



# 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 A**

**FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

*Racial Justice Sunday*

**9th FEBRUARY 2020**

**FAITH in FOCUS: SALT OF THE EARTH** Today Jesus gives his disciples a compliment. If we live by our faith, we, his disciples, will become the salt of the earth and the light of the world. But the compliment comes with a warning! If the salt loses its taste it is worthless, and if we hide the light underneath a bowl it fails to serve its purpose. Sounds silly doesn't it? Why on earth would we go around hiding lights underneath bowls, yet we do it all the time!

We deny the salt and hide the light every time we keep our faith to ourselves. You often hear people claim that their faith is strictly a personal thing, something just between them and God. But what use is a belief that doesn't impact on those around us? What good is a faith that does nothing to make the world a better place? We deny the salt and hide the light every time we keep quiet instead of speaking out. It isn't fashionable to be a Christian nowadays. It's all too easy to keep quiet in the face of uncomfortable issues such as racism or poverty. It's far easier to side with the gossip and turn a blind eye to petty pilfering in the workplace. It's too easy for us to laugh at an unkind joke or let our children watch programmes that promote values contrary to our Christian belief.



Remember today somebody in your life who Jesus might have described as the 'salt of the earth'. Remember how that person inspired, motivated or impressed you. Remember how you admired that person for being true to themselves instead of bending to the fashionable point of view. Somebody once said that Christianity is infectious: when we see a shining example, we want to emulate it. Could we too become shining examples of Christianity? Could Jesus give us the same compliment as those original disciples? Light of the world. Salt of the earth.

*Chapel Bell*

**RACIAL JUSTICE DAY (Today)** All human beings are equally children of God and loved by God. Since none is outside the love of God, none should be outside our love either. On this day we pledge to look after our migrant friends in whatever community they find themselves. This might mean being a friendly face or being of some practical help. We remember that being a Christian is about treating everyone the way we would like to be treated ourselves; no ifs, no buts. **There is a retiring collection this weekend** to help support Church in its work with members of the Travelling Communities.

**OUR LADY of LOURDES (Wednesday)** You might not be able to go to Lourdes in person, but you can still post a petition online. When you post online your petition / prayer request will be placed at the Grotto in Lourdes, as quickly as possible. Millions of pilgrims visit Lourdes each year and many of them place their prayers at the Grotto. Visit [www.lourdesprayerrequest.com](http://www.lourdesprayerrequest.com).

**LENT** begins on Ash Wednesday, **26th February**; Lent Fast Day is Friday **6th March**.

**TUESDAY ADORATION** What is Eucharistic Adoration? Coming to pray before Jesus who is present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, which is solemnly exposed on the altar at St Peter's most **Tuesdays** of the year. Why not join us, whether for the entire 2 hours, including Mass, or for just 5 minutes?

**FRIDAY COFFEE** After Mass (on **Fridays**) at St Peter's.

**IMPORTANT – CANDLE SAFETY** Following an incident in a parish in the diocese shortly before Christmas during which a child's costume caught fire, the Archbishop has mandated "an immediate ban on the use of all traditional lighted candles by any external body on Church premises". See the briefing on the notice board along with [common sense] guidelines on the lighting of votive candles.

**DIOCESAN CHOIR** The Diocesan Choir is seeking singers for the Rite of Election (**29th February**), and the Chrism Mass (**8th April**) in St George's Cathedral this year. These are significant events in the life of the Diocese and are both joyous occasions. Singers will need to register in advance and must be able to make the rehearsal ahead of the service. For full details, see the poster and booking form on the noticeboard.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 9th FEBRUARY 2020**  
**(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✠ **FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✠  
*Racial Justice Sunday*

Sun 9th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✠ Vigil Mass: Len Richardson RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✠ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✠ Mass: Tom and Joan Lawson RIP
Mon 10th	St Scholastica	<b>7.00pm</b>	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
Tue 11th	Our Lady of Lourdes <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	✠ Mass: Edward Bullock RIP <i>Followed by Adoration until 12noon</i>
Wed 12th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✠ Mass
Thu 13th	Feria	<i>No Mass; Church open as usual</i>	
Fri 14th	Ss Cyril and Methodius	<b>10.00am</b>	✠ Mass <i>Coffee after Mass</i>
Sat 15th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✠ **SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✠

Sun 16th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✠ Vigil Mass: Keith Harris RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✠ Mass: Ros Bearcroft RIP

**MAIDSTONE DAY CENTRE** Thank you to everyone who has donated toiletries. Throughout **February** we are collecting new and good used clothing for men and women. Please leave any donations in the parish room.

**BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER: LENT LUNCHESES** The very popular local churches' Lent Lunches are arranged for this year. They are on Fridays, lunch from 12.15pm (please don't arrive before that time), talk 1pm, questions 1.20 and finish around 1.30pm.

- **6th March:** Holy Cross - Speaker from MADM, 'Making A Difference Maidstone', which works with homeless, those in addiction, socially isolated, disadvantaged and in crisis in the Maidstone area.
- **13th March:** Methodist Church - Speaker from the chaplaincy at Maidstone Prison.
- **20th March:** Langley - Speaker from Choices, which works with those suffering domestic abuse.
- **27th March:** Thurnham - Speaker from the Fremlin Walk Chaplaincy.
- **3rd April:** St Peter's Church - Speaker about being an 'Eco-Church'.

*(Please note that the churches are in a slightly different sequence this year.)*

**SALE of SECOND HAND BOOKS** The next sale will be on Sunday **5th April**. Proceeds will be donated to Street Pastors. Street Pastors are volunteers from local churches who go out at night and care, listen to and offer practical help to those who need it.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **On this Racial Justice Sunday**, for all members of the Travelling Communities, that the Lord may open the minds and hearts of those who show prejudice against them, ourselves included.
- **With the Holy Father for February:** "Listen to the migrants' cries". We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes**, for those who have died recently especially *Stephanie Foley*; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); and for all our relatives and friends and those who have asked for prayers.
- **Anniversaries** (St Peter's Chapel memorial): ✠ Peter Barrett, Edward Bullock, Maurice Walsh, Marie Cryer, Dorothy Oxford and Barry Boyden. ✠

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£422.40** (of which, **£182.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ Today is **Racial Justice Day**; the theme this year is "You are the heart of the Church" and celebrates the contribution Travelling Communities make to the Church in England and Wales. A collection will be taken: contributions, however great or small, will help support the Church in its work with Travellers.

**CAFOD** Envelopes are, as always, available for you to make a donation; the needs are many and constant.

**THE YEAR OF THE WORD** In partnership with Bible Society, the Year of the Word focuses on celebrating, living and sharing God's word throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales until the end of December 2020. Pick up a booklet 'The God who Speaks' for more information, or visit: <http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>.