



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

SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Day for the Unemployed

23rd FEBRUARY 2020

FAITH in FOCUS: FRIEND or FOE? What strange advice... "If anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well"... If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him." "If a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well." Jesus tells us not to resist evil. Does he mean us to roll over and allow our enemies to walk all over us?

It's very easy for us to love our friends. Only loving those who are easy to love doesn't provide very much of a challenge, and consequently doesn't earn us much of a reward. The challenge Jesus poses today is to meet our enemies with love. Jesus' advice is to meet violence with non-violence and to meet force with acquiescence. If we only love those who love us back, we are not doing anything more than anyone else, but if we love our enemies, we show ourselves to be true disciples of Christ.

In our conflict-ridden world, today's gospel has never been more relevant. Never has there been a better time for Christians to get more involved in campaigning for non-violent strategies. Jesus isn't suggesting we roll over and allow our enemies to walk all over us, nor is he suggesting we turn a blind eye. What he is suggesting is that we always make a stand for justice in the spirit of love and not aggression. There are a million and one little things we can do each and every day to help tackle the causes of poverty, prejudice and oppression. The world has never been more ready.

Chapel Bell

DAY for the UNEMPLOYED Today we pray for those who have lost their job and who are worrying about how to support their families. We pray for the long term unemployed and for those suffering specific difficulties and barriers. We pray for those who are unhappy in their jobs and for those who feel under-employed and underpaid.

✠ **ASH WEDNESDAY** ✠ the start of Lent, is this week: **26th February**. Throughout Lent we are invited for forty days to set aside more time for prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. The ashes, made in the sign of the cross on our foreheads are an outward sign of our inward sorrow for our sins and of our commitment to Jesus as Our Lord and Saviour. Lent Fast Day is Friday **6th March**.

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.

SALE of SECONDHAND 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.

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



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd FEBRUARY 2020
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

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

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| 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 |
| Mon 24th | Feria | 7.00pm | ✕ Mass: Armando Corsini and Maria Merenghe RIP |
| Tue 25th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass Followed by Adoration until 12noon |
| Wed 26th | ✕ Ash Wednesday ✕ <i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i> | (H) 10.00am | ✕ Mass |
| | | 7.30pm | ✕ Mass |
| Thu 27th | Feria | <i>No Mass: church open as usual</i> | |
| Fri 28th | Feria | 10.00am | ✕ Mass: Pro Populo Followed by coffee |
| | | 7.30pm | ✕ Stations of the Cross |
| Sat 29th | Feria | 5-5.30pm | <i>Confessions</i> |
| ✕ FIRST SUNDAY of LENT (A) ✕ | | | |
| 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 |

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✕ Try to get to Mass at least once during the week. ✕ Attend Stations of the Cross either at St Peter's or Good Shepherd on **Friday evenings**. ✕ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✕ Contribute to CAFOD (especially on Lent Fast Day, **6th March**) 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:

- **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 PRAY...

- **On this Day for the Unemployed**, for those who long for the dignity and self-respect that full time employment brings.
- **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 Susan Crowley; 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):** ✕ April Dornan, David McCafferty, Stanley Brennan, Charles Tipper, Carmel Lalor, Roma Bate, Elsie Fuller, Adriana Bullock and Terry Scuse. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£376.07** (of which, **£138.87** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**). ♦ **Next weekend** 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.

BITESIZE... Don't be yourself - be someone a little nicer.

Mignon McLaughlin