



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 EASTER

15th April 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Finding the Meaning Were the other disciples really so very different from Doubting Thomas? When they saw Jesus in their midst, they took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines four pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. They can look at the marks on his hands and feet, they can touch him to check that he is really flesh and bone, and they can watch him eat a meal that they have prepared. The fourth proof is when Jesus opens their minds so that they can understand the prophecies that were made in the Old Testament, and which he has fulfilled by rising from the dead.



We are not as lucky as the first disciples. Two thousand years down the line we do not have the benefit of their first-hand experience. We cannot look at Jesus, we cannot touch him, or share a meal. The fourth proof though, the prophecies in the Old Testament are still there for us to read. The only trouble is, the Bible isn't always an easy book to read. We read a passage and fail to understand it. Sometimes we think we understand the literal meaning, but the words fail to offer any significance. It would be good if Jesus could open our minds up as he did for those first disciples when they had trouble understanding the meaning of his death and resurrection. One thing is for sure, understanding the Bible isn't going to happen magically, just as it didn't happen overnight for the disciples. We know that everything worthwhile takes effort. Playing a musical instrument takes years of practice. Being good at a sport takes considerable traininglearning a language demands a concerted amount of study and hard work. So too, we have to apply ourselves to understanding what we read in the Bible. We have to consider each passage for some time before we can really grasp it ... sometimes a single verse or phrase. Often we can derive great satisfaction from knowing that those parts we struggled with the longest hold the greatest meaning. The Bible yields up its greatest treasures to those who persevere. *Chapel Bell*

DOROTHY WITWER RIP Dorothy's funeral will be at St Peter's **this Thursday** at 2.15pm.

RED BOXES Would holders please bring their Missio Red Boxes in to church to be emptied. (Please remember to fill in your name on the label so we know whom to return them to.) Thank you.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS (Attached) Ian Fraser is presenting the church accounts to us **this weekend**.

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

CONFIRMATIONS If you are in year 9 or above, and would like to be confirmed, please speak to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. Deanery confirmations are in **October**.

FAMILY RACE NIGHT A fun night out for all ages! Bring the family and enjoy losing your shirt on the gee-gees! Well, not really, as we bet with fun money and families win prizes, not cash. But it will be exciting, and even the youngest members of the family can cheer on their favourite horse. The Race Night will be held on Saturday **12th May** at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Tickets will cost £5 for adults and £2 for children and will go on sale next week after Sunday Mass, or you can book direct with Ian on 736811. Please bring your own food and drink and let's fleece bookie, 'Honest Bob Pig-gott'!

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 15th APRIL 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✕

Sun 15th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Dorothy Wittwer RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Ben Featherstone RIP
		12.30	Baptism: Emilia Bahia
Mon 16th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 17th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Irene Caroline Emily Berry RIP
Wed 18th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 19th	Feria	2.15pm	✕ Requiem Mass: Dorothy Wittwer
Fri 20th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Phyllis Coatsworth RIP
Sat 21st	St Anselm	5-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✕

Sun 22nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Richardson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Rita Kimber RIP

SAMARA'S AID Please see the notice about the update to this local initiative in support of refugees in Syria. **Volunteers needed.**

MORNING of RECOLLECTION for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. If you missed the session in October there is another session at St Andrew's, Tenterden, this Saturday, **21st April** at 9.30, finishing with Mass at midday. The morning will be led by Canon Anthony Charlton, parish priest of Canterbury.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for April** – for those who have responsibility in economic matters, that leaders in financial affairs may have the courage to reject economic measures that exclude people, and rather seek new inclusive approaches.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for those who have died recently especially Stephen Clark and Fr Michael Murphy, 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 trouble-torn areas of our planet,** especially for the people of Syria, that those who strive for peace with justice may never lose heart, and may draw strength from the Lord's words, "Peace be with you."
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ June Beavers, Calerine Weeden, Julia Lawrence and Patrick Macklin. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£326.62** (Gift Aided, **£150.50**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to **£165.00**). ♦ Next Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Vocations and there will be a collection for **Ecclesiastical Education**; this collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. It also supports certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy.

St GEORGE'S DAY Monday **23rd April** Mass at 6.30pm in St George's Cathedral, at which Archbishop Peter will be the Principal Celebrant, followed by a reception in Amigo Hall. All are very welcome.

MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday **16th 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.

CAFOD Match Funding Deadline It might seem a bit of a distant memory, but it's not too late to donate to CAFOD's Lenten Fast Day Appeal. It's a three-month appeal. Money raised in the three

months from Shrove Tuesday 13th February, to Saturday **12th May**, will be match funded by the UK Government. Donations raised by 12th May must then reach Romero House by Sunday 1st July at the latest to be matched. The UK Government will match donations up to an overall total of £5 million.