



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

✠ **FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER** ✠

12th MAY 2019

World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE MASTER'S VOICE How often do we hear the phrase, "We believe what we want to believe." It's equally true that we refuse to believe what we don't want to believe. In today's reading the Jews are pushing Jesus to state his case. "If you are the Messiah tell us plainly." Jesus replies, "You do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep." In other words, the questioners are not his followers, they are hostile towards him and therefore they are not open to believing in him even though they have seen the evidence. In some ways Christianity is a chicken and egg kind of scenario. We need to be followers of Jesus, to believe in him, but we need to believe to be followers. Which comes first is up to us, but we have to be open to hearing and recognising Jesus in our twenty first century world.



Hearing, recognising, believing and responding is what 'Good Shepherd Sunday' is all about. Some situations have got 'God' written all over them and some haven't. How do we tell the difference? What are we called to do? How are we called to believe? Some things are obvious, some things aren't. But at the heart of everything, even issues that didn't exist in Jesus' day such as euthanasia, and stem cell research, Jesus' teachings are like 'cat's-eyes' on life's dark country roads. We have to recognise Jesus' voice in everything by asking, how much of today's decisions are based in love, and how much of our decisions are based in our own human agendas.

(Chapel Bell)

WORLD DAY of PRAYER for VOCATIONS The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is held each year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. In the Gospel of John read on this Sunday, in each of the three years, Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd who has come so that people may have life to the full, the one who lays down his life for his sheep, the one who knows his sheep — they recognize his voice. "In a time when opinion has supplanted fact, there is a need for people to preach and witness to truth. As a part of the family of God we need to exemplify the values of our faith, but in humility and compassion. It is interesting to note in a recent talk with young people in discernment for the priesthood and religious life, none had proposed themselves as candidates. They believed themselves to be not good enough. In each case, it was only after the encouragement of fellow parishioners and friends that they were able to take that first crucial step. We are called to foster and raise up such men and women with the capacity to be good shepherds not just now but anticipating the needs of our Church into the future."

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Welcome this weekend to Alan Ashfield and Kenneth Guier from the Apostolate Of Eucharistic Adoration who will be introducing our proposed weekly period of exposition. Your kind cooperation is requested!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Please remember the children (Chinonso, Chibuikem (CJ), Louis, Declan, Klaudia, Emilia, Oliver, Jack, Adam, Nathan and Leyla-Maria) and their families in your prayers; the children are busy preparing for their First Eucharist next **Sunday, 19th May**, during the 10.30 Mass at St Peter's. As always, consider attending another Mass next weekend if you don't like crowds! ★ There will be a rehearsal for the children and their parents **this Friday** afternoon at 4.45 in the church after the regular session with the children.

SALE OF SECONDHAND BOOKS Thank you to everyone who donated books and to all those who supported the sale. Approximately £10 was raised which will be donated to the Fields of Life's I AM GIRL programme in East Africa. I AM GIRL is a health education initiative which seeks to improve the attendance of adolescent girls in school. For more information please see www.fieldsoflife.org.

BEARSTED CHURCHES There will be a meeting at Holy Cross **this Thursday, 16th May** at 7.30pm.

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 on Sunday **13th October**; the programme, beginning on Sunday **9th June**, will be run in conjunction with St Francis' parish. Application forms are available.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th MAY 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **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
Mon 13th	Our Lady of Fátima	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tue 14th	St Matthias	10.00am	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Wed 15th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 16th	St Simon Stock	7.00am	✕ Mass: Rachel Chapman RIP
Fri 17th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: James Mahon RIP
Sat 18th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C)** ✕

Sun 19th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Ron and Mary Durbin RIP
		10.30am	✕ First Holy Communion Mass: For the Children

LIFE as a REFUGEE in the SIBERIAN GULAGS Bozena Sain will speak to us in St Peter's Church this Wednesday, at 7pm. 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.

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, 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.
- **On Good Shepherd Sunday:** that many may listen with love to the voice of the Good Shepherd and offer themselves to him in the priesthood or religious life.
- **Anniversaries** (St Peter's Chapel memorial): ✕ James Mahon, Charlotte Button, Tony Moritz and Antonella Bellini. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£453.05** (of which, **£226.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ **Today** there is a second collection for **Ecclesiastical Education**, to help meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and permanent diaconate.

CENTRE for CATHOLIC FORMATION has a wide variety of videos available on YouTube on topics as varied as a *Faith and Art* series, lectures on G.K. Chesterton, Adult Formation, Lent, Passiontide and the Holy Spirit. To watch and subscribe to the YouTube channel, visit tinyurl.com/ccfvideos. A list of available titles and series can be found on the poster on the noticeboard.

CAFOD Our Common Home – We are proud of the UK's commitment to endeavour to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C. This will limit the worst effects of climate change on our health, homes and communities and people living in poverty around the world. To support a *by 2045 net zero greenhouse gas emissions reduction target* please sign the petition in church.

JPIC SPRING ASSEMBLY The Spring Assembly of Southwark Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is **this 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 mfise@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.