



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

EIGHTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME

3rd MARCH 2019

Day for the Unemployed

FAITH IN FOCUS: FLAWED TREASURE

We all know those people who are so crippled inside that they seem incapable of bringing a fair or rational perspective to a situation. Perhaps we are one of those people ourselves but totally fail to see it. Perhaps we are all crippled inside to lesser or greater degrees but would strongly argue it, bringing to bear all those flawed arguments we have stored in our hearts for as long as we can remember.

Our hearts are where our treasure is stored. If we have good heart our words and actions will be good. It follows if our hearts are flawed our treasure will be flawed too, and our thoughts and actions will be misguided.

So how should we care for our hearts? Just as in our physical diet, we get out what we put in. If we live on a diet of pulp fiction, pulp fiction is all we will know. If we listen only to those with selfish agendas, greedy and selfish motives are all we will know. If we do only what is comfortable and safe, 'comfortable and safe' is all we will ever know. It is more than easy to become egocentric without ever seeing it coming. To those closest to us, our faults will be screamingly obvious. Sadly we will be the last to see what other people see.

Today's gospel is an invitation to start challenging the views that blind us to the possibility of becoming better and more productive people. Do we complain or gossip too often? Do we fail to forgive and forget? Do we hold views about groups of people of whom we know nothing at all. Do we spend too much time working and too little time with those we love? Do we have very set or narrow views on religion, politics, money, or society as a whole?

It is hard to change our beliefs, especially if we don't even recognise them as 'planks'. A good starting point might be to open our eyes to someone we hugely admire and model our thinking on theirs. What starts off as an exercise could quickly become a life changing habit. (*Chapel Bell*)

✕ **ASH WEDNESDAY** ✕ the start of Lent, is this week: **6th March**.

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✕ Try to get to Mass at least once during the week. ✕ Attend Stations of the Cross either at St Peter's or Good Shepherd on **Friday evenings**. ✕ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✕ Contribute to CAFOD (especially on Lent Fast Day, **15th March**) or our parish Lenten Appeal. ✕ Give up a favourite luxury *but keep it between you and the Lord* (don't tell people what you have 'given up' for Lent). ✕ Try to get to the Bearsted area **Lent Lunches** on **Fridays** from 12.15, with a talk at 1pm from the following guest speakers:

15th March:	Holy Cross:	<i>Kenward Trust (Drug and Alcohol Rehab)</i>
22nd March:	Bearsted Methodists:	<i>Priority House (Mental Health) Chaplaincy</i>
29th March:	St Peter's:	<i>People with Autism in Churches</i>
5th April:	St Mary's, Thurnham:	<i>Maidstone Christian Cancer Support Group</i>
12th April:	St Mary's, Langley:	<i>Anna Chaplaincy (in partnership with the Heart of Kent Hospice)</i>



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 3rd MARCH 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (C)** ✕
Day for the Unemployed

Sun 3rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Josephine Kelly RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Michael Curtin RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 4th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Margaret Mason RIP
Tue 5th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 6th	✕ Ash Wednesday ✕ <i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i>	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Betty Shorter RIP
		7.30pm	✕ Mass
Thu 7th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 8th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 9th	Feria	5-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (C) ✕			
Sun 10th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Rita Kimber RIP

***STATIONS of THE CROSS** Friday evenings. Please join us.

St PETER'S CHOIR March's choir practice will be on **Tuesday 12th March** from 8-9pm at St Peter's.

PEACE ACTIONS Support Fairtrade Fortnight **25th February - 10th March**. This year's focus is on ensuring that cocoa farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to live a dignified life. Make an effort to buy Fairtrade Chocolate. • **The CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day** is Friday **15th March**. Envelopes will be available in due course. Please feel free to include any donations you plan to give in Lent in the Family Fast Day envelope. Your generosity will give vital support to the communities we work with around the world. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March** – *That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.*
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** *for those who have died recently, especially Rev. Steve Hughes; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board, especially those undergoing and recovering from surgery at this time; and for our children preparing for First Communion in May.*
- **For those out of work,** *and for those unable to work.*
- **Anniversaries** (St Peter's Chapel memorial): ✕ *Please see notice board.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£172.97** (Gift Aided, **£170.94**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). Thank you. • **This weekend** there will be the Collection for Poor Parishes, which enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

PARISH FINANCE MEETING This Monday evening at St Peter's.

Raise the Roof! 'Mutro Gullwing Bearsted' (otherwise known as Bearsted Area Churches Together) in association with Raise the Roof, Holy Cross, (plans to) proudly present on Saturday July 6th at the Memorial Hall "An Evening of Village Turns". Do you have a song, dance, recitation, juggling act, talented pet, comic routine, scene from a play or anything that might titivate the tired entertainment palates of Bearsted? Seriously, almost anything will be considered!

Please contact Bob Piggott on bob_piggott@hotmail.co.uk by March 20th.