



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

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

4th March 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Living Temples Once a year at Passover, Jews visited the Temple and offered a sacrifice to God. At this time of year the number of visitors to Jerusalem swelled and the moneylenders, with their eye to business, took to operating a scam. When visitors came to the Temple they were able to purchase animals or doves to offer as sacrifices. Because the Jews considered Roman coinage bearing Caesar's head as idolatrous, they were given the opportunity to exchange their Roman coins for Temple coinage. The idea was originally a good one, but the moneylenders were operating an unfair exchange rate for overpriced animals. What had started out as a good idea had turned into an abuse. and this in God's name! Was it any wonder that Jesus was so angry?

To see Jesus angry enough to take a whip and drive out the villainous traders might surprise us. We are brought up with a vision of a Jesus as both meek and mild. In our modern times, where disputes have to be settled over a table and those who display temper are sent off for anger management counselling, the story might even make us raise a disapproving eyebrow. But what this story makes us realise is that there are situations that warrant our righteous anger. Jesus simply could not tolerate injustice, and neither should we. What injustices do we need to drive out of our society today? We don't have to look far. How can we claim to be Christians yet settle for injustices that Jesus would not have settled for? Can we really sit back and allow rich countries to profit greedily at the expense of poor countries? Can we really condone the unfair distribution of our planet's resources just for our own convenience? Can we continue to let governments ride roughshod over those who cannot speak up for themselves?

What has to be driven out of our lives and communities because instead of bringing us closer to God they prevent us from meeting him? Today's story is not about protecting a sacred building. God after all does not live in a building. Each of us is a living temple. God lives through us. *Chapel Bell.*

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ✘ Try to get to Mass 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, our parish Lenten Appeal. ✘ Give up a favourite luxury. ✘ 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** (weather permitting) at 12.30:

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** On **Fridays: this week** at Good Shepherd; do join us.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS The children are now preparing for their First Eucharist on **Sunday 20th May**, Pentecost Sunday.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD: this **Friday 9th** and **Saturday 10th March** at St Francis', Maidstone. An expanded opportunity for continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (apart from Mass times), devotions and extended times for Confession. There will be contributions from local deanery parishes (see <http://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/>).

St PETER'S CHOIR Next rehearsal, Tuesday **13th March**, 8pm.

St PATRICK'S DAY: SOLD OUT Sorry, but if you haven't already bought your tickets you have missed out on the craic! All tickets have been sold this time, but we will be holding another 'Dinner and Music' evening next year with a different theme, so get your tickets early next time! If you've not paid for your tickets, please will you settle up with Ian as soon as possible. All profits from the St Patrick's Day event will be sent to Maidstone's 'Young Lives Foundation', a small independent local charity working with young people in need of their help.'



MATCH FUNDING means that the government will double any donations to CAFOD, so please be sure to donate

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 4th MARCH 2018 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (B) ✕			
Sun 4th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Ignatius Botelho and family RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Enid Greenrod RIP
Mon 5th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Seán Roche RIP
Tues 6th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Margaret Mason RIP
Wed 7th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Phil Schuler RIP
Thu 8th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 9th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
		(H) 7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 10th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (B) ✕			
Sun 11th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mr Timmons RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Michael Curtin
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

online or by using the envelopes provided right up to **12th May**.

EASTER EGG HUNT Every **Holy Saturday** Bearsted Area Churches Together hosts an Easter Egg Hunt at the Woodland Trust. It is free to enter, and Bearsted churches are asked to contribute the eggs that are the prizes. Could parishioners please support by buying one or two large eggs (not Creme Egg size) and leave in the sacristy. Thanks.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March** – formation in spiritual discernment: that the Church may appreciate the urgent need for formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and community levels.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for those who have died recently; 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 the people of Syria yet again** especially the area of Eastern Ghouta. We ask that those trying to negotiate peace and ceasefires be successful so that aid and help can get to those in need.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Bob French, Joan Linden, Leslie Cuming, Maria Bell, John Donlon and Alan Harris. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£390.81** (Gift Aided, **£202.57**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes: simply drop them into the collection bag at the offertory.

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 24th March** to commemorate and pray for: ✕ **Leslie Watkins:** ✕ 21st March 1918. 3 Ware Street, 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Posted as missing, presumed killed. Commemorated Panel 58 and 59, Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme. ✕ **Frederick Wilkinson:** ✕ 22nd March 1918. 1 Mote Villas, The Green, 2nd also 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Missing, presumed killed. Commemorated IV J 36, Pozieres British Cemetery Ovillers la Boisselle, Somme, France. ✕ **Reginald Allcorn:** ✕ 23rd March 1918. 1 Acacia Villas, Willington Road now 7 Willington Street, 10th (Service) (Kent County) Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Service Number G/10495, Private. Missing, presumed killed, aged 21. Commemorated Bay 7, Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. We will begin at **Noon** outside 1 Mote Villas, The Green. This is on the east side of The Green to the north of Bearsted House and we will then proceed to the other sites.

BBC Radio 4

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. Deanery confirmations are in **October**.

LENT TALKS Every year, to mark the Christian season of Lent, Radio 4 invites contributors to offer a personal take on an aspect of the Passion story. Tune in on **Wednesday** evening at 8.45 or **Sunday** morning at 5.45. Catch it again on iPlayer.

ROMERO FEAST DAY MASS Saturday, **24th March** at 12.30pm, St George's Cathedral, Southwark; Main celebrant: Archbishop Peter Smith.

BORN FOR THIS A musical and dramatised depiction of the Stations of the Cross and a great way to prepare for Easter. Young people from across the diocese will be taking part. They invite you to join them for this time of reflection and prayer, **Saturday 24th March** at Aylesford Priory. (Free Admission.)