



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year A**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**4th June 2017**

### **FAITH IN FOCUS: ALL DOWN TO US?**

Thank God that the Church is bigger than you and me. Thank God that the Church is no mere human institution. Thank God that it does not stand or fall by my efforts and yours. If it were all down to us then every scientific or medical advance that ran the risk of debasing human nature would see us running for cover. If it were all down to us then any scandal that hit the Church would find us dumb and unable to respond. If it were all down to us then our worship would quickly become a dry and arid performance of rubrics. But it isn't all down to us. Pentecost celebrates the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit who is ever present to the Church, guiding and sustaining, emboldening and inspiring us in the myriad circumstances of our modern world. To celebrate Pentecost is remember that Jesus is still alive and active in his Church through the Holy Spirit. We call Whitsunday the birthday of the Church because on that day the first proclamation of the gospel took place after Christ's death and resurrection. And the apostles were just as daunted at the prospect as we sometimes are. They feared for their lives. Yet the tongues of fire which is the Spirit gave them the courage boldly to proclaim the good news of Jesus. For the Church is the living Body of Christ and anything we do as the Church will produce results only if it is grounded in the Spirit. We cannot boast of our own efforts; it is the Spirit of God working through us that is effective. So if we are reticent about bearing witness to our faith, if we want our prayer to be more heartfelt and our worship to come alive, if we feel that we need to recapture the joy and first commitment of our faith, then Pentecost is for us. Our prayer is that of the Church throughout the ages: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful!



*(Author unknown)*

**FROM TODAY'S SEQUENCE** 'Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness pour thy dew; wash the stains of guilt away: bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray.' *(Recited after the second reading at the Sunday Mass.)*

**The PASCHAL CANDLE** which has stood by the ambo (lectern) throughout Easter is, from Monday, kept by the font and the candles of the newly baptized are lit from it. It is also used at funerals, being placed near the coffin during the Requiem 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**.

**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.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th JUNE 2017**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **PENTECOST SUNDAY (A)** ✕

|                                      |                 |                     |  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| Sun 4th                              | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>6.00pm</b>       | ✕ Vigil Mass                               |
|                                      | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>(H) 8.45am</b>   | ✕ Mass: Anthony and Kathleen McParland RIP |
|                                      |                 | <b>10.30am</b>      | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo                         |
|                                      |                 | 12midday            | Baptism: Valentina Hernandez               |
| Mon 5th                              | St Boniface     | <b>7.00pm</b>       | ✕ Mass                                     |
| Tues 6th                             | Feria           | <b>10.00am</b>      | ✕ Mass: Holy Souls                         |
| Wed 7th                              | Feria           | <b>(H) 10.00am</b>  | ✕ Mass                                     |
| Thu 8th                              | Feria           | <b>7.00am</b>       | ✕ Mass: Holy Souls                         |
| Fri 9th                              | Feria           | <b>10.00am</b>      | ✕ Mass                                     |
| Sat 10th                             | Our Lady        | 5.00-5.30pm         | Confessions                                |
| ✕ <b>The MOST HOLY TRINITY (A)</b> ✕ |                 |                     |  |
| Sun 11th                             | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>6.00pm</b>       | ✕ Vigil Mass                               |
|                                      | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>(H) 8.45am</b>   | ✕ Mass                                     |
|                                      |                 | <b>10.30am</b>      | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo                         |
|                                      |                 | <b>(H) 12midday</b> | Baptism: Jack Bower                        |

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

**PARISH BARBECUE** It's nearly holiday time, so why not start the celebrations by coming along to the parish barbecue 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 the victims of the huge bomb in Kabul this week: that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and Bringer of Solace, may rest with them and their families.**
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Elsie Hampshire and David Smith; for those who have died recently; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for Valentina Hernandez being baptized today, and for her parents and godparents; and for the intentions on the notice board.**
- **Anniversaries this week (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial):** ✕ Elizabeth Weedon, George Larkman, Vera Seager, Lillian Vale, Virginia Kitchin and Catherine Wickham. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£302.42** (Gift Aided, **£132.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ The retiring collection for **World Communications** amounted to **£95.57**. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Trust for England and Wales** which supplies our bishops with the revenue necessary for the central administration of the Church in this country.

**THE PILGRIM** The June edition of the diocesan newspaper is now available.

**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>).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE** From time to time people meet to discuss progress upon issues such as reducing poverty, persecution, conflict, discrimination and environmental degradation - all dear to the heart of the Pope. The next such meeting will be from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Sunday **11th June** at the Area Bishop's house at West Malling ME19 6HN. All are welcome!