



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

SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

13th May 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Jesus' Prayer for Us Today we hear of Jesus' prayer for us. As Jesus was sent, so too we are sent to continue his mission and spread his love. Key to continuing Jesus' mission, we are told that although we are of this world we must not be possessed or tied down by worldly concerns.

How should it feel to be entrusted with such an important job? Well for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world. We spend most of our lives worrying about work, money, illness, relationships and commitments. It's very hard to rise above worldly concerns. In fact for most of us it just seems impossible.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we know Jesus' name throughout the entire globe two thousand years down the line. We have a much easier job than the early disciples had. Now all we need is a little bit of their drive and passion. So how can we capture some of that motivation?

For most of us, the day to day job of putting meals on the table takes up more of our time than the vital job of continuing Jesus' mission. Yet we all know someone who manages to strike that all important balance. We all know at least one person who sets a shining example. Perhaps it's here that we will find our motivation. Perhaps the people we most admire provide us with a model of who we ourselves would like to be. With a good example to emulate and our twenty-first century means to spread God's love, change is not beyond any of us.

Chapel Bell

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Please remember the children (Ciarán, Dominik, Eliza, Emelia, Hanna, Liam, Oliver, Orla, Savannah and Victor) and their families in your prayers; the children are busy preparing for their First Eucharist next **Sunday, 20th May**, during the 10.30 Mass at St Peter's. As always, especially this year when there are a good number, consider attending another Mass next weekend if you don't like crowds! ★ There will be a rehearsal for the children and their parents **this Saturday** morning at 10 in the church.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST 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, Sunday, **3rd June**.

CONFIRMATIONS If you are in year 9 or above, and would like to be confirmed in October, please speak for Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. If you would like to join the programme that is being launched in St Francis', you must apply before **31st May**. *Pick up an information sheet after Mass.*

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS Thank you to those who got in touch regarding new data protection legislation coming into force on **25th May**. For sure, this will not be the last we hear about it!

COFFEE and TEA Can you help us to continue providing coffee / tea and biscuits (provided by parish funds) after Sunday Mass at St Peter's? We need a few reserves to cover absences / holidays. Please speak to Joyce Gibson after Mass, or ask Fr Geoffrey / Deacon Cyril Durbin for her contact details. Thank you.

PRAYER VISITING Churches Together in Bearsted will hold this event during the week of **21st May**. Apologies for the short notice, but if you would like to be involved, email Peter Ashford: peter.meryl@gmail.com. The visits are conducted in pairs.

NATIONAL SHRINE of St JUDE Summer Celebration at the Shrine of St Jude, Faversham, **Saturday, 26th May**. See poster.



DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 13th MAY 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✕

Sun 13th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Irene and Newport Horne RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 14th	St Matthias	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Tues 15th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Rachel Chapman RIP
Wed 16th	St Simon Stock	(H) 10.00am	<i>Service of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 17th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 18th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Colin Barnfarther RIP
Sat 19th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ PENTECOST SUNDAY (B) ✕			
Sun 20th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		10.30am	✕ First Communion Mass: For the children

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS of METHODISM in BEARSTED Bearsted Methodist Church is celebrating the past and embracing the future with the following events, and invites us to join them at their church in Ware Street: • Heritage Exhibition: **Friday 18th** and **Saturday 19th May**, 10am - 4pm. • Anniversary Service: **Sunday 20th May**, 10.30am. • Hymn Festival: **Sunday 20th May**, 4pm, • Flower Festival: **Friday 1st** and **Saturday 2nd June**, 10am - 4pm.

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.*
- **On this World Communications Day,** *for all of us in our task of handing on the Good News and that we may have the guidance and courage we need to do this.*
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ James Mahon, Charlotte Button, Douglas Tozer and Antonella Bellini. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£338.28** (Gift Aided, **£146.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to **£165.00**). ♦ This week there is a retiring collection for **World Communications** which supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. *Pick up a prayer card as you leave Mass today.*

MESSAGE FROM CAFOD: Thank you for your support. Donations to CAFOD until 12th May (yesterday) will be doubled by the UK government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition – and with it we hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. This spring, CAFOD supporters are walking in solidarity with refugees. Please see the CAFOD website for more information. ♦ We also received a letter thanking us for our Lent contributions (so far) of **£397.90**.

AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION *The Eucharistic Miracles of the World.* This is taking place in **May** at St Anselm's Dartford, DA1 2HJ. One can enter the church during the day to pray and see the exhibition. There are also events during the month to promote devotion and love of the Eucharist. For more details contact Fr Stephen Boyle Tel: 01322 220075, email: stanselm01@googlemail.com or see the website: www.stanselmsdartford.wordpress.com. Also: <http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/>. See poster.

BEREAVEMENT RETREAT A retreat for those who have lost someone close to them is being held at Minster Abbey on **1st - 3rd June**. For further information go to www.minsterabbeynuns.org or write to Minster Abbey, Church St. Minster, Ramsgate. CT12 4HF; Telephone: 01843 821254.

EASTER DUTIES The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, **27th May**. Canon 2042 of *The Catechism* states: The third precept ('You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season') guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.