



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

FIRST SUNDAY ✕ of LENT

10th MARCH 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: TEMPTED TO DISTRACTION? If we are not criminals, and we don't particularly consider ourselves to be sinners, do we really need to worry about the devil, or the dangers of temptation? If the temptations in our lives are simply to sit at the computer too long, or indulge in the odd tipples, how much does that really matter?

On the first Sunday of Lent we are always treated to the same lesson. We are asked to consider what we are about, how the devil might put spanners in the works, and what we can do about it. Today the devil finds Jesus in the wilderness. He finds him when he is hungry and weak, and tempts him with attractive options: food, fame and protection. We don't see Jesus dithering, not even for a minute. Jesus is able to put the temptation behind him because he knows what he is about. Jesus understands his mission, and it isn't about materialistic benefit or power. Jesus is able to put aside the temptation because he is confident that the same Holy Spirit that has taken him into the wilderness will lead him back out.



The wilderness comes in all shapes and sizes. For us it could be moments when we're feeling lost, broken, unloved, tired or overburdened. In these moments of weakness this is when we are most at danger. These are moments when the devil can come to us offering comfortable and attractive options. Comfortable and attractive options can tempt us to make poor decisions; decisions that provide distractions. The devil can be subtle. Temptations rarely lead the majority of us into crime or even into sin. Being tempted to finish off a bottle of wine or spend longer than we ought on Facebook doesn't seem so bad, but are the tens of little distractions we succumb to each and every day taking us away from who we really are, and from what is genuinely important?

Every day the Holy Spirit is guiding us towards our specific missions in life. Do we say 'yes' to the work God has lined up for us, or do we fall for all those comfortable little distractions? (*Chapel Bell*)

LENTEN LITURGY (*from the directory*) During Lent the Gloria is not used, except on Feasts and Solemnities; it is not permitted to decorate the altar with flowers, and the use of musical instruments is allowed only so as to support the singing (Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Solemnities and Feasts are exceptions to this rule); Alleluia is not said, even on Feasts and Solemnities: care should be taken in this respect in the choice of hymns and gospel acclamation.

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✕ Try to get to Mass at least once during the week. ✕ Attend Stations of the Cross, this week at Good Shepherd, on **Friday evenings**. ✕ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✕ Contribute to CAFOD, our parish Lenten Appeal (especially on Lent Fast Day this week, **15th March**). ✕ 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 (please note the revised venues):

15th March:	Holy Cross:	<i>Kenward Trust (Drug and Alcohol Rehab)</i>
22nd March:	St Peter's:	<i>Priority House (Mental Health) Chaplaincy</i>
29th March:	Bearsted Methodists:	<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>

ART EXHIBITION Our very own Shelagh Oates has an exhibition of her art throughout the month at Allington Library in support of Parkinson's Disease. Do go along. See the poster.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 10th MARCH 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (C)** ✕

Sun 10th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Margaret Fennessy RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Rita Kimber RIP
Mon 11th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Rev. Steven Hughes RIP
Tue 12th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Alexander Fraser RIP
Wed 13th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Canon Dermot MacDermot-Roe RIP
Thu 14th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Roseanne Gomez RIP
Fri 15th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Mike Connor RIP
	Lent Fast Day	(H) 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 16th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (C)** ✕

Sun 17th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Gertruda Rompa RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: April Dornan RIP

St PETER'S CHOIR The choir will be practising this **Tuesday** from 8-9pm at St Peter's.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY This Friday, **15th March**. Pledge to have soup this Family Fast Day and get your family, friends and parish involved (*our Lent Lunch is a good alternative*). Let's eat simply so others can simply eat! Your donation is a lifeline. An outstretched hand to a friend in danger. Together, we can reach out to men, women and children in God's family with love. If you are a UK tax payer, fill in the gift aid slip and return your donation next weekend or soon after.

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 Fr Alec Fraser, Margaret Fennessy, Sr Dorothy Bell and Br Raymund Hewlett; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for those who attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on Saturday; for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board; and for our children preparing for First Communion in May.*
- **For Rev. Mark Pavey,** *the new Team Vicar at Otham and Langley, who is to be inducted this week, and for his congregations.*
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ *Christina Brown, Mary Nutley, Colin Otterson, Percy Josling, John Drummy, May Sanity and Allan Harrison.*

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£347.59** (of which, **£166.50** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ The collection for Poor Parishes came to **£144.84**.

THIS WEEK Good Shepherd chapel is to receive a coat of paint (weather permitting). The diocesan health and safety team is to visit St Peter's on **Wednesday**.

CAFOD Our Common Home: our new campaign. CAFOD are responding to the call of creation with a new climate campaign. See <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-Change>: for more information or to sign their petition. "We are coming together on Wednesday **26th June** for a mass climate lobby outside parliament. The *Share the Journey* campaign saw you walk over 100,000 miles around the world in solidarity with refugees and migrants. At the end of 2018, 164 countries signed a UN Compact (agreement) on migration. This is the only international agreement to cover a range of issues linked to migration such as combating trafficking and improving border management. It also contains a series of goals to guide countries in how they can support migrants and refugees. This is a huge achievement, but now governments have to make sure this agreement is implemented."

BBC RADIO 4 *Lent Talks*, starts this Wednesday, **13th March**, 8.45-9pm. A series of six talks by six people well known in their fields who reflect on the story of Jesus' Ministry and Passion from the perspective of their own personal and professional experience.

The MYSTERY of GOD *Lent Course*. Produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. A course for groups or for individuals. A selection of thoughts, prayers, discussion, video links and actions. You can download this at <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent>.