



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

The ASCENSION of The LORD

28th May 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS Jesus arranges to meet the eleven disciples on the mountain at Galilee. The scene is set. Jesus is about to ascend into heaven, but first he gives the disciples their all-important commission; to baptize and teach the message Jesus has taught them... to make disciples of all nations. It must have been a staggering thing for eleven humble Galileans to be told.

With the early disciples long gone, it is now up to us to carry the baton. We too are entrusted with the commission to make disciples of all nations. Perhaps we don't feel the commission as acutely because we didn't receive it standing on a mountain talking to Jesus face to face... but nonetheless we have inherited the commission and we have to do something about it. With so much conflict in the world, the Christian example of forgiveness and peace has never been more relevant.

So where do we begin? How do we go about making disciples of all nations? One thing is for sure; we are not all called to drop our day jobs and rush round the world being missionaries. We are each called in a different ways. Some of us are called as parents to baptize our children and bring them up as Christians. Some of us are called to bring God's love into the lives of those who have lost direction and hope. We are all called to teach by example either in the context of our jobs or in the extra things we do. We are each challenged to work out how best we can carry out Jesus' commission.

Yes, the commission is a daunting one, but Jesus makes it clear that his ascension does not mean that he will be absent from our lives. We will always have Jesus' help. "I am with you always," he promises, "until the end of the age." (*Chapel Bell*)

CONGRATULATIONS to Niamh, Oliver, Haydn, Gabriella, Sophia, Thomas, Luke, Stanley, Bella, Connor and Scarlett who celebrated their First Communion Day last Sunday. Our thanks to Shelagh and Eileen, our catechists, and to the parents and all those who helped to make this such a memorable day for the families and for our parish. Shelagh, Eileen and Fr Geoffrey would like to thank the parents for their kind gifts!

PENTECOST NOVENA *Thy Kingdom Come* is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.* Acts 1,2 To find out more and pledge to pray please visit: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>. Join our friends at Bearsted Methodist Church between 9am and 9pm this **Thursday, 1st June**.

SHOWDOWN at the Last Chance Saloon: we made £400 profit for the Heart of Kent Hospice. Well done everyone!

CONFIRMATIONS If you are in year 9 or above, and would like to be confirmed in October, please speak to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. If you would like to join the programme that is being launched in St Francis', you must apply before **31st May**. *Pick up an information sheet after Mass.*

EASTER DUTIES The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, **11th June**. Canon 2042 of *The Catechism* states: The third precept ('You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season') guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST Customarily, at Mass on Corpus Christi, ministers renew the commitment to their ministry. Ministers are therefore asked to renew their commitment at whatever Mass they attend on Corpus Christi, Sunday, **18th June**.

MISSIONAL APPEAL Each year the archbishop asks us to host a missionary society to give an appeal. This year we will be welcoming a priest from the Missionary Society of St Columban the week ending **17th and 18th June**.



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 28th MAY 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **The ASCENSION of The LORD (A)** ✕

Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Sister Breda Quigley RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Victims of the Manchester attack
Mon 29th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Tues 30th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Michael Hayes RIP
Wed 31st	The Visitation of BVM	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Patrick Kenny RIP
Thu 1st	St Justin	7.00am	✕ Mass: Pam Gollop RIP (<i>month's mind</i>)
Fri 2nd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 3rd	St Charles Lwanga	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ PENTECOST SUNDAY (A) ✕			
Sun 4th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Anthony and Kathleen McParland RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		12midday	Baptism: Valentina Hernandez

GIFT-AIDERS Please pick up a letter addressed to you after Mass.

PARISH BARBECUE It's nearly holiday time, so why not start the celebrations by coming along to the parish barbeque after Mass at St Peter's on **Sunday, 2nd July**? There will be sausages, burgers and chicken, barbecued by our resident team of experts, salads and lovely desserts! There will be music and a raffle, of course! Tickets will be on sale after Masses, or ring Ian on 736811 or Jenny on 734908. A family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) is only £12, Adults £5 and children £3.50. Please bring your own drinks and donate a salad or dessert if you can.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June – that leaders of nations may make a firm commitment to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.**
- **For those killed and injured in Manchester this week;** for their families, for hospital workers, emergency personnel and for our security services.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those who have died recently especially Eric Bailey; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **Anniversaries this week** (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Alice Mulvihill, Mary Nicholson, David Sugar, Joanna Gale, Percy Keepin, Bridget Ryan, Ron Duerden, Mary McCafferty, George Larkman and Peter Lamburn. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£646.56** (Gift Aided, **£203.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ **This Sunday** there is a retiring collection for **World Communications** which supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Donate online: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/donate-wcd>. Pick up a prayer card as you leave Mass today.

St AUGUSTINE WEEK At the shrine of St Augustine, Ramsgate, celebrate our diocesan patron (St Augustine of Canterbury) with the annual St Augustine Week Festival. There are talks, tours, music, workshops, processions, Masses and more. Highlights include the Blessing of the Sea on **29th May**; the Grand Re-opening on **3rd June** (with Archbishop Peter Smith); and the St Augustine Cross procession on **4th June**. More information available on the poster, by calling 01843 606756 or online at <http://augustinefriends.co.uk/?p=5121>.

MASS FOR NEW CATHOLICS At St George's Cathedral, Saturday **3rd June**, 11am.

DAY of PRAYER for SYRIA War and conflict in Syria has led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands since 2011 and the displacement of millions. Our bishops are encouraging the Catholic community in England and Wales to pray for Syria and its people on the Feast of St Ephrem, **9th June** (<http://catholicnews.org.uk/pray-for-syria>).

SUMMER YOUTH DAY See the poster if you are interested in this event at Aylesford **next month**. ♦ See also the poster detailing the annual St John Bosco Summer Camps in **July** and **August**.

SUMMER ACCOMMODATION in LONDON Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in central London in **July** and **August**. Beautiful gardens and chapel. Rooms from £50 per night (including breakfast). Website: www.allenhall.org.uk; Email: allenhall@rcdow.org.uk; Telephone: 020 7349 5600 (option 0).