



# 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**

**PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD**

**9th April 2017**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: A GOOD CROWD?** Passion (Palm) Sunday is a difficult day to grasp. At the end of it we have followed Jesus to his death. But we repeat the whole process once more next Maundy Thursday, and in slow motion we take three days to go over the same ground. So what's the difference between Palm Sunday morning and Good Friday afternoon? It's the crowd. There was a good crowd on that first Palm Sunday. They were there to cheer. Years of being treated as second class citizens by a foreign power that occupied their land had made people ready for a change. And, after all, the Bible had promised that someone would be sent by God who would liberate them once and for all. So when this Jesus of Nazareth came to town, with his reputation and his supporters, it was worth going out to cheer him on with a "Hosanna" or two. A week's a long time in religion, and by Friday things had changed. Charged with blasphemy, Jesus was now being led to his execution. Things had changed. But the crowd hadn't. There was still a good crowd that came out to watch. And it cheered again, but this time with scorn, this time for the opposition. He was not only betrayed by one of his own, but abandoned by the crowd in his hour of need. Their ancestors had once exchanged the God of their salvation for a bull that eats grass. Now they were to forget the promise of Jesus, the invitation to take up their own cross, as they came out to see the afternoon's entertainment. Yet they were no more fickle than any other crowd. Jesus was simply one more fifteen-minute celebrity to them, and they had failed to grasp the significance of it all. You can't really blame them. Or can you?



There was a good crowd that afternoon. I was in it. And so were you. *(Author unknown)*

**THIS SUNDAY** is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Morning Mass at St Peter's will **begin in the parish hall** with the blessing of palms and the Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. This will be followed by the procession to church for the Mass. ✠ The Chrism Mass is on Wednesday **12th April**, 11.30am at St George's Cathedral, Southwark; for this reason there will be a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion at Good Shepherd that day. ✠ **Maundy Thursday Liturgy:** If you are willing and able to take part in the feet washing part of the liturgy please give your name to Deacon Cyril.



**THE GREAT WEEK** ✠ Please take a Holy Week poster and display it in a prominent window. ✠ **Holy Week**, the seven days before Easter, comes as the climax of the 40 days of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday. Those who took the ashes on their foreheads agreed to spend six weeks trying to deepen their relationship with God by prayer, fasting and good works. When the ashes are washed off the commitment remains. Christians are called to a daily conversion. We never fully finish our work of overcoming sin within us. Lent recalls us to our task of becoming the baptized people that we really are, and it comes to an end when we baptize new members into our community at Easter. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday which come immediately before Easter are called the Triduum, from the Latin word for "three days". It is not really three separate feasts, but more of a "three-day" feast, - an extended preparation for the great event of Easter. That's why, wherever possible, Christians try to be present on each day, taking up where they left off the day before. It is like the three acts of a single play. In our celebration of these three days which changed the world we use symbols which both remind us of what happened at the first Easter and help us to un-

derstand how they affect our lives today. With these symbols we remember, re-enact and recommit our-

<b>DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 9th APRIL 2017</b> (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ <b>PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD (A)</b> ✕			
Sun 9th	Saturday	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Finn Egan RIP, and in appreciation
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass ( <b>starting in hall</b> ): Colin Otterson RIP
Mon 10th	Monday of Holy Week	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Colin Goddard RIP
Tues 11th	Tuesday of Holy Week	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Kathleen Mary Byrne RIP (FM)
Wed 12th	Wednesday of Holy Week	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 13th	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	✕ <b>Mass of The Lord's Supper</b> <i>followed by watching until 11pm)</i>
Fri 14th	<b>Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)</b> <i>(Day of Fasting and Abstinence)</i>	<b>11.00am</b>	Stations of the Cross, especially for children <i>(followed by Confessions)</i>
		<b>(H) 12noon</b>	Stations of the Cross
		<b>3.00pm</b>	✕ <b>Solemn Liturgy of The Passion of The Lord</b> <i>(followed by Confessions)</i>
Sat 15th	<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<i>5-6.00pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of the LORD (A)</b> ✕			
Sun 16th	Saturday	<b>8.00pm</b>	✕ Easter Vigil Mass: Maximus Derba and Family RIP
	Sunday	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Thomas Lawson RIP

selves.

**St PETER'S CHOIR** Tuesday 11th April, 8pm - 9pm: practising for Holy Week and Easter. All welcome.

**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!

**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**.

**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 the innocent citizens killed** and for those injured in the Syria chemical attack; for a peaceful end to the tension following the US missile strike. For those killed in other terrorist attacks.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes especially Sidonia Banyard; for those who have died recently, 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): ✕ Patrick Murphy, Terence Murphy, Wallie Locke, Archibald Cram, Jack Hartigan, Benjamin Rudzinski, John Stock, June Beavers and Michael Tipper. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£432.50** (Gift Aided, **£265.00**). ♦ The retiring collection to help with the **cost of flowers** for Holy Week and Easter amounted to **£156.44**. ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes ♦ On **Good Friday** there will be a **papal collection for the Holy Places** (see below). ♦ The **Easter Collection** next 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.

**DEANERY PENANCE** A Penitential Service, with celebration of individual confessions, will be held at St Francis' this **Monday, 10th April** at 7.30pm.

**RED BOX HOLDERS** Please bring in your boxes for emptying and counting.

**CLERGY SUPPORT FUND CAMPAIGN** Our thanks to Deacon Cyril for helping promote this fund. Thanks too to those who stayed on last Sunday to view the video and take a brochure. If you missed the showing, the video can be viewed online at <https://southwarkclergysupportfundcampaign.org/campaign-film/>. Information packs are still available after Mass. **The fund stands at just under £3 million.**

**HOLY PLACES COLLECTION** In most Catholic parishes around the world, a Good Friday Collection will be taken up to aid Christian parishes and their outreaches in the Holy Land. This initiative has been an annual tradition in the Church since its institution by Blessed Pope Paul VI. According to Paul VI, the collection was created “not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities.” The unforgettable faces of thousands of children and teens, fleeing violence and persecution in Syria and Iraq, continue to challenge us. The small Christian presence in the Middle East has great need of the support and attention of the entire Church.

**FASTING and ABSTINENCE** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are observed as days of fast and abstinence. Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence means that we give up a particular kind of food (usually meat, unless one never eats meat) or drink, or form of amusement.

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

**BEARSTED AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER EASTER EGG APPEAL** Churches Together will be holding their Easter Egg Hunt as usual on Holy Saturday (**15th April**) and as before the churches in Bearsted are providing the eggs. Each has a set number (ours is around 80) to donate and they are given as a gift to all the children that take part (200-300). The clues are all based around the Passion and Jesus’s message, so for many it will be the only contact they have with the Christian message over the weekend. Oh, and it’s fun! If you wish to donate, please leave your eggs (no small ‘creme’ type eggs please) in the outer sacristy and Bob Piggott will collect. ♦ Thank you to those who helped deliver the Holy Week and Easter Service times.

**LENT TALKS:** *BBC Radio*. Six people well known in their fields have been reflecting on the story of Jesus’ ministry and Passion from the perspective of their own personal and professional experience. Tune in for the last talk this Wednesday on BBC Radio 4 at 8.45pm.

**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](http://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.

**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. 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.

**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.

**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! The luckiest critters are those first in the queue, because they can buy tickets next week! There won't be room for all you *dudes*. Watch this space to find out more!