



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

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

5th March 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: The Penitential Season is well and truly with us. But penance is necessary at all times. It is therefore worth reminding ourselves of the teaching of the Church on **Friday Penance**.

"In accordance with the mind of the universal Church, the Bishops of England and Wales wish to remind us that every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. They believe it is important that all the faithful again be united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance because they recognize that the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and a common witness.

The law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to:

- abstain from meat or some other food;
- abstain from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement;
- make the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross;
- fast from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps by giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad;
- make a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely.

The bishops [of England and Wales], from September 2011, decided to re-establish the practice that this penance should be fulfilled simply by abstaining from meat and by uniting this in prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake.

Failure to undertake the penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin. However, penance is part of the life of every Christian and the intention to do penance on Friday is of obligation."

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 on **Lent Fast Day, this Friday, 10th March**), which is 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, 12.30pm, this coming Friday, **10th March** (meet our own Fr Bart, from Walderslade, talking about his ministry to the Polish community). *For ideas of how to help, see: <http://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent>. Envelopes are available for your savings; they can be placed in the weekly offertory.

LENTEN LITURGY (from the directory) During Lent the Gloria is not used, except on Feasts and Solemnities; it is not permitted to decorate the altar with flowers, and the use of musical instruments is allowed only so as to support the singing (Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Solemnities and Feasts are exceptions to this rule); Alleluia is not said, even on Feasts and Solemnities: care should be taken in this respect in the choice of hymns and gospel acclamation.

LENT LUNCHESES Venues and bookings as follows: **10th March** (as above); **17th March** at Bearsted Methodists (Roz on the work of the Franciscans in Canterbury); **24th March** at St Peter's Catholic Church (Ray Borrett on chaplaincy work at Bluewater); **31st March** at St Mary's, Thurnham (Emma on the work of the



LENT

Princess Organisation); **7th April** at St Mary's, Langley (*speaker to be announced*). • As before, we meet for

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 5th MARCH 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ 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
Mon 6th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 7th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 8th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Michael Clifton RIP
Thu 9th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 10th	Feria Lent Fast Day	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr David Hutton RIP
		(H) 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 11th	Feria	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Peter Gollop RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass Eric Smith RIP

lunch (provided) at 12.30 followed by the talk, which lasts half an hour including questions.

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**.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE There will be a meeting at the usual venue **this Tuesday** evening.

FLOWER FESTIVAL at GOOD SHEPHERD To celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday (**7th May**) we are pleased to announce that we are holding a Flower Festival at Harrietsham. It will run from Friday **5th** to Sunday **7th May** from 10am to 4pm each day. For all those who have agreed to help, and others who are interested, there will be a meeting at Good Shepherd, next Saturday, **11th March**, at 10.30am.

GIFT AID Envelopes for the year are now available to pick up from the back of the church.

St FRANCIS' See the poster giving details of the Lenten Retreat Programme at St Francis'. All are welcome to take part.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **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 especially Anne Restighini; for those who have died recently especially Fr Michael Clifton and Fr David Hutton, 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): ✕ Bob French, Joan Linden, Leslie Cuming, Maria Bell, John Donlon, Alan Harris and Christina Brown. ✕
- **For all those who are involved in politics around the world.** May all politicians always put the needs of the people they represent before any personal gain

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£379.35** (Gift Aided, **£205.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ The collection for **Poor Parishes** (formerly Needs of the Diocese) amounted to **£205.32**.

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>.