



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

Year C

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER ✠

26th MAY 2019

**FAITH IN FOCUS: GOD KNOWS NO ORPHAN** There are times in our lives when we feel a sense of abandonment. We might be left with feelings of panic, despair and emptiness at the breakup of a relationship, the loss of a loved one; or when the future we thought so secure is turned on its head through job loss, financial ruin or illness. The disciples must be feeling a little like this today at the prospect of Jesus' departure.

In today's gospel, Jesus is preparing his disciples for life without his physical presence. He is teaching them how to transcend these moments of fear and uncertainty "Those who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them..."

Undoubtedly, knowing we are loved helps transcend feelings of abandonment, but Jesus reminds us that love is a two-way street. Love isn't just a feeling, it's a decision, and staying in God's love means making a decision to keep his words. This doesn't mean God will no longer love us if we fail to keep a commandment, but it does mean that wanting to keep his words is at the heart of our relationship. It's not about trying to live up to an impossible set of expectations; it's about developing into confident Christians in an atmosphere of love and support.

Today's gospel speaks to those who are suffering insecurity and fear. As a Christian community we have a responsibility for promoting belief in God's love and in the continued support of the Holy Spirit. In this way, when any one of us comes to grief, that belief can come to the rescue. For those who know they are loved, healing comes more quickly. There can be no abandonment in a kingdom that knows no orphans. (Chapel Bell)



**FIRST COMMUNIONS** Congratulations to our children who made their First Communions last Sunday so prayerfully and are making their second (or more if they were at Mass during the week) this weekend. Our thanks to the parents and all those who contributed to the children's catechesis. ☹ Apologies that the live stream failed last Sunday; a backup copy (sadly without sound) has now been uploaded for friends and families to 'catch up' and view.

**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY** Next Sunday is World Communications Day, when we take up the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. Vital to this is good communication - through websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to forge positive relationships with media outlets to communicate news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people. There will be a retiring collection after Masses next weekend.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after the 10.00am Mass, until mid-day, each Tuesday beginning 4th June for a trial period (probably mid-July). ✠ For those unable to attend St Peter's on a Tuesday, adoration takes place at St Francis' Church in Maidstone town centre on Fridays (7am - 10pm).

**EASTER DUTIES** The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, 16th June. 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.

**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, 23rd June (or the Saturday evening).

**MASS in CELEBRATION of the SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE** at St George's Cathedral, Saturday 13th July. If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, get in touch direct at [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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.

**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.

**GIFT-AIDERS** Pick up an envelope in the porch addressed to you.

**TREASURER REPORTS** Ian Fraser will be briefing us today on the attached statements.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 26th MAY 2019**  
**(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C)** ✕

Sun 26th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Peter Santamaria RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Roy Dadson RIP
Mon 27th	St Augustine of Canterbury	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Tue 28th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Wed 29th	<b>✕ THE ASCENSION of THE LORD (C) ✕</b> <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	<b>(H) 7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 30th		<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
		<b>8.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Fri 31st	The Visitation of the B.V.M. <i>(Begins Novena to the Holy Spirit)</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 1st June	St Justin	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER (C)</b> ✕ <i>World Communications Day</i>			
Sun 2nd	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass:
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Anthony and Kathleen McParland RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

**MASS for NEW CATHOLICS** The Cathedral will host the annual Diocesan Mass for New Catholics on Saturday **8th June** at 12.30pm. Archbishop Peter Smith will preside. All who recently entered the Church are warmly invited to attend with their friends and family.

**ANNUAL MARTYRS' WALK** The annual walk which commemorates the heroes of the faith who witnessed even to death follows the route they took from Newgate to the place of their execution at Tyburn. This year it's on **Sunday 23rd June**, meeting at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. For full details, please see the poster.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for June:** for the mode of life for priests, that through the modesty and humility of their lives, they may commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.
- **For the Church,** her leaders, her people and all who serve the Gospel; that in all our decisions and discernment of the truth, we may be always attentive to the Holy Spirit and to God's loving will for all.
- **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; and for those baptized and received into the Church at Easter.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ June Locke, Jack Hayward, Alice Mulvihill, Mary Nicholson, David Sugar, Joanna Gale, Percy Keepin, George Larkman and Peter Lamburn. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£522.96** (of which, **£159.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). • **Next Sunday** is World Communications Day. There will be a retiring collection to support the world of the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of our Bishops' Conference (see above).

**MATT MAHER at ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL** On **Friday 31st May**, Matt Maher - International Christian music artist, songwriter and worship leader, will be joining the Southwark Catholic Youth Service at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Online booking £10 a ticket to cover costs. [www.tickettailor.com/events/cathedraltour](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/cathedraltour).

**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](http://tinyurl.com/ccfvideos). See 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 1.5°C. 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.

**GAP YEAR VOLUNTEERS** The Diocesan Youth Service are looking for talented and committed gap year volunteers to live in Christian community and work with young people. The Youth Service team will help them to develop their gifts, gain new skills and enjoy an experience that will stay with them for life. The gap year team works with residential groups at St Vincent's and day retreats at Aylesford Priory. This opportunity is open to those aged 18-25 (September 2019 - July 2020). Potential Gap Year Volunteers can email: [scys@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:scys@rcaos.org.uk) for details or to arrange an informal chat.