesus' advice not to worry about financial concerns rings hollow in our twenty-first century ears, and so we switch off and dismiss Jesus' advice as a little idealistic to say the very least. But is Jesus' advice as idealistic as we suspect?



Recently, a breakfast television programme invited its viewers to participate in a 'happiness challenge'. Part of the programme looked at how meditation can actually change the brain. Studying brain scans, scientists suggested that an eight-week meditation programme appeared to make measurable changes in brain regions associated with memory, sense of self, empathy and stress. It's interesting that we can look at a scientific experiment as though it were telling us something new. The study only tells us what Jesus was telling us over two thousand year ago. Worry is counterproductive and anxiety is a poor master. Of course we have to work to pay our bills and clothe our children, but once we start to get worried and depressed about our day-to-day responsibilities then we become enslaved and blinkered. If our daily goal is simply to put a meal on the table then we must eventually ask the question, are we working to live or living to work? It's a poor master that motivates us by worry and gives us no fulfilment in return. Jesus urges us to overcome our worldly concerns to create a culture of Godliness and ultimate fulfilment.

Chapel Bell

✘ **ASH WEDNESDAY** ✘ the start of Lent, is this week: **1st March**.

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✘ Try to get to Mass 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 (especially of Lent Fast Day, **10th March**) or our parish Lenten Appeal. ✘ 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: beginning at Holy Cross, Bearsted Methodists, 12.30pm, Friday **10th March**.

FROM the DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP TEAM Stewardship is a spirituality that is accessible to everyone; the concept of gratitude to God for his personal gifts to us in our lives acts as a focus and provides the right language for our people's lived faith. For parishioners it can resonate with their own lives, their responsibilities, character and experiences. Stewardship can provide the vocabulary and spiritual imagery to describe, affirm, sustain and promote much of what we already do in our parishes and in our lives; this spirituality can provide a cohesion and closeness to Our Lord that may still be lacking in our lived discipleship. See: <http://eepurl.com/bF0b6P>.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 26th FEBRUARY 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✕
Day for the Unemployed

Sun 26th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Irene and Newport Horne RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass
Mon 27th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 28th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 1st March	✕ Ash Wednesday ✕ <i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i>	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
		7.30pm	✕ Mass: Adriana Bullock RIP
Thu 2nd	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 3rd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Margaret Mason RIP
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 4th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 5th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Charles Ryan RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Patrick Dempsey

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Please remember the children and their families in your prayers; the children are now preparing for their First Eucharist on **Sunday 21st May**.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting this Monday evening at the presbytery.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for February – comfort for the afflicted:** *that all those who are afflicted, especially that the poor, refugees and marginalised may find welcome and comfort in our communities.*
- **With the Holy Father for March – support for persecuted Christians:** *that persecuted Christians may be comforted by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; and the intentions on the notice board.
- **Anniversaries this week** (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Carmel Laylor and Roma Bate. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £454.34 (Gift Aided, **£263.37**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ This weekend there is a collection for **Poor Parishes** (formerly Needs of the Diocese). This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

A LIFETIME of LOVING A day exploring spouses' relationships in the light of Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation 'The Joy of Love', **Saturday 4th March** at St Teresa's, Ashford. See poster or contact Carole: 07983 525727, or email mflkent@gmail.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE People in Kent concerned about issues of social justice get together to discuss these matters from time to time at the Area Bishop's house at West Malling, ME19 6HN. The next such gathering takes place on Sunday **5th March** from 2.00 to 4.00pm. All are welcome to join us then, or to contact Phil Kerton on 01474 873802 to get informed about future events. ["Our Concerns: Prayer, Peace, Poverty, Prisoners, Persecution, Pollution."]

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE 7 nights half board, flight and airport transfers 22nd - 29th April and 13th - 20th May, Gatwick to Dubrovnik, €459 per person. Email jackiemulort@btinternet.com or call on 020 3239 8662.