



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

THE BAPTISM of THE LORD

12th JANUARY 2020

FAITH in FOCUS: HAPPY NEW YEAR? Happy New Year! It's something we've heard a lot of over the last couple of weeks, but what are we really expecting of the new year? Do we face the new year with optimism and eagerness, or do we face the new year in a spirit of "same old same old." Not all of us are starting 2020 happily. Many of us face the new year with ongoing problems. For many, illness, hardship, or difficult relationships aren't things that will simply go away. Some of us will be struggling to find work; others may be stuck in jobs they hate. Increasing numbers are trapped in inadequate housing or afflicted by addiction, depression or loneliness. Do we face the new year eager and optimistic, or tired and disillusioned?

In today's account of Jesus' baptism, we are told how the heavens opened, and how the Spirit of God descended like a dove. This marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Filled with the Spirit of God, Jesus had the power to work miracles, to cure the sick and raise the dead. The Spirit of God enabled Jesus to face any challenge.

In baptism we are filled with the same Spirit that filled Jesus. The very same Spirit! Our baptism might seem no more than a photograph in a dusty photo album, but could our lives be very different if we were to call upon the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit isn't going to make our problems go away, nor are we promised an easy life. What we are promised is the strength and direction to make good decisions. Through our baptism, and because of Jesus' baptism, we can resolve to confront our problems head on, and make something meaningful happen in the year ahead.

Chapel Bell

CHRISTMAS The Church's liturgical celebration of Christmas concludes this weekend with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Ordinary Time before Lent begins this **Monday, 13th January**, the First Week in Ordinary Time, ferial cycle 2 (weekday readings at Mass), psalter week 1 (Divine Office). It lasts **6½ weeks** ☹ before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **26th February**.

FRIDAY COFFEE Twice as many as before stayed for coffee last Friday at St Peter's. We will do it all again **this Friday**. Do join us!

FIRST COMMUNION MEETING The next meeting is **this Friday at 4.15pm at St Peter's**.

MAIDSTONE DAY CENTRE ♦ In **January** there is a collection of toiletries for men and women. Please leave any donations in the parish room. ♦ In **February** we will be collecting new and good used clothing for men and women.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Archdiocese is looking for two volunteers who might be interested in working with its Fundraising Team at the diocesan Finance Office in London. The role will involve tasks such as organising the legacy gifts files, inputting data onto a CRM database, mail-merging thank you letters, general administration, scanning and filing, helping to organise events, printing and mailing materials, etc. The role brings opportunities for someone to get a good idea on how a fundraising department works and its various component parts. If you would like to apply please send your CV with a cover note explaining you are interested in this role to Sarah Wood, HR Manager, via email sarahwood@rcaos.org.uk.

 **JOB VACANCY: SHRINE SECRETARY at THE FRIARS, AYLESFORD** Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm with some seasonal weekend work to cover pilgrimages. Rate of Pay: £11.50 per hour. For a full Job Description and Application Form please contact Clare Abbotson, Prior's PA, cabbotson@thefriars.org.uk. 01622 714148 or 01622 717272. The closing date for applications is **Friday 17th January**.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th JANUARY 2020
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ THE BAPTISM of THE LORD (A) ✠

Sun 12th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Marguerite Pointer RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Mary Gallagher RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 13th	Feria	7.00pm	✠ Mass
Tue 14th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass <i>Followed by Adoration until 12noon</i>
Wed 15th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Peter Fraser RIP
Thu 16th	Feria	<i>No Mass. Church open as usual</i>	
Fri 17th	St Antony, Abbot	10.00am	✠ Mass <i>Coffee after Mass</i>
Sat 18th	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A) ✠ <i>Peace Sunday</i>			
Sun 19th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: George and Mary Combes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Anne Hamilton RIP (FM)
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		3.00pm	<i>United Service at Holy Cross, Bearsted</i>

CAFOD See the notice about an urgent appeal in response to the 'crippling drought and failed crops' in Zimbabwe and Zambia. If you would like to contribute to this appeal envelopes are, as always, available.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **For the 176 people aboard the Ukraine International Airlines flight that crashed in Iran on Wednesday.** We remember their grieving families. We also remember the thousands affected by the worst **wildfires in Australian history.** May they continue to be evacuated to safety as they try to rebuild their lives.
- **With the Holy Father for January:** for the promotion of world peace, that followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes,** for those who have died recently especially Nelly Marshall, Marguerite Pointer and Bill Harrison; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and those who have asked for prayers.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Peter Fraser, Peggy Cropper, Gillian Alcock, David Hyndman, Marjorie Boyden, Anne Hamilton and Rosalia Daes Vanbreedam. ✠

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£395.75** (of which, **£186.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ **Crib offerings** have so far raised **£82.27** and will be donated to the **Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund.**

A DAY WITH MARY The next Day with Mary will be on **Saturday 18th January** at Our Lady of the Rosary, Brixton, SW9 0TQ. It begins at 9.30am with a procession of Our Lady, and ends at 5.15pm. See poster for details.

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/>.

COMING UP:

- **BEARSTED CHURCHES:** Committee meeting **this Tuesday** at Holy Cross at 7.30pm.
- **FIRST COMMUNIONS** The next session for the children will be **this Friday** at St Peter's.
- **PEACE SUNDAY**, next Sunday, **19th January.**
- **OCTAVE OF PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18-25th January:** This year's theme will be a reflection on the shipwreck of St Paul and the obligations of generosity and hospitality. ✠ There will be a united service at Holy Cross **next Sunday, 19th January** at 3pm.
- **New Episcopal Vicar for Kent:** Canon John O'Toole will take up this post in **February.**