



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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

20th May 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Over To Us The disciples, who for weeks had hidden away for fear of the Jews, suddenly started behaving in an astonishing way. They came out of hiding and started teaching in many languages. What had got into them? Quite simply, the *Holy Spirit had got into them* as Jesus had promised. Those previously terrified people were suddenly filled with courage, energy, inspiration, purpose and conviction. What is truly exciting about the Pentecost story is that we too have been given that very same Spirit in our baptism. So if we have received the same Spirit as was breathed into those first disciples, why can't we rush round doing amazing things too? One answer might be that we haven't really tried yet. One answer might be that to date we haven't really been tested. Another answer perhaps is that we can't quite place our faith in it. How sad though if the Pentecost story is simply a story contained by the past. How sad if we don't believe the men and women of our own time whose inspirational lives and huge courage point to the work of the Holy Spirit ... men and women who far from being super human were born just the same as the rest of us.



The Holy Spirit is given to all of us, and with it comes the power to transform the world ... the first disciples knew it ... now it's our turn.

Chapel Bell



WE ARE DELIGHTED to celebrate with our children, **Ciarán, Dominik, Eliza, Emilia, Hanna, Liam, Oliver, Orla, Savannah and Victor**, who are making their First Communions at 10.30 Mass today. Congratulations and best wishes to them! Our thanks to Shelagh and Eileen, our catechists, and to the parents for all their time and support in leading our children to this special day. ✠ Truly *"The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us."* (Romans 5:5.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

- Did you know that the feast of Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church? It's called that because Pentecost is when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading Jesus' message, thus establishing the beginning of the Church. On this day we are asked to pray for the Church and her continued growth.
- Pentecost, Greek for 50th day, is celebrated by Christians fifty days after Easter. Originally it was a Jewish feast that concluded the fifty days of Passover. (This year the arithmetic was easy: Easter was 1st April, Ascension, 40 days later, was 10th May, and Pentecost 10 days later on 20th.)
- In Britain, Pentecost is also called Whitsun, because on this day new Christians used to be baptised. Often they wore white, so Pentecost was known as White Sunday. White Sunday was then shortened to Whitsun.
- To celebrate Pentecost, read the Acts of the Apostles. Find out what happened to the Church following the events of Pentecost.

The PASCHAL CANDLE which has stood by the ambo (lectern) throughout Easter is, from Monday, kept by the font and the candles of the newly baptized are lit from it. It is also used at funerals, being placed near the coffin during the Requiem Mass.

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.*

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 20th MAY 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **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
Mon 21st	Mary, Mother of the Church	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 22nd	Feria	Sorry, no Mass	
Wed 23rd	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Service of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 24th	Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest	Sorry, no Mass	
Fri 25th	St Bede the Venerable	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 26th	St Philip Neri	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **The MOST HOLY TRINITY (B)** ✕

Sun 27th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Dennis Peerman RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Mary Jenner RIP
		1.00pm	Baptism: Zachary Chandler

PRAYER VISITING Churches Together in Bearsted will hold this event during the **coming week**. 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.

GIFT-AIDERS Please pick up a letter addressed to you.

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

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: • 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**, especially Bryan Robshaw and Cyril Adam; for those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for Prince Harry and his newlywed; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **That the Holy Spirit will guide the people of Ireland** with wisdom and courage in the forthcoming referendum on abortion. In all circumstances may they show love and care for children and their mothers.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Winifred Hampton, Frances Connor and Brian Roycroft. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£316.52** (Gift Aided, **£124.90**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to **£165.00**). ♦ The **World Communications** collection amounted to **£94.09**.

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.miracolieucaristici.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.