



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 B

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

18th February 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: It's Tempting

What are you giving up for Lent? Chocolates smoking television ... wine? It's tempting to think that Lent is about saying a few extra prayers and giving up sweets or alcohol, but in truth, we are in serious danger of trivialising Lent. This forty-day journey with Jesus is so much more than resisting a few bad habits. The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert and he remained there for forty days presumably to sort his priorities out. Whilst he was there, Satan confronted him with all the temptations we lesser mortals are great at falling for the promise of wealth, fame, power, and worldly success. Having overcome Satan's temptations, Jesus emerged all the stronger, and proclaiming God's gospel.



This Lent we are invited to share Jesus' wilderness experience. Over the next forty days, we are challenged to retreat into our own wilderness and face our demons. The power of evil seeks us out in our weaknesses. Lent is a time when we can strengthen the areas in our life that show weakness. Lent is a time when we can change our sinful habits, change our minds about the way we live and decide what we are really about. The wilderness is a place where we can be tested, where we can get to know ourselves better and grow in maturity.

The theme of today's gospel is the close link between the preparation by Jesus in the desert and the start of his preaching. Lent has an end result. What end result are we preparing for? In what ways could we emerge all the stronger by Easter? Could this Lent provide the starting point we need to change the direction in our lives?
Chapel Bell.

LENTEN LITURGY (*from the directory*) During Lent the Gloria is not used, except on Feasts and Solemnities; it is not permitted to decorate the altar with flowers, and the use of musical instruments is allowed only so as to support the singing (Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Solemnities and Feasts are exceptions to this rule); Alleluia is not said, even on Feasts and Solemnities: care should be taken in this respect in the choice of hymns and gospel acclamation.

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✘ Try to get to Mass at least once during the week. ✘ Attend Stations of the Cross* either at St Peter's or Good Shepherd on **Friday evenings**. ✘ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✘ Contribute to CAFOD (especially on Lent Fast Day, **23rd February**) or our parish Lenten Appeal. ✘ Give up a favourite luxury *but keep it between you and the Lord (don't tell people what you have 'given up' for Lent)*. ✘ Over the weeks of Lent Southwark's Stewardship Team, in collaboration with the diocesan Spirituality Commission, will send out daily reflections featuring thoughts, scripture and prayer; to subscribe visit: <http://eepurl.com/dcNmsv>. ✘ Try to get to the Bearsted area **Lent Lunches** on **Fridays** at 12.30:

23rd February:	Holy Cross:	<i>Action for children</i>
2nd March:	Bearsted Methodists:	<i>Mencap</i>
9th March:	St Peter's:	<i>Age UK</i>
16th March:	St Mary's, Thurnham:	<i>Guide dogs</i>
23rd March:	St Mary's, Langley:	<i>Royal British Legion</i>

***STATIONS of THE CROSS** Our thanks to Patrick and Margaret for leading us so powerfully last Friday. This week there will be Stations at Good Shepherd; please join us.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th FEBRUARY 2018
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (B)** ✕

Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pasquale D'Incoronato RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
Mon 19th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Father John Ehichioya RIP
Tues 20th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 21st	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: David Smith RIP
Thu 22nd	The Chair of St Peter	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 23rd	Feria Lent Fast Day	10.00am	✕ Mass
		(H) 2.30pm	✕ Requiem Mass: John Welchman
		(H) 7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 24th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (B)** ✕

Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Charles Ryan
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Eric Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Patrick Dempsey RIP

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS The children resume their sessions this week. They celebrate First Reconciliations next **Saturday, 24th February**, at 10.00am.

PEACE ACTIONS for FEBRUARY • **Family Fast Day** this Lent is this Friday, **23rd February**. *Match Funding* means that the government will double any donations to CAFOD, so please be sure to donate online or by using the envelopes provided between **13th February** and **12th May**. • **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 25th February** at the Area Bishop's house (More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN - near the Catholic Church and school). All are welcome. • **J & P Annual Report** is attached. • A thank you letter from Maidstone Day Care Centre is on the notice board.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for February** – saying “No” to corruption: that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist the lure of corruption.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for those who have died recently especially John Welchman; 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.
- **For all the victims of the Florida school shooting** and their families; may all those who died rest in peace, and their loved ones be comforted on God's loving embrace.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Elizabeth Mahon, Patrick Dempsey, Thomas Lawson, Geoffrey Dring, George Morris, Rosalie Holland, Seamus Good, Mornington Hale, Ivy Wood, David Mc Cafferty, April Dornan and Elsie Fuller. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£310.03** (Gift Aided, **£171.52**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£158.00**). • The retiring collection last week for **Poor Parishes** amounted to **£161.98**.

CAFOD How you are making double the difference: Since 2012, your generous donations have been doubled three times with match funding from the UK government. Together, we have improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across the world. Match funding has helped to...bring drinking water to 400,000 people, support 11,000 families to grow a new crop, provide toilets for 166,000 people, teach 174,000 people good hygiene such as hand washing, bring weather forecasts to 99,000 families to keep themselves safe from extreme weather, train 35,000 farmers to change their farming techniques in response to weather forecasts. Thank you for your donations and prayers. For more news go to <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Latest-news>.

St PATRICK'S DAY See the notice about an event on **17th March**. More information as we get it.