



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 A

SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

16th FEBRUARY 2020

FAITH in FOCUS: FOLLOW YOUR HEART It's a sad truth that those who walk free from court aren't necessarily innocent. Sometimes the man or woman who walks free from court simply has the better solicitor. Lawyers do a good and valuable job, but it has to be said that some lawyers take more pride in finding legal loopholes than the truth.

In today's gospel reading Jesus invites us to consider that it is not just laws in themselves that are important but our attitude towards those laws. Perhaps we haven't committed murder, but have we harboured hatred? We might not have committed adultery, but have we failed to live up to the love we once promised our spouse? We might not have committed theft, but are our hearts set on the wealth our neighbours have earned? Laws might seem to fence our lives with rods of uncompromising iron, but most laws are simply expressions of how we should behave towards each other. The unwritten laws of love bind us in promises that we wouldn't dream of compromising let alone riddling with loopholes. When it comes to those we love, we don't need a statute book, our heart tells us what to do. The written law should be no different.

Laws are written down in books of statute and commandments are written in the Bible, but the spirit of the law must exist in our hearts. What exists in our hearts is as important if not more important than our actions. As a newly qualified driver mentally rehearses his or her first solo drive, so we must follow where our hearts go first.

Chapel Bell

THE CHAIR of ST PETER (Saturday) In every diocese, the 'head church' is called the cathedral. The word cathedral is derived from the Latin word cathedra, which means chair. Ever since the times in which the apostles lived, the bishop's cathedra, or chair, has symbolized leadership and authority - the same authority that Jesus first gave to Peter, our first pope. The feast of the 'Chair of Saint Peter' commemorates the establishment of the See of Rome. Since St Peter is patron of our church at Bearsted, there will be an additional Mass there this **Saturday morning at 10.**

CALLING ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS Coffee, cake, chat and flowers, following the Mass next Saturday morning at St Peter's. Please bring a bunch of flowers, an oasis dish, and a small amount of greenery. Any queries, please phone Shelagh, 07887 656421, or Annie, 07823 334299.

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

SUNDAY COFFEE and TEA at ST PETER'S Thank you to our loyal providers of Sunday refreshments. They might like to know that we have accumulated 12 unopened packets of biscuits, so there should be enough for some time to come (as in Luke 12:19)!

VOLUNTEERS One of our faithful newsletter volunteers has had to retire. If anyone can spare half an hour every other Saturday morning just to coordinate and staple this publication, please let Fr Geoffrey know.

BEARSTED CHURCHES' EASTER EGG HUNT As usual we are looking for donations of Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, which will take place *before* Easter on Holy Saturday, **11th April**. It seems that St Peter's share is in the region of 55 eggs. Thank you to those who have donated in the past! ♦ Holy Week and Easter Service times will need to be delivered as usual this year, as and when they arrive.

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.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL There will be a meeting this **Tuesday**, 7.30pm, at St Andrew, Tenterden.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE There is a meeting this **Wednesday**, 7.30pm, at St Peter's.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th FEBRUARY 2020
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

Sun 16th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Keith Harris RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Ros Bearcroft RIP
Mon 17th	Feria	7.00pm	No Mass: church open as usual
Tue 18th	Feria	10.00am	✧ Mass Followed by Adoration until 12noon
Wed 19th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thu 20th	Feria		No Mass: church open as usual
Fri 21st	Feria	10.00am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion Followed by coffee
Sat 22nd	The Chair of St Peter	10.00am	✧ Mass
		5-5.30pm	Confessions

✧ **SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✧
Day for the Unemployed

Sun 23rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Irene and Newport Horne RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Eric Smith RIP
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo

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.

BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER: LENT LUNCHES 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'.

✧ Our **parish Lent programme** (Stations of the Cross, Lent Appeal. etc.) will run as usual; more information next week.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **For those that have been affected by Storm Ciara** and have lost their homes due to flooding. We give thanks to those working in the emergency services and volunteers who give their time and support to affected communities.
- **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; 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):** ✧ Mary Sanders, Elizabeth Mahon, Patrick Dempsey, Thomas Lawson, Geoffrey Dring, George Morris, Rosalie Holland, Colin Dring, Seamus Good, Mornington Hale, Ivy Wood, Finbarr Hudson, Enid Greenrod and Rita Kimber. ✧

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£388.72** (of which, **£188.42** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ The Racial Justice collection amounted to **£137.42**.

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

A DAY with MARY The next *Day with Mary* is on Saturday **14th March** at Our Lady of the Annunciation, Addiscombe (CR0 7EN), beginning at 9.15am and ending at 4.15pm. For full details, see the poster.

BITESIZE "Your heart knows you, even if you don't yet know your heart."

Luke Auste