



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 ✕ EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of THE LORD ✕ 21st APRIL 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: Belief in the Resurrection is central and imperative to our faith, and because it is central and imperative it really ought to be rock solid. For many, this truth is distinctly uncomfortable. The account of Jesus' Resurrection is lacking in detail, and it can leave us with more questions than answers. For many, belief is far from rock solid. A rock solid belief that Jesus died and rose again to give us a clean slate would surely mean us living our lives very differently, but more often than not, this is not the case.

Traditionally at this time of year thousands of Christians are baptized all over the world. One such candidate was asked whether he felt any different now that he was baptized. The candidate replied, "Yes, I went from believing nothing, to believing everything sort of vaguely. I hope that God will make things clearer to me as I continue on this journey." The Resurrection is a little like this. In all honesty, the story of the Empty Tomb doesn't have us leaping up and down in the church pews. In truth, the Resurrection doesn't make everything great. We still have fear and doubt and pain, but whereas before we had nothing, now we have a hope. For some of us it might be a vague kind of hope, but we trust that God will make it a stronger hope as we continue our journey of faith and understanding. *(Chapel Bell)*



EASTER OCTAVE This is Easter Week: the solemn celebration of the Resurrection spills over this week into one continuous Solemnity of the Lord (a week of Sundays).

THANK YOU! Sincere thanks to those of you who worked solidly and quietly in so many ways and capacities to ensure that our Holy Week ceremonies were prepared and celebrated with great dignity and devotion. Also, many thanks to those of you who distributed the church service times around Bearsted. And well done to those who turned up over the three great days to make this a truly prayerful experience. ✕ **May God bless you and your family this Easter, Father Geoffrey and Deacon Cyril.**

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

SEASON of EASTER Easter isn't just one day; it's a 'season'. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one "great Sunday".

The gospel readings for the first three Sundays recount the appearances of the risen Christ. The readings about the Good Shepherd are assigned to the Fourth Sunday. On the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sundays, there are excerpts from the Lord's discourse and prayer at the last supper. ✕ The Solemnity of **St George**, which would have been celebrated this Tuesday, is transferred liturgically to **Tuesday 30th April**.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Our next session is this Friday **26th April**. The First Communion Mass will be on Sunday **19th May** at St Peter's with a rehearsal the day before.

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION We hope to introduce Adoration in our parish in the near future. A speaker from the Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration will be speaking soon at our weekend Masses to explain how it works. Do think about if you can spare a little time to adore Our Blessed Lord. Many graces flow from the practice of Eucharistic Adoration.

GIFT AID SCHEME Thank you to all donors for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme. If any donor has not paid sufficient tax to cover the amount being reclaimed for tax year 2018-2019 can they please advise myself or Fr Geoff. We always welcome new donors and if any parishioner who is a tax payer would like to join the scheme please see myself or Fr Geoff. Mark Smith, Gift Aid Organizer

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.



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 21st APRIL 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD (C) ✕

Sun 21st	Saturday	8.30pm	✕ Easter Vigil Mass: Kate and Bob, anniversary
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Margaret Angell RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 22nd	Easter Monday	10.00am	✕ Mass
Tue 23rd	Easter Tuesday	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 24th	Easter Wednesday	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Robert, Kathleen and Family
Thu 25th	Easter Thursday	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 26th	Easter Friday	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 27th	Easter Saturday	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy) (C) ✕

Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Margaret Richardson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass

LIFE as a REFUGEE in the SIBERIAN GULAGS Bozena Sain came on our recent Fátima Pilgrimage, and offered to speak to us as a thank-you, about her experience as a wartime refugee in the Gulags of Siberia. She was born in Poland during WW2, but when the Russians annexed East Poland, they forcibly deported many thousands of the existing population to the Siberian Gulags. A knock on the door in the middle of the night and 20 minutes to pack was the first her parents knew, and with baby Bozena they were put on a train of cattle trucks for the long and arduous journey. It took 3 months, and the only stops were to throw off the bodies of those who had died during the night from cold and hunger. Bozena's story tells of her little family arriving at the Gulags and suffering the Russian oppression, before they managed to get away overland across Russia to India, where they were liberated just after the end of the war. All are welcome to come and hear this compelling story by one who endured it. Bozena will speak to us in St Peter's Church on **Wednesday 15th May at 7pm**, for about an hour with coffee and cake. Please let us know if you are coming to help with catering numbers. 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 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 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 who those baptized and received into the Church at Easter; and for our children preparing for First Communion.
- **For the victims of the coach crash in Madeira:** for those who died that they may rest in peace; for the injured; and all those affected by this tragedy that they may be comforted.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Calerine Weeden, Ginetta Bellini, Sylvia Clifton and Margaret Richardson. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£417.38** (of which, **£202.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes: simply drop them into the collection bag at the offertory. • The collection **this Sunday** is your **personal offering to the priest** (it is not for parish expenses). *Envelopes are available for your convenience.* Along with the Christmas Collection this is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. © Thank you!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES Some places are still available on this annual event, led by Bishop Paul Hendricks. Dates: **23rd-30th August**. A range of hotels are available, with options for travel by air from Stansted or Manchester, or by train from London. Advantages of travelling with a diocesan pilgrimage include better participation in Lourdes events and devotions, facilities for pilgrims who need assistance, options for local excursions – and the support of a community devoted to Our Lady and to all that Lourdes means to us. For details please see: www.tangney-tours.com/CA and its special section for Southwark.

MASS in CELEBRATION of the SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE at St George's Cathedral **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 mflse@rcaos.org.uk so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. Please let them have the location of your parish in the title of your email.