



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

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

12th March 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: LOOKING FOR A SIGN "It seemed like a good idea at the time."

How many times have we heard people say this? It's usually when they walked straight into a disaster with their eyes closed. But sometimes it really was a good idea. It's just that the passing of time makes it harder to be as enthusiastic about it as previously. This must have been true for Abraham. Full of trust, he set out from his home on a trek that looked sheer madness, all because God promised him land and descendants. When later he found himself standing poised to kill his own son with a knife, he must have had second thoughts. Or Moses. Full of the joys of spring he comes from the mountain, having met God and struck a deal. Then when the complaints start flying from the Israelites and the Pharaoh is on his back, he too must have wondered what he had got himself into.



Little did Peter, James and John think that the Transfiguration was only the start of their problems. They were so amazed at what they saw, especially Peter, that they wanted it to last for ever. They had shared in a special way in God's glory. Of course, it was for that reason that they were destined to suffer; there is no glory without the cross. And it was the memory of those events on the top of the mountain which would later keep them going.

So too with us. The Transfiguration story which comes towards the beginning of Lent reminds us of what is on offer. If we are prepared to follow Jesus then we will share in that glory which is his as the beloved "chosen one". As we travel on our Lenten journey we keep the promise before our eyes. But like Abraham, Moses and the apostles, we too have moments - not to mention years - when it can be difficult to hold on to this belief. Things happen in our lives which shake us to the foundations and make us question what our lives and our faith are all about.

That's when our faith is really put to the test, when it stops being a cosy Creed and has to be an act of trust which we live by. In those times we need very clear signs to point us in the direction of Christ's promises.

That's what the Transfiguration is for. *(Author unknown)*

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✕ Try to get to Mass (or *liturgy* this week) 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* ✕ 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 (see below) *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.

THIS WEEK Along with many of the priests from Kent, Fr Geoffrey is away on an in-service training course (*the date was set by the diocese*). For this reason there are no parish Masses during the week; however, there will be services of the Word and Holy Communion on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

St PETER'S CHOIR Next practice, **Tuesday 14th March** 8pm to 9pm.

LENT LUNCHESES Venues and bookings as follows: **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 Princess Organisation); **7th April** at St Mary's, Langley (*speaker to be announced*). • As before, we meet for 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**.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th MARCH 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **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
Mon 13th	Feria	Sorry, no parish Mass	
Tues 14th	Feria	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Wed 15th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 16th	Feria	Sorry, no parish Mass	
Fri 17th	St Patrick	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 18th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 19th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Breda O'Malley RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Edward O'Connor RIP

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. **24 HOURS FOR THE LORD: Friday 24th and Saturday 25th 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 EASTER EGG APPEAL Churches Together will be holding their Easter Egg Hunt as usual on Holy Saturday (**15th April**) and as before the churches in Bearsted are providing the eggs. Each has a set number (ours is around 80) to donate and they are given as a gift to all the children that take part (200-300). The clues are all based around the Passion and Jesus's message, so for many it will be the only contact they have with the Christian message over the weekend. Oh, and it's fun! If you wish to donate, please leave your eggs (no small 'creme' type eggs please) in the outer sacristy and Bob Piggott will collect. ♦ Holy Week and Easter Service times will need to be delivered as usual. Please pick up a set for a road near you.

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.

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; for those who have died recently, especially Edward Harmon; 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): ✕ Mary Nutley, Colin Otterson, Percy Josling, John Drummy, May Sanity and Allan Harrison. ✕
- **For all those who are need of social care** whether at home or in care homes; we pray that appropriate help and adequate funding may enable all those who need help and care to receive it.

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>.

LENT TALKS: *BBC Radio*. Six people well known in their fields reflect on the story of Jesus' ministry and Passion from the perspective of their own personal and professional experience. Tune in on Wednesday evenings to BBC Radio 4 at 8.45.