



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 EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of THE LORD 16th April 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: RISING STAR It's quite remarkable that people will still believe in horoscopes these days. They actually hold as true the fact that physical mass floating around the universe can have a bearing on their lives. And so they are interested in where Saturn is before buying a house, or whether Mars is in the ascendancy before going on holiday. Of course, Pluto has to be just right before they will buy dog food. As if this were not comical enough, devotees of the stars sometimes actually consult their charts and then make huge decisions which will affect them for life. There's many a Leo who only made it up the aisle because his wife was a Virgo.



So doesn't it seem strange that some of these same people find such a stumbling block with Christianity? They will go to great lengths to find out how the ether was swirling at the very hour they were born, but have difficulty in accepting the fact that something much more personal than planets can change their lives. If you are concerned, as everyone naturally is, with daily problems of romance, money, career, family etc., wouldn't it make more sense if there were some purpose and plan behind it all, rather than being at the mercy of stars which rise and fall?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Being that made us all actually came down to earth to show us how to get things right? And even if he died the death in popular opinion, wouldn't it be great if he were able to rise above this and still offer us the chance of making sense of life?

It would. And he did. Today. (Author unknown)

EASTER OCTAVE This is Easter Week: the solemn celebration of the Resurrection spills over this week into one continuous Solemnity of the Lord (a week of Sundays).

THANK YOU! Sincere thanks to those of you who worked solidly and quietly in so many ways to ensure that our Holy Week ceremonies were prepared and celebrated with great dignity and devotion, not least our skilled flower arrangers. Also, many thanks to those of you who distributed the church service times around Bearsted. And well done to those who turned up over the three great days to make this a truly prayerful experience. ✠ **May God bless you and your family this Easter, Father Geoffrey and Deacon Cyril.**



EASTER COFFEE Back yet again (by popular demand): coffee and tea after Mass at Good Shepherd on the **Second** Sunday of Easter, **23rd April**. Many thanks to our organizers!

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. (Also, as it is Our Lady's month, we will be crowning her statue on the Sunday after Mass.) ☞ There will be a meeting of the flower arrangers participating in the Flower Festival on **Tuesday 18th April** at 7pm at the Good Shepherd.

SHOWDOWN at the Last Chance Saloon! (A message from the Social Committee.) Take cover, because this is *gonna* happen on Saturday **20th May**. There will be a barbecue and beans. There will be Ma's Apple Pie. There will be Home-made Entertainment, the likes of which you could not buy in the Wild West End! Tickets available after Masses from **Saturday 15th April** or contact Ian on 736811 or Jenny on 734908. See Noticeboards for further details.'

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**. (Sessions resume **this Friday**.)

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th APRIL 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of THE LORD (A) ✕			
Sun 16th	Saturday	8.00pm	✕ Easter Vigil Mass: Maximus Derba and Family RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Thomas Lawson RIP
Mon 17th	Easter Monday	10.00am	✕ Mass: Trevor Sandford RIP
Tues 18th	Easter Tuesday	10.00am	✕ Requiem Mass: Elizabeth Cooper
Wed 19th	Easter Wednesday	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Freddie Carter RIP
Thu 20th	Easter Thursday	7.00am	✕ Mass: Kate and Bob
Fri 21st	Easter Friday	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 22nd	Easter Saturday	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy) (A) ✕			
Sun 23rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Richardson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

GIFT AID SCHEME Thank you to all donors for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme. The tax reclaim will be submitted soon and if any donor has not paid sufficient tax to cover the amount being reclaimed can they please advise myself or Fr Geoff. We always welcome new donors and if any parishioner who is a tax payer would like to join the scheme please see myself or Fr Geoff. *Mark Smith, Gift Aid Organiser.*

CAFOD has been our parish Lenten Appeal (<http://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent>). Envelopes are still available for your savings; they can be placed in the weekly offertory.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for April – that young people may respond generously to the vocational call, and may also seriously consider offering themselves to God through the Priesthood or Religious life. For those baptized and received into the Church this Easter.**
- **That tension between North Korea and the West may not escalate into a dangerous standoff.**
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those who have died recently, especially Patricia Gilbert, 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):** ✕ Celerine Weeden, Julia Lawrence and Patrick Macklin. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£461.05** (Gift Aided, **£238.00**). ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes • On **Good Friday** there was a **papal collection for the Holy Places in Jerusalem**. • The **Easter Collection** this Sunday is your **personal offering to the priest** (it is not for parish expenses). *Envelopes are available for your convenience.* Along with the Christmas Collection this is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. Thank you.

CHRISM MASS (12th April) See the diocesan 'write-up' with photos: <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/>.

EARTH DAY 22nd April. This year's 'Earth Day' takes 'Education' as its theme, so if it's getting yourself better educated, or teaching the grandchildren how to plant a tree, and why trees are important to the planet, today is the day to get stuck in.

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL In Bearsted, from **now** until **13th May**, clothes, shoes, bedding, new hygiene care items and medical equipment are being collected for refugees in Syria and Iraq. Please see the notice for more information, or see the website www.samarasaidappeal.org. It would be helpful if the following collection points could be used: **Holy Cross Church and New Way Service at the Memorial Hall (9.45am Sunday)**. Thank you.

MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday 17th June, 3pm. If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, **please give in your names by the end of April** so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is well received; all are welcome to attend.