



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

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

30th April 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: Meeting Jesus Two disciples travel along the road to Emmaus talking about recent events in Jerusalem. They are feeling helpless and defeated in the wake of Jesus' crucifixion. Perhaps they were still strongly tied to the Jewish expectation of a Messiah, and had little understanding of Jesus' divinity. They simply saw Jesus' death as a crushing defeat. Perhaps our own stories aren't too different. We often feel defeated and helpless, unable to see what Jesus' death and resurrection could mean for us. Do we spend long periods of depression, unable to appreciate God's presence in our lives? One thing is for sure; it would be nothing short of a tragedy if we got to the end of life's paths without meeting Jesus, so how should we go about it?



Notice in today's gospel that Jesus opens the eyes of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus very gradually. The two travellers don't recognise Jesus straight away, but their hearts warm to him as he helps them to see recent events in the light of scripture. As he interprets what has happened, he gives them hope in the future and a clear vision of new opportunities. Then when the couple invite Jesus to stay, and he breaks bread with them, they come to realise who he really is. What a life changing moment that must have been!

This story is clearly not just for the benefit of the two travellers or even for the first disciples; this story is for the benefit of us all. We might think that we've been going to church long enough to have heard it all before, but there's always something new to learn. Today we are invited to meet Jesus in the Eucharist, and to re-find Jesus in the way we understand and interpret the scriptures. Take up the challenge. (*Chapel Bell*)

THIS WEEKEND Ian Fraser will be talking after all Masses about our parish accounts. Apologies for not alerting parishioners to this last week. A financial summary is attached. Our thanks to Ian.

ALTAR SERVERS' RALLY See the notice of this event at Aylesford **tomorrow**, Bank Holiday Monday. Bishop John Hine will be celebrating the Mass.



FLOWER FESTIVAL at GOOD SHEPHERD To celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday (**next Sunday**) we are pleased to announce that we are holding a Flower Festival at Harrietsham. It will run from this Friday, to Sunday **7th May**, 10am to 4pm each day. (Also, as it is Our Lady's month, we will be crowning her statue next Sunday after Mass.) Please sign up to help with refreshments or to donate greenery. If you have never visited our delightful chapel at Harrietsham, now's your chance: it's a little gem! For directions see above, or there is a map on our website.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY Next Sunday: the theme is, "Called" *Extra-ordinary*. See poster.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL This **Tuesday, 2nd May** at Goudhurst at 7.30pm.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE Meeting this **Wednesday, 3rd May**, usual time, usual place.

AFTERNOON of REFLECTION for extraordinary ministers and readers will be held at St Andrew's Church, Ashford Road, Tenterden, TN30 6LL next **Saturday, 6th May** from 2-5pm led by Canon Luke Smith. It is open to everyone.

St PETER'S CHOIR Our next practice is on Tuesday **9th May** 8pm - 9pm.

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL In Bearsted, from **now** until **13th May**. Please see the notice for more information, or 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.

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**.

RED BOXES Another reminder to holders, please bring your boxes in to church to be emptied. Only had half a dozen returned so far. Box holders, please don't forget to fill in your name on the label so we know whom to return them to. Thank you.

THANK YOU to Valley Park school for once again choosing St Peter's for their Spring Concert last week and for

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 30th APRIL 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✕			
Sun 30th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Dan Murphy RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Eliza Martin RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		2.00pm	Baptism: Robyn Elizabeth Trigg Gilderthorp
Mon 1st May	St Joseph the Worker	10.00am	✕ Mass: For God's blessing on human work
Tues 2nd	St Athanasius	10.00am	✕ Mass: Patricia May Gilbert RIP
Wed 3rd	SS Philip and James	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Thu 4th	The English Martyrs	7.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Peter Growney RIP
Fri 5th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Special Intention
Sat 6th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (A) ✕			
Sun 7th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: For Vocations to the priesthood and religious life
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls

their donation of £70 to the church.

JUSTICE & PEACE The 2017 Spring Assembly, entitled 'A Journey to Justice through Peace and Non-Violence', will be at Aylesford Priory on **Saturday 13th May**, 10.30am to 4pm. Registration from 10am. Speakers Pat Gaffney for Pax Christi and Michael & Patricia Pulman of Christian CND. A free event. Please bring a packed lunch.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for May – that by imitating the merciful Jesus, Christians in Africa may be prophetic witnesses of reconciliation, justice and peace.**
- **For those who work:** that their dignity be respected, their labour valued and their efforts blessed.
- **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; for Robyn Elizabeth Trigg Gilderthorp being baptized this Sunday and for her family and sponsors; and for the intentions on the notice board.**
- **Anniversaries this week (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial):** ✕ Mary Duerdon, Michael Greenrod, Patrick Mulloy, Lydia Iloenyasi, Paul McLaughlin, Alan Betts and Audrey Allan. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£448.15** (Gift Aided, **£227.50**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ This weekend there is a retiring collection for the **maintenance of St George's Cathedral**, the mother church of the diocese. This collection helps with the upkeep of the cathedral. ♦ Next Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Vocations and there will be a collection for **Ecclesiastical Education**; this collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. It also supports certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy. ♦ The total amount banked for CAFOD so far is **£438.66**.

YOUNG PERSONS' RETREAT This **May** (12th – 14th) there will be another retreat at Worth Abbey for young people in school years 7-9. INSPIRE is part of the youth retreat programme at The Open Cloister, which has been running successfully for a few years. The retreats are run by an experienced team, with the support of the monastic community at Worth, The Wellspring Community and the Diocese. They give young people a chance to meet other young Catholics and to explore their faith in the beautiful atmosphere of Worth Abbey. There are also games, sports, social activities and much more. The weekend costs £84, but bursaries are available. Email toc@worthabbey.net - bookings close 1st May or when the retreat is full. Contact the Diocesan Youth Officer, Jack Regan – Jack.Regan@dabnet.org

VACANCY: Deputy Headteacher. St Thomas' Catholic Primary School in Canterbury is looking to appoint a new Deputy Headteacher from September 2017. For further information, please contact the school on 01227 462539. Advert available on www.kent-teach.com. Closing date: **Monday 8th May** at 4pm.

LIFE *From Good Counsel Network:* This year sees the 50th anniversary of abortion being legalised in Great Britain; over 8 million babies' lives have been lost since 1967. We all need to make some extra sacrifice this year. Please attend the "March for Life" in Birmingham on **Saturday 20th May**. Going to Birmingham may involve a sacrifice for those who live some distance away, but the day is a great witness to our society and is also both informa-

tive and encouraging. Three English Bishops will be attending the march – come and support their witness. For coaches from London and elsewhere please see; www.goodcounselnetwork.com or phone 020 7723 1740.

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 this weekend** so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is well received; all are welcome to attend.