



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

Webmaster: webmaster@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Website and YouTube:
www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

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)

Year B

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER
 (or of Divine Mercy)

11th APRIL 2021

✠ **CHRISTINE DURBIN RIP** Christine's funeral Mass will be at St Peter's Church on Wednesday 21st April at 11am. Please continue to pray for the happy repose of her soul, and for Deacon Cyril and all the family. ✠

FAITH IN FOCUS: The Way Forward For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Happy are those who have not seen and have believed." This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that doubt can be a good thing. Doubt means that we are still questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use to carve a mature faith. Belief isn't something we either have or haven't got ... belief is a process, and the end product of that process, is one's own spiritual self. The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord, yet are asked to believe. So are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening? In today's gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn't the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn't. He wasn't the sort of person that could pretend that he didn't have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives. There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks. Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap. The good news is that just as Jesus showed Thomas patience so he will be patient with us too. The good news is that just as Jesus gave Thomas a way to forward his faith so too will we be shown a way forward if we want it enough. *Chapel Bell*



✠ **PRINCE PHILIP RIP** *Statement from Archbishop John Wilson on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh:* "On behalf of the Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Southwark, I wish to express my profound sorrow at the news of the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. In union with the entire nation, we mourn the loss of not only an esteemed and respected member of the Royal Family, but also a man who exemplified the very best qualities of courage, fortitude and loyalty. Although born into a very different world, his example and witness leave us, here in this present age, with a lasting and enduring legacy of the timeless paradigm of duty and service. In this season of Eastertide, when we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and his victory over death, we pray that His Royal Highness will rest in peace and rise in glory. We also remember in our prayers Her Majesty the Queen and all members of the Royal Family at this sad time, offering to them our sincerest condolences."

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 11th APRIL 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (B) ✠
(or of Divine Mercy)

Sun 11th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Christine Durbin RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Private Intention
Mon 12th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Kathleen Mary Byrne RIP (FM)
Tue 13th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Anne Pass RIP <i>(followed by Adoration until 11.30am)</i>
Wed 14th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Christine Durbin RIP
Thu 15th	Feria		No Mass
Fri 16th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: HRH Prince Philip RIP
Sat 17th	Feria		<i>Sorry, no Confessions (this week only)</i>

✠ THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER (B) ✠

Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Irene Berry RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Christine Durbin RIP

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY This Sunday is popularly known as 'Mercy of God Sunday.' Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on 30th April, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. The second Sunday of Easter is also known as 'Low Sunday' or 'Thomas Sunday'.

PARISH PHOTO COMPETITION Our judges are busy making their decision about the winners of our photo competition. We have all been amazed by the quality and variety of all the photographs, and the judges are having a very difficult task deciding upon the winner and places from the adult entries and the separate entries for our younger parishioners. However, you can still vote for your favourite photograph until Friday 16th April, by clicking on the link on the parish website. We hope to be able to publish all the results in next week's newsletter.

GIFT AID SCHEME "Thank you to all donors for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme. If any donor has not paid sufficient tax to cover the amount being reclaimed for tax year 2020-2021 can they please advise myself or Fr Geoff. We always welcome new donors and if any parishioner who is a tax payer would like to join the scheme please see myself or Fr Geoff." *Mark Smith, Gift Aid Organiser.*

St BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS *16th April* Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there herself. Interestingly Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand. Blind faith is something we might find uncomfortable in this day and age, but it's something we are all guided by from time to time. Maybe there are times we have to accept that blind faith is better than blind doubt.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING: Beyond the Cross, a five-part art and culture series that you can watch on YouTube. 'Beyond the Cross' follows the Risen Christ through the artist's eye taking in some of the main encounters of the season of Easter. You can watch the first episode at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hP8NJGApz3Y. You can also access this at www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/beyond-the-cross.

CARE for OUR COMMON HOME *Trees For Tom.* During the COVID-19 pandemic, Captain Sir Tom Moore raised over £38 million for the NHS. Now his family wish to honour his love of nature and the natural world by planting trees in his memory. Captain Sir Tom Moore voiced his concern about what the future holds for his grandchildren. By planting new trees, his legacy will help combat climate change - and bring so many other benefits - around the world. The family has chosen to plant trees in the UK with the Woodland Trust. The Woodland Trust have planted 50 million trees since it began in 1972, and have plans for 50 million more over the next five years. Remember Captain Sir Tom Moore and create a brighter future today. Donate to plant trees at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/give/trees-for-tom.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for April:** for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.
- **For an end to the violence on the streets of Belfast** in Northern Ireland.
- **For those who have asked prayers;** for the sick, especially Teresa and Keiron; for those who have died recently especially HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Mary Anne Pass, Terence Murphy, Wallie Locke, Archibald Cram, Jack Hartigan, Benjamin Rudzinski and June Beavers. ✠

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION For those at home. Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

STANDING ORDER / BANK TRANSFER If you would like to donate to the parish by BACS bank transfer or standing order the details are:

Account name:	RCAS ST PETER CHRC
Bank:	NatWest
Account number:	03138925
Sort code:	51-70-55
IBAN (for international transfers):	GB22 NWBK 5170 5503 1389 25

Please include a hint in the transfer "reference" so it's easy to know what your donation is for (e.g. Mass offering, weekly collection, Easter offering). • **PayPal giving is now available [here](#)** (online edition only!). Please include a reference so it's clear how to allocate the funds you have donated.

<p>Thank you for your generous contributions, both in the traditional way and online, to the Easter Collection last Sunday. Thank you! ☺ Those of you in the Gift Aid scheme may find an envelope for the maintenance of St George's cathedral, today's official second collection.</p>
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PAYPAL GIVING The Archdiocese has provided the facility for people to donate to the parish by PayPal if they don't want to go to the hassle of setting up standing orders or online banking. It's quick and easy and can be done online with your bank account, or using a credit or debit card. A button is now available on the parish website. Please include a reference so it's clear how to allocate the funds you have donated.

Bitesize "I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education." *Wilson Mizner*

"MISSIO" RED BOXES Please see the poster regarding the traditional red boxes that support the missions. If you possess one and it's getting full, please bring it in for emptying so that we can forward the funds as soon as possible. There are other ways to donate, e.g. via <https://missio.org.uk/redbox>.