



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

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

29th April 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Branching Out There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio brings terrible news of atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news and to feel powerless to do anything. We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short, it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.



We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principle. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to bring the whole country to a stand-still and sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome the final result.

Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning, we as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action. Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone, we branch out as a team. *Chapel Bell*

STEPHEN CLARKE RIP ✕ Stephen, who died suddenly in Easter Week, was a familiar, lone figure at Mass every Sunday at St Peter's. He was last at Mass on Easter Sunday. It would be nice if as many parishioners as possible could attend Stephen's Requiem this **Monday afternoon** ✕.

MAY: MARY'S MONTH At both of our churches we will have a short ceremony next Sunday, **6th May**, at which we will crown Our Lady's statue. This will be at the beginning, just before Mass begins. We hope to involve the children at both churches: at St Peter's it would be lovely if all the children, the First Communicants, those who attend children's liturgy and any child that wishes to take part, could bring with them a small posy of flowers picked by them from their garden. The children would gather in the parish hall at the beginning of Mass; perhaps the rest of the congregation could line both sides of the path between the hall and the church. We'll sing our opening hymn and the children will process from the hall to church with their flowers. Parishioners could then follow the children into church where the children will gather around the statue of Our Lady where one of them will crown it with flowers, and the children will place their posies in vases left ready around the statue. Thank you.

ASCENSION In 2017, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, with the approval of the Holy See on 4th August 2017, decreed that, with effect from the First Sunday of Advent 2017: (1) the Solemnity of the **Epiphany** of the Lord is to be observed on the date prescribed in the Roman Calendar [6th January], except when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday, when the Solemnity is to be observed and the precept [the obligation to attend Mass] discharged in England and Wales on the Sunday; (2) The Solemnity of the **Ascension** of the Lord is to be on the Thursday of the 6th Week of Easter Time. So it is that the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be on **Thursday 10th May** rather than on the *Sunday* as in recent years.

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

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 29th APRIL 2018 (Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B) ✕			
Sun 29th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Patrick Dempsey RIP
Mon 30th	Feria	1.45pm	✕ Requiem Mass: Stephen James Clarke
Tues 1st May	St Joseph the Worker	10.00am	✕ Mass: Henry and Elizabeth Martin RIP
Wed 2nd	St Athanasius	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: In thanksgiving
Thu 3rd	SS Philip and James	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 4th	The English Martyrs	10.00am	✕ Mass: Mary Holliday RIP
Sat 5th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B) ✕			
Sun 6th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Luis and Conchita Vecino RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Stephen James Clarke RIP

May, Pentecost Sunday. Sessions are on **Friday afternoons.**

JUSTICE & PEACE Meeting **this Tuesday** evening, St Peter's.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE Meeting **this Wednesday**, usual place, usual bunch.

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 *Tickets now on sale!* Tickets will cost £5 for adults and £2 for children. The Race Night will be held in St Peter's Hall on **Saturday 12th May** at 7pm and it will be fun for all the family – even the youngest members can cheer their favourite horse on! Nobody is going to lose their shirt, as we bet with fun money and families or teams win prizes not cash! But we don't want to see bookie 'Honest Bob Piggott' making off with all the prizes, so come along and place your bets! Please bring your own food and drink. Tickets will be available after Sunday Masses, or ring Ian on 736811.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for May** – *the mission of the laity; that the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.*
- **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.*
- **As we witness an increase in communication and discourse between North and South Korea;** *that these steps of diplomacy be successful and result in a safer and more tolerant world.*
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ *Mary Duerdon, Michael Greenrod, Patrick Mulloy, Lydia Iloenyosi, Paul McLaughlin, Alan Betts and Audrey Allan.* ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£348.11** (Gift Aided, **£120.86**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to **£165.00**). ♦ The retiring collection for **Ecclesiastical Education** amounted to **£139.25**. ♦ We also banked **£73.43** from the red mission boxes. ♦ **This Sunday** there is a collection for the **Maintenance of St George's Cathedral**: St George's is the mother church of the diocese. This collection helps meet the cost of the upkeep of the cathedral.

ALTAR SERVERS' RALLY See the notice of this event at Aylesford on, Bank Holiday Monday, **7th May**. Bishop Paul Mason will be celebrating the Mass.

CAFOD Match Funding Deadline: **12th May.**

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS Thank you to those who got in touch regarding new data protection legislation coming into force on **25th May**. A reminder: if you work or volunteer for the parish, or have done so in the past, and have some personal information about parishioners at your home in a file and/or on a PC or laptop, please could let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know.

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 **this weekend** so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is well received; all are welcome to attend.

GAUDETE et EXSULTATE A few copies of the Pope's new *Apostolic Exhortation* are available.

GIFT AID SCHEME Thank you to all donors for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme. The Gift Aid tax reclaim will be submitted soon and if any donor has not paid sufficient tax to cover the amount being reclaimed can they please advise myself or Fr Geoff? We always welcome new donors and if any parishioner who is a taxpayer would like to join the scheme please see myself or Fr Geoff. *Mark Smith, Gift Aid Organizer*