



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 BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST

18th June 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: MORE LIKE CHRIST

When we are children we don't believe that we will ever grow to be obese, passed our prime or out of condition; it's something that creeps up on us. The extra pounds that pile on around our waistlines are the result of making wrong choices on a daily basis. Just as we can become physically unfit so we can become spiritually unfit. When we are young we cannot imagine making wrong choices or poor decisions, but compromise, apathy and temptation creeps up on the best of us. We become consumed by things that don't really matter. If we are not careful, God's values can fall by the wayside and we end up feeling weighed down, dissatisfied and unhappy.



On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we are reminded that in just the same way as we care for our physical diet, so we need to take care of our spiritual diet. We need to make Jesus part of our spiritual diet both in communion and in our daily choices to live as Christians so that we might be spiritually whole. We are invited to feel alive and rejuvenated and ready to impact the world around us.

When we faithfully participate in the Eucharist, the sacrament has the power to influence us and change us; it joins each of us to Christ and hopefully, makes us more like him. Today's challenge is to think a little harder about what we are actually doing in participating in the Eucharist, and what we should expect as a result. (*Chapel Bell*)

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, **this weekend**. The renewal will take place after the homily; ministers will be called forward.

MISSIONAL APPEAL Each year the archbishop asks us to host a missionary society to give an appeal. This weekend we welcome Fr Gerry Markey, a priest from the Missionary Society of St Columban. We hope he enjoys a pleasant and beneficial stay with us!

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 the attached for more details.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM In Bearsted and Thurnham we are marking the centenaries of those from our villages who died in World War One. Wherever possible we meet outside their home on the anniversary of their death and hold a short act of remembrance and lay a wreath. All are invited to join us. We next meet on **Saturday 1st July** to commemorate and pray for George Hepton: aged 42, Royal Horse Artillery Driver, buried in Egypt. Meet at 12noon on Spot Lane on corner of Greensands Road by the post box. George Hepton was the single brother of Louisa Page (nee Hepton) who died from cancer whilst on active service. ♦ On **16th September** we will return to Spot Lane to commemorate the death of Louisa's son Albert, aged 19, who died in action. ♦ On **Monday 31st July**: Harold Jenner. Aged 20, Royal Engineers, driver. Killed in action, Yser Canal. Meet at 12noon on School Lane (off Willington St) outside Mote Lodge which is next to entrance to Mote Park. ♦ Future Dates: 16th, 20th, 23rd, 25th September.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th JUNE 2017
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **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
Mon 19th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Victims of London Tower Block Fire
Tues 20th	St Alban	10.00am	✕ Mass: Michael Ocock, wellbeing
Wed 21st	St Aloysius	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Gladys Tibbitts RIP
Thu 22nd	SS John Fisher and Thomas More	7.00am	✕ Mass: Brigid Monks RIP
Fri 23rd	The MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS	10.00am	✕ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 24th	The Nativity of St John the Baptist	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✕			
Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Molly and David McCafferty RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

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

St SIMON STOCK SCHOOL On **Saturday 8th July** our deanery secondary school, St Simon Stock in Maidstone, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its opening. There will be a celebration of Mass at noon on that day, followed by food and festivities from 1.30pm. All are welcome. <http://www.ssscs.co.uk/>.

NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER and FASTING for LIFE Wednesday **21st June**. On the vigil of SS John Fisher and Thomas More, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this country. Thousands of babies are saved from abortion each year by Catholic, Pro-Life work, backed up with your prayer and fasting (www.goodcounselnetwork.com).

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 affected by the devastating tower block fire in London this week: that the Lord will be close to them in their time of loss.**
- **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 Wilma Budd; 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):** ✕ Mary Anne Macklin, George Weedon, Bridget Ruffle, Alice Sinott, Edward Gibson, John Younger, Gertrude Grimes, Margaret Sanders, Gilbert Monckton and Alma Harvey. ✕

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.

SOUTHWARK BRETHERN CHARITY A note from the secretary, Father Paul Hough: 'The Southwark Brethren is a longstanding charity which helps sick and retired priests who are in need. We thank you for your continuous generosity in the past and ask your help again this year. Please send donations to Rev. Paul Hough, St Elphege's Presbytery, 120 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9AY. Last year they were able to give £1,600 each to 30 priests in the Diocese of Southwark and Arundel and Brighton, and also help 3 working priests who had serious sickness. In addition, we have a Gift Aid Scheme for those who pay tax and we thank the lay people who have joined by applying for a Gift Aid form. Tel: 020 8647 5079.