



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

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

8th MARCH 2020

FAITH in FOCUS: MOUNTAIN HIGH, VALLEY LOW When you hit a low do you feel sorry for yourself and complain bitterly, or do you seek to pull yourself back up and learn from it? When you are on a high do you make the most of the moment, working hard and feeling grateful, or do you sit back and become complacent? How you answer these questions is an important indicator of how you are likely to shape your future. Obviously a more positive attitude is going to shape a more fruitful future.

Today we find Peter, James and John in low spirits. Discipleship is proving to be more difficult than they had imagined, and understandably they were losing the enthusiasm and drive that they had shown previously. Jesus recognizes that it is time to treat his disciples to a motivational vision, the vision that we now refer to as the 'Transfiguration'. The glimpse of heaven's glory must surely have stayed with Peter, James and John for the rest of their days. But how does that help us? There's no doubt that some people are treated to spiritually motivating moments, but for most of us life seems to be just one long round of paying the bills. Is it any wonder we lose the bright-eyed vision of our youth? Or could it be that God is sending us little words of encouragement all the time and we simply don't remember them?

Peter lends a little human perspective to the story of the Transfiguration. He proposes erecting three tents in which to keep hold of the vision. It might sound trite, but keeping hold of a vision is key to staying motivated. Some people keep letters of encouragement and cards of thanks and congratulations to remind themselves of a time when they were doing a particularly good job. Other people adorn their desks at work with photographs of their children to remind themselves of why they are working, or cover their walls with certificates to keep in mind their original ambition. Others simply keep imagining how things will be once they have achieved their goals. Jesus teaches us that we can't always control what's happening around us, but we can change our thinking. If we adopt a 'can do' attitude we will make much better choices for shaping the future.



Chapel Bell

LENTEN LITURGY (from the directory) During Lent the Gloria is not used, except on Feasts and Solemnities; it is not permitted to decorate the altar with flowers, and the use of musical instruments is allowed only so as to support the singing (Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent; Solemnities and Feasts are exceptions to this rule); Alleluia is not said, even on Feasts and Solemnities: care should be taken in this respect in the choice of hymns and gospel acclamation.

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 St Peter's, led by Margaret and Patrick)) on **Friday evenings**. ✠ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✠ Contribute to CAFOD 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:** 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'.

24 HOURS for THE LORD As has become customary during Lent, there will be twenty-four hours of adoration and prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament at St Francis', Maidstone **from 7am on Friday 20th March until 10am on Saturday 21st March**. The Sacrament of Confession is also available throughout.

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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 8th MARCH 2020
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (A)** ✕

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
		12noon	Baptism: Rosie Watts
Mon 9th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Archbishop Peter Smith's wellbeing
Tue 10th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Jim Kelly RIP <i>Followed by Adoration until 12noon</i>
Wed 11th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Roseanna Gomez RIP
Thu 12th	Feria	<i>No Mass: church open as usual</i>	
Fri 13th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Mike Connor RIP <i>Followed by coffee</i>
		7.30pm	✕ Stations of the Cross
Sat 14th	Feria	5-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕			
Sun 15th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Gertruda Rompa RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP

MARMALADE MORNING Otham Church, Saturday 4th April. More information soon.

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):** ✕ Alan Harris, Christina Brown, Mary Nutley, Colin Otterson and Percy Josling. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£465.62** (of which, **£252.50** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). Last week's second collection for poor parishes totalled **£201.93**. ♦ Please and in your fast day savings for CAFOD this week, or throughout Lent.

St PETER'S CLOTHES FOR THE HOMELESS COLLECTION 'MADM' (Making a Difference Maidstone), have welcomed all of our clothes collection and will put them to good use locally. 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE From time to time people meet to discuss progress upon issues such as reducing poverty, persecution, conflict, discrimination and environmental degradation - all dear to the heart of Pope Francis. The next such meeting will be from 2 to 4pm on Sunday **15th March** at the Area Bishop's house ("The Hermitage", More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN). All are welcome!

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 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 soon be available and need to be delivered as usual this year.

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 next weekend. See posters on the board for more details.

A DAY with MARY The next *Day with Mary* is **this Saturday** 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.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES The diocese has vacancies for a full-time *Marriage Tribunal Administrator* and *Safeguarding Office Administrator*. For more information about either, visit www.rcsouthwark.co.uk.