



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: bearsted@rcaos.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 C

✠ THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER ✠

5th MAY 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: NEW LEASE OF LIFE Ever been entrusted with a big job and completely messed up? If you've made big mistakes in the work place, the chances are that you won't be entrusted with that job again. If you make a mistake in family circles, the people who love you most probably will give you a second chance, but they might be keeping a watchful eye on you just the same. In the days after Jesus' death and resurrection Peter must have been suffering huge guilt. He had been one of Jesus' most ardent followers, and yet it was Peter who had denied Jesus three times during his arrest and trial. When we have had a difficult or traumatic time it is human nature to retreat into our comfort zones. This is exactly what Peter is doing in today's story. Jesus might have hoped that his disciples would be out and about spreading the good news, but Peter is back on the lake doing what he knows best.... fishing!



When we hit difficult times in our lives and all we are able to do is hide from the world, what we need most is for someone to give us a helping hand. What we might need is for someone to let us know that we are still valued. When we give someone who has lost their self-esteem a special job, we can give them a new lease of life.

In today's gospel Jesus appears to Peter and the disciples from the shore whilst they are out fishing. Peter, as impetuous as ever, jumps into the water and swims to meet him. The others follow in the boat. On the shore Jesus takes some bread, and some fish that his disciples have just caught, and they share a simple meal. Then Jesus turns to Peter and asks, "Do you love me?" Three times he asks the same question, and three times Peter replies that he does. It's as though Jesus is giving him the opportunity to make amends for his three denials. Jesus is offering more than forgiveness. He's offering healing and recovery. Then he says to Peter "Feed my lambs," and "tend my sheep." Jesus gives Peter an important job, the job he has been training him for all along – to give the growing community of disciples his support, guidance and leadership. It isn't hard to imagine how delighted Peter must have felt on this day. Perhaps he hadn't let Jesus down after all. Jesus still loved him and valued him. This was Peter's big second chance and new lease of life.

(Chapel Bell)

CROWNING of OUR LADY This Sunday, the first in May (Our Lady's month), we will be crowning her statue before Mass both at Good Shepherd and St Peter's.

BEARSTED PRAYER VISITING Please share this weekend in the prayers that were collected during last week's Prayer Visiting.

CHARITY BOOKSTALL There is a charity bookstall at St Peter's **today**.

FIRST COMMUNIONS The First Communion Mass will be on Sunday **19th May** at St Peter's with a rehearsal the day before.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION We hope to introduce Adoration in our parish in the near future. A speaker from the Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration will be speaking **next weekend** at all our Masses to explain how it works. Do think about if you can spare a little time to adore Our Blessed Lord. Many graces flow from the practice of Eucharistic Adoration.

LIFE as a REFUGEE in the SIBERIAN GULAGS Bozena Sain will speak to us in St Peter's Church on **Wednesday 15th May at 7pm**, about her experience as a wartime refugee in the Gulags of Siberia. To help with catering, please let us know if you are coming. Ring Father Geoffrey (01622 736100) or Terry Kinsman (01622 730119), or sign up on the notice on the parish noticeboard.

BEATSTED CHURCHES There will be a meeting at Holy Cross on Thursday **16th May** at 7.30pm.

CAFOD VOLUNTEER DAY: *Message from CAFOD:* "Celebrating our Common Home. **Saturday, 11th May**, 9.30am-2.30pm at Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB. This volunteer meeting will include an opportunity to hear a first-hand account of our work overseas and an introduction to our new Climate Campaign "Our Common Home". There will also be an opportunity to participate in a number of interesting workshops. We will finish the meeting with a Laudato Si-inspired Creation Mass. For more information and to book a place, please contact Sarah Cadwallader on 0208 466 9901 or email southwark@cafod.org.uk."

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 5th MAY 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ **THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (C)** ✧

Sun 5th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Christine Jeyes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Alicja Opoń RIP
Mon 6th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass: Patricia Czerniawskyi RIP
Tue 7th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass
Wed 8th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass
Thu 9th	Feria	7.00am	✧ Mass
Fri 10th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass
Sat 11th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✧ **FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C)** ✧

Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Shirley Muir RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: For all Priests

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

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for May:** for the Church in Africa, that through the commitment of its members, it may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for the continent.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for those who have died recently, especially Patricia Czerniawskyi and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board; for those baptized and received into the Church at Easter; and for our children preparing for First Communion.
- **For all those who are suffering as a result of violence against religious communities:** that they will be comforted and given the strength to move forward in love and trust.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✧ Marguerite Davis, Reginald Hayes and Paul McLaughlin. ✧

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£385.15** (of which, **£167.05** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). The second collection to raise money for our cathedral amounted to **£140.13** • **Next Sunday** there is a second collection for **Ecclesiastical Education**, to help meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and permanent diaconate.

GIFT AID SCHEME Thank you to all donors for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme. If any donor has not paid sufficient tax to cover the amount being reclaimed for tax year 2018-2019 can they please advise myself or Fr Geoff. We always welcome new donors and if any parishioner who is a tax payer would like to join the scheme please see myself or Fr Geoff. Mark Smith, Gift Aid Organizer

MARCH for LIFE This year on **Saturday 11th May**, starting outside Westminster Church House, 25 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BN at **2pm**. There will also be events in the morning from 9.30am until 1.30pm. For more details and local coach information, see www.MarchForLife.co.uk. See poster.

JPIC SPRING ASSEMBLY The Spring Assembly of Southwark Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is on Saturday **18th May** at Our Lady of Reparation, West Croydon (CR0 2AR). The day begins at 10am with Mass, and continues until 3.45pm. For details, see the poster and programme on the notice board.

A DAY with MARY This year on **Sunday 2nd June** at the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, the national shrine of Our Lady. The day begins at 11.40am with a welcome and Mass in the Basilica, followed by exposition and processions ending in the village of Walsingham. For more information, see the poster on the notice board.

MASS in CELEBRATION of the SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE at St George's Cathedral, Saturday **13th July**. If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please apply as soon as possible. Get in touch with the parish office and provide your names, the anniversary you are celebrating, your home address, email address and telephone, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. Alternatively, get in touch direct at mflse@rcaos.org.uk so you can receive an invitation. Please let them have the location of your parish in the title of your email.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES Some places are still available on this annual event, led by Bishop Paul Hendricks. Dates: **23rd-30th August**. For details please see: www.tangney-tours.com/CA and its special section for Southwark.