



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

FIFTH SUNDAY ✕ of LENT

7th APRIL 2019

**FAITH IN FOCUS: THE FIRST STONE** It's a sad fact of life, if you do something good, it isn't remembered for very long. You are only as good as your last good deed. But if you do something bad, there will be those who insist on never forgetting it. There will always be those who mutter, "Oh that's 'so and so' the one who had the affair." "That Mr. Thingamajig, the one who embezzled the company funds." It's a very sad human failing. We are loath to let the failings of others go.

In today's gospel reading the Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. According to the Law of Moses such a woman should be stoned. What has Jesus to say on the matter? As ever, The Scribes and Pharisees are seeking to trap Jesus into giving an answer that is unlawful. Jesus however is great at not falling into traps. "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone," he replies.

When we have made a mistake in life, the last thing we need is condemnation. Condemnation is rarely useful. Condemnation sends us to a dark place where we fester. Denied our second chance, our self-esteem is eroded. We begin to see ourselves in a different light. Other people think we are bad or weak so perhaps we are. Our self-image spirals downwards, we start to behave the way people expect us to behave.... badly! But the people, who have pointed the finger of blame; are they really in any position to judge?

We are extraordinarily quick to throw the first stone. Our powers of empathy are limited. Perhaps we enjoy moral outrage. Perhaps we enjoy gossiping at someone else's expense. Today we are challenged. The next time we open our mouths to condemn, we are asked to find mercy instead, the same mercy we expect when we have fallen from grace. (Chapel Bell)



**CAFOD EMERGENCY CYCLONE IDAI APPEAL** Thank you for your generous response to our impromptu **Parish Red Bucket Appeal** collection last weekend. Your donations amounted to **£478.38** and this has already been sent on. If you were short of funds last week, please use the CAFOD envelopes and we will continue to forward any offerings.

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICE TIMES** These need to be delivered around Bearsted **this week**. Please pick up a set for a road near you.

**LENT** ("Prayer : Fasting : Almsgiving") ✕ Our final **Friday Lent Lunch** is as below, from 12.15, with a talk at 1pm:

**12th April:** St Mary's, Langley: Anna Chaplaincy (in partnership with the Heart of Kent Hospice)

**NEXT SUNDAY** is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Morning Mass at St Peter's will **begin in the parish hall** with the blessing of palms and the Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. This will be followed by the procession to church for the Mass. ✕ The Chrism Mass on Wednesday **17th April**, 11.30am at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. means that there will be a Service of the Word and Holy Communion at Good Shepherd that day. ✕ **Maundy Thursday Liturgy:** If you are willing and able to take part in the foot washing part of the liturgy please give your name to Deacon Cyril as soon as possible.

**GOOD SHEPHERD** It is hoped to finish the remedial work in time for Holy Week and Easter.

**BEARSTED CHURCHES EASTER EGG HUNT** To be held before Easter on Holy Saturday (**20th April**) at the Woodland Trust. It is free to enter, and Bearsted churches are asked to contribute the eggs that are the prizes. Could parishioners please support by buying one or two large eggs (not Creme Egg size) and leave in the sacristy at St Peter's.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 7th APRIL 2019**  
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT (C)** ✕

Sun 7th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Finn Egan RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Elizabeth Adibe RIP
Mon 8th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Fr Charles Jeffries RIP
Tue 9th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: James Griffin RIP
Wed 10th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Fr Huebert Miranda RIP
Thu 11th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Kathleen Mary Byrne RIP (FM)
Fri 12th <i>Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse</i>	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Colin Goddard RIP
		<b>(H) 7.30pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
Sat 13th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD (C)** ✕

Sun 14th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Luis and Conchita Vecino RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Dallas Sutton RIP

**St PETER'S CHOIR** Next rehearsal, Tuesday, 16th April, 8pm.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS** Our next session will be on Friday 26th April. Our congratulations to the children for their prayerful work and commitment. The First Communion Mass will be on Sunday 19th May at St Peter's with a rehearsal the day before.

**EASTER COFFEE** Back yet again (by popular demand): coffee and tea after Mass at Good Shepherd on **Low Sunday, 28th April**. Many thanks to our organizers!

**BEARSTED PRAYER VISITING** Week commencing 29th April. Please speak to Bob if you wish to get involved in this valuable and well-received outreach ministry to our community.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for April:** for doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for all our mothers, living and dead; for those who have died recently, especially Fr Huebert Miranda, Dallas Sutton and Baldev Singh Bal, 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 who are preparing for baptism and reception into the Church at Easter; and for our children preparing for First Communion.
- **For the victims of cyclone Idai in Mozambique;** for those who lost their lives and for stranded citizens and their families and for all who have lost loved ones.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Caroline Macklin, Francis Iloenyasi, Patrick Murphy, Wallie Locke, John Stock, Michael Tipper. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£429.80** (of which, **£188.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Last weekend's **special collection** to support CAFOD's efforts in the aftermath of **Cyclone Idai** raised **£478.38**. If you have a contribution you would like to add, please hand it to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. ♦ **Today** there will be a retiring collection to help cover the cost of **flowers for Holy Thursday and Easter**.

**MISSIO RED BOXES** Parishioners who have red Missio boxes are asked to bring them in so they can be counted. Please hand them in to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril.

**MARMALADE MORNING** at St Nicholas' Church, Otham, from 9.30, next Saturday 13th April. Probably the best marmalade and chutney in Kent! See poster or contact Joan Palmer, 202239.

**READERS and EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS** There will be a deanery day of recollection at St Andrew's, Tenterden on Saturday 27th April from 1pm-4pm. Readers and Extraordinary Ministers are invited to attend.

**CHARITY BOOKSTALL** There will be a charity bookstall at St Peter's on Sunday 5th May. Please leave any donations of books in the parish room at St Peter's from the weekend before. Thank you.