



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

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

1st MARCH 2020

FAITH in FOCUS: DAILY CHOICES Famous artists depict Satan as a winged demon with goat horns and cloven hooves. If the devil really presented temptation to us in this obvious guise, we would easily be able to recognise and resist it. Sadly that is not the case. We tend to think of temptation as something that will lead us into a life of crime or immorality, but temptation is simply anything that threatens to take us away from God. Temptation does not come with all the easily recognisable trappings of Satan. More often or not temptation comes as an attractive choice. Satan presents for us easy ways out of our problems. Satan dresses up poor decisions as sensible options. Worse, the devil will help us to justify our poor decision making until we reach a point where we really cannot tell right from wrong. Many of us fail to recognise temptation, and the reason we fail is because we don't really know who we are or what we're about. It's surprising that we can get so far on in years without being about to answer simple questions like "What are you doing for God?" "How would you like to be remembered?" The reason we struggle with questions like these is because as human beings we are governed hugely by self-interest. Self-interest is essential for survival and it's in all of us, but as Christians we have to put self-interest on a back burner and put in the time and effort into defining who we really would like to be. Once we have achieved this, then the devil's temptations are suddenly crystal clear. After all, we can't be tempted away from our path in life if we've no idea what our path in life is. If we have no plan, we are hardly worth the devil's attention.



When we choose to give up something this Lent, perhaps it should be something that reflects the path we have chosen and the temptation we are trying to transcend. If we decide to give up red wine for instance, with the intention of dropping a couple of dress sizes, God won't be hugely impressed and the devil won't be remotely interested. If we give up wine because we have identified that it is stopping us from doing some important work of God's making, our Lenten journey will take on a life changing significance. Jesus gives us an important clue; "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" When we make our daily choices ask, "Is this about me.... or is it about God?" *Chapel Bell*

BEGINNING LENT This is the time of year to ask some uncomfortable questions. How often do we fail to hear the cry of the poor? How often do we fail to forgive and how often do we fail to see our own failings? We pray for all those who genuinely desire a change of heart.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER (this Friday) is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March. This year we are asked to pray with the women of Zimbabwe.

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.

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

BEARSTED PRAYER VISITING Our group of prayer visitors is looking to increase their numbers. If you would be able to offer your support, please speak to Bob Piggott.

A DATE for YOUR DIARIES A murder mystery 'whodunnit', with 3 course meal and FREE WINE! Where? St Peter's church hall. When? **Saturday 25th April at 7pm**. What? 'Death by Paintbrush'. Who? That's for you to decide! Tickets will be available after Masses in two weeks' time. See posters on the board for more details.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 1st MARCH 2020
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ **FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (A)** ✠

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| Sun 1st March | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✠ Vigil Mass: Luis and Conchita Vecino RIP |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✠ Mass: Anthony Holland RIP |
| | | 10.30am | ✠ Mass: Adriana Bullock RIP |
| Mon 2nd | Feria | 7.00pm | ✠ Mass |
| Tue 3rd | Feria | 10.00am | ✠ Mass Followed by Adoration until 12noon |
| Wed 4th | Feria | (H) 10.00am | ✠ Mass: Margaret Mason RIP |
| Thu 5th | Feria | <i>No Mass: church open as usual</i> | |
| Fri 6th Lent Fast Day | Feria <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i> | 10.00am | ✠ Mass: Kathleen Byrne RIP Followed by coffee |
| | | (H) 7.30pm | ✠ Stations of the Cross |
| Sat 7th | Feria | 5-5.30pm | <i>Confessions</i> |

✠ **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (A)** ✠

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|---------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Sun 8th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✠ Mass: Michael Curtin RIP |
| | | 10.30am | ✠ Mass: Patrick Dempsey and deceased family members |
| | | 3.00pm | Baptism: Rosie Watts |

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 (especially on Lent Fast Day, **6th March: envelopes available**) or our parish Lenten Appeal. ✠ 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:

- **This Friday:** 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 PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March:** for Catholics in China. We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity. And for those locally who attended the Rite of Election this weekend.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes**, especially Archbishop Peter; 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):** ✠ Elsie Donlon, John Donlon, Bob French, Joan Linden, Leslie Cuming, Maria Bell and John Donlon. ✠

St PETER'S CLOTHES FOR THE HOMELESS COLLECTION Despite our best efforts, Maidstone Day Centre tell us their clothes stores are now full, and the same is true at the Salvation Army. However, '**MADM**' (**Making a Difference Maidstone**), have welcomed all of our clothes collection and will put them to good use locally. You may have seen their shop in the Mall, but their more long-established shop is in Church Street (by M & S Men's Shop rear entrance). Please don't leave any more clothes at St Peter's, but drop them off at the MADM Shop (49 Church St) by car using the loading bay immediately in front of their shop. Clothing welcome, but also any other 'charity shop' goods that they can sell in their shop. ☺ **MADM** is a very small new charity for Maidstone disadvantaged and needy (not just the homeless). For more information on what they do, see their leaflet on the notice board or ask Terry Kinsman (01622 730119) whilst Marie Quarman is away.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£434.30** (of which, **£205.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). • **Today** there will be a second collection for **poor parishes**, which enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

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.

SANTA MARTA GROUP See the notice about a training day on slavery in the agricultural sector in the Kent areas.