



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

The NATIVITY ✕ St JOHN THE BAPTIST

24th June 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Born For A Purpose There's a new baby on the way and excited parents will start to make plans. They will choose the baby's name, and what colour to paint the nursery. Some parents will already be planning which school they shall put the new baby down for and will even be harbouring secret university hopes. Fond mothers-to-be will be imagining dance classes and music lessons. Indulgent dads will have decided which football team the baby will support. The baby's future is already decided before he or she is even born. John the Baptist's family must have felt a little like this. We don't know what plans they might have made, but we do know that they had hoped to name the new baby Zacharias after his father. God however had other plans. God chose the name 'John' for the new baby through the mediation of an angel. That God chose John the Baptist's name tells us that he had already carved a destiny for the baby. John was born for a purpose.



Nowadays we tend to see John as a subsidiary player to Jesus. But for people at the time, John was the better known of the two. The gospels present John without explanation, as if everybody should recognise him. John's mission had two facets. First of all he called people to repentance and baptism. Secondly he prepared the way for Jesus. In a way he was God's spokesman. But that's not where it all ends. God's project of salvation is still to be carried out and it doesn't necessarily take a great prophet like John. A prophet is simply a spokesman, a job each of us could undertake to varying degrees. Like John, each of us is born for a purpose. The ministry of John the Baptist continues in each of us. *Chapel Bell*
MASS ONLINE Apologies that our webcasting has been failing lately. Please be patient with us whilst we look into the problem.

PARISH BARBECUE Tickets are probably still on sale for our parish barbecue, which will take place next **Sunday, 1st July** after Mass at St Peter's. £5 for adults, £3.50 for children and £12 for a family ticket. You can get your tickets after Sunday Mass at St Peter's, or ring Ian on 736811. Please bring your own drinks. We would be grateful for any contributions of a salad or a dessert and, if you can help with the catering in this way, please will you put your name on the list in the parish room. Thank you.

PRAYER VISITING 'Bearsted Area Churches Together appeal for volunteers. We are collecting prayers in the Monday – Wednesday, **16th-18th July**. If you can offer between 60-90 minutes from 6.30pm on one of these days, please give your name and contact details to Fr Geoff who will pass them on to me. The last time we organised this I was the only Catholic participating so I am hoping for one of two more.' - *Bob Piggott*. ★

Ecumenical prayer group: It has been suggested that as churches together we should meet to look at and learn about various troubled areas in the world and then pray about them. If you are interested contact Margaret Doak 01622 738508.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE Our next gathering will be for Benediction at 3.30pm on Sunday, **22nd July**. (You don't have to be going on the pilgrimage to attend the Benediction.)

PETER'S PENCE a centuries-old initiative of the Bishop of Rome with the aim of promoting the solidarity of the faithful, religious and lay people, on an increasingly shared path. Knowing and contributing to the initiatives of Pope Francis is easier today thanks to the opportunity to donate directly online and to share messages of hope, mercy and charity through social networks. On the site it is also possible to read, in some depth, about the causes that Peter's Pence supports. Please visit: <http://peterspence.va/>.

★ 'It is always better to share, because we can only bring to heaven what we have shared with others.'
Pope Francis.

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 24th JUNE 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ The NATIVITY of St JOHN THE BAPTIST ✠

Sun 24th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Phyllis Hoban RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 25th	Feria	7.00pm	✠ Mass
Tues 26th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass
Wed 27th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass
Thu 28th	St Irenaeus	7.00am	✠ Mass
Thu 28th	SAINTS PETER AND PAUL	(H) 7.00pm (Vigil)	✠ Mass: Holy Father's Intentions
<i>Holy ✠ Day</i>		10.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
Fri 29th		8.00pm	✠ Mass: Holy Souls
Sat 30th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✠			
Sun 1st July	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Shirley Taylor RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass
		12noon	Baptism: Carlos and Oghenemaro Egbedi

MISSIONAL APPEAL Each year the archbishop asks us to host a missionary society to give an appeal. This year, on **14th and 15th July**, we will be welcoming a sister from the Daughters of Divine Love who will be appealing on behalf of the Missionary Sisters of England and Wales. More information next week.

A FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS Holy Cross Church will be holding a flower festival in **September** and would like to involve the local community. See the notice board if you are interested.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June – Social Networks:** that social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes,** especially Cyril Adam; for those who have died recently especially Baz Jackson; 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 all who yearn to be parents,** that God will hear their desire and bless them with the gift of life.
- **Anniversaries this week (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Edward Gibson, Charles Ryan, Jeremiah Horgan, Maurice Walsh, Heather Harrington, Margaret Smith, Roger Murray and Natacha Keyser. ✠

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£325.86** (Gift Aided, **£175.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank, amount to **£190.00**). ♦ The collection in support of **Life** amounted to **£108.61**. ♦ This **Thursday** and **Friday** (a holy day of obligation) there is a collection for **Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father which assists him and the Apostolic See to exercise their service of the Universal Church (see above).

60th ANNIVERSARY MASS for St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL On Saturday **14th July** there will be a Mass to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the re-opening of St George's Cathedral following its closure after significant bomb damage during the second world war. All are welcome to attend. [We have yet to be informed of the time that this will take place.]

YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS' WEEKEND "Tell others the truth that sets you free" (Pope Benedict XVI). During the weekend of the **7-9th September**, young catholic adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey. It will feature Fr Lawrence Lew O.P. and Canon Poucin. More information: <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/>.

VACANCY *Ten Ten* is a Catholic charitable organisation that uses drama to speak to the hearts and minds of young people in schools throughout the UK. They are looking for a schools' facilitator to lead sessions on "Relationship and Sex Education" using films created by Ten Ten. This is a fixed-term, part-time role with an attractive salary and benefits. For more information, please visit: www.tententheatre.co.uk/recruitment. Deadline is Monday **2nd July**.

