



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 MOST HOLY TRINITY

11th June 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: TIP OF THE ICEBERG

A rather precocious child was introduced to a famous professor. He asked the man what he did and the professor told him that he was doing research into physics. "Physics?" replied the amazed child. "We did that last year!" When we come to talk about God, the Trinity, we can sometimes be like that child. We can convince ourselves that we know what God is like. And yet everything we say about him only scrapes the surface. Note how we say "him". God is not masculine yet we have to use simple ways of describing "him" if we are to talk about God. And we end up with the only thing we can be certain of: our own experience. So when the Church talks about God it speaks of persons. It says that there are three of them (since that's what the bible tells us) but these three persons make up only one God. They are a family or unity. To the Father we ascribe the role of creator. It was he who made everything that exists and who still has a care for what he has made. It is to the Father that we pray through Jesus and in the Spirit. It is the Father who knows each of us by name. If he were to stop thinking about us we would cease to exist.

It's easier for us to talk about the Son since he walked this earth of ours and spoke words which we cherish as coming from God. His role is to communicate to us what the Father is like, for he is the image of the unseen God. We know too that he showed us a way of living that can bring us fulfilment and happiness. He loved us so much that he died on a cross and rose from the dead so that we might share in his triumph.

We say that the Spirit was sent by the Father and Son. The Spirit is the presence of God in our daily lives. All who are baptised possess the gift of the Spirit who inspires us, comforts us, supports and heals us. We recognise the work of the Spirit in the lives of so many holy people and in the love that is offered to us by others. The Spirit keeps us alive as Christians.

But look again at the words we have been using about the Trinity. They're the same ones we use to describe the circumstances of daily life: family, support, communication, love, care, healing. That's because these are the only words we know how to use. If we made a list of everything we know about God we would only be seeing the tip of the iceberg, for God is infinite and our minds are limited. The Trinity is a mystery; it doesn't mean that we can't know anything about it, but it does mean that, like the young boy, we can end up thinking we're a lot brighter than we really are!

(Author unknown)

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of COMMUNION 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, next weekend, **17th, 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 next week **17th and 18th June**.

PARISH BARBECUE After Mass at St Peter's on **Sunday, 2nd July**. Tickets on sale after Masses, or ring Ian on 736811 or Jenny on 734908. Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £12, adults £5 and children £3.50. Please bring your own drinks and donate a salad or dessert if you can (see notice board).



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 11th JUNE 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **The MOST HOLY TRINITY (A)** ✕

Sun 11th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		(H) 12midday	Baptism: Jack Bower
Mon 12th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Tues 13th	St Anthony of Padua	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 14th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Thu 15th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 16th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 17th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ The MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (A) ✕			
Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Sanders RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: George Albert and Calerine Aline Weedon RIP

SOCIAL COMMITTEE Meeting this **Tuesday, 13th June**, usual time, usual place (usual bunch).

PASTORAL TEAM Meeting this **Wednesday, 14th June**, 7.30pm at St Peter's.

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 all those whose lives were torn apart by the recent violence on London Bridge; that the dead might receive eternal life; the injured and traumatised find healing, the bereaved receive the support and comfort that they need and that, wherever there is hatred, seeds of love might continue to be sown.**
- **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 especially Gladys Tibbitts; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for Jack Bower being baptized this Sunday at Good Shepherd, and for his parents and godparents; and for the intentions on the notice board.**
- **Anniversaries this week (from St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial):** ✕ Clifford Diaper, Horace Coulter and Joan Hopkins. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£452.47** (Gift Aided, **£250.10**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£134.00**). ♦ This Sunday there is 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. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection in support of our **Mission Appeal**: see above. ♦ The **Day for Life** collection will be held over until the following weekend.

THE PILGRIM The June edition of the diocesan newspaper is now available (with mention of our recent flower festival at Good Shepherd).

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

PRISON ADVICE & CARE TRUST Pact, the Catholic charity (<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>) for prisoners and their families, is offering free training and support for parishioners interested in volunteering with them in prisons or in the local community. No previous experience necessary. All enquiries welcome. To find out more contact parishaction@prisonadvice.org.uk.

DAY of CELEBRATION for people with disability at the heart of the Church: **Sunday 2nd July** - noon - 4pm at the Friars, Aylesford.