



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

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

18th APRIL 2021

✠ **CHRISTINE DURBIN RIP** Christine's funeral Mass will be at St Peter's Church this Wednesday, 21st April, at 11am. Parishioners will understand that there are restrictions regarding how many can attend. Please continue to pray for Christine, and for Deacon Cyril and all the family. ✠

FAITH IN FOCUS Enlightenment When we are struggling with our faith, we might be tempted to think that as long as we are 'good people' that will suffice. But what sets those who are simply 'good people' and 'Christians' apart?

The other disciples were really not so very different from Doubting Thomas. When they saw Jesus in their midst, they took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines three pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. He shows them the marks on his hands and feet, he invites them to touch and check that he is flesh and blood, and he shares a meal with them. But it is only when Jesus opens their minds to understanding the scriptures that they come to believe in him. By interpreting what has happened, the risen Christ draws the disciples out of their confusion. Amongst some of his famous last words to them, were words of encouragement to go and preach his message and a reminder of prophecies fulfilled and promises made.



Being a Christian today isn't easy, and simply accepting the Jesus we have grown up with sometimes isn't enough to sustain us. Perhaps we have given up believing and think that being a good person will be good enough. Understanding the difference between living life simply as a good person, and living life as a Christian comes of believing in the risen Jesus. As Christians we are continually striving to follow Christ's example. Today, through prayer, scripture debate, and putting faith into action, we continually work for the same enlightenment and understanding that Jesus gave his early disciples. To find that enlightenment we need to look to scripture as the disciples did. We need to look at the authors of the books within the Bible and understand who they were, something of the times they lived in, and who their audience was. There are commentaries to read and videos to watch, and of course, the Bible itself. We don't need to be great scholars. The original disciples weren't. All we need is the desire for enlightenment.
Chapel Bell

VOCATIONS SUNDAY Next weekend there will be a second collection in support of the Priest Training Fund, also known as the Ecclesiastical Education Fund. As you leave Mass today you will be offered (or please pick up) a Priest Training Fund envelope.

PARISH PHOTO COMPETITION We would like to thank everyone who entered the 'Rambles of Spring' Photo Competition. We have been delighted with the quality of the photographs and the imagination displayed in interpreting the theme of the competition, especially by some of our younger parishioners. See over for the results.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 18th APRIL 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ 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
Mon 19th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass
Tue 20th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass <i>(followed by Adoration until 11.30am)</i>
Wed 21st	St Anselm	<i>(H) 10.00am</i>	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
		11.00am	✠ Requiem Mass: Christine Durbin
Thu 22nd	Feria	No Mass	
Fri 23rd	ST GEORGE	10.00am	✠ Mass
Sat 24th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B) ✠

Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Margaret Richardson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Patrick, Annie, Donal and Carmen O'Harte

PARISH PHOTO COMPETITION *(continued)* We would, also, like to thank our three judges for their time and consideration. We know that this could not have been an easy task. The judges' results were independently sent in and collated to produce the final results below:

Group 1 – Age Under 18

1st Prize	Darcey Taylor	'Peacock butterfly sunbathing'
2nd Prize	William Edmed	'Mr and Mrs Duck'
3rd prize	Sophia Pignataro	'The fairies' springtime picnic'

Highly Commended: Angelina Pinto 'Spring out of Covid' and Bethany Edmed 'Woolly Jumpers'.

Group 2 – Adults

1st Prize	Susan Jamieson	'Spring in Wellington'
2nd Prize	Terry Kinsman	'St Mary's Church, Boxley
3rd Prize	Mary Hannant	'Venturous Harbinger of Spring'

The Parish's favourite photo (as voted for by you):

Under 18 'The fairies' springtime Picnic' by Sophia Pignataro.

Adult A tie between 'Spring in Wellington' by Susan Jamieson and 'Perhaps if I sit here very quietly' by Jim Lovelock.

Congratulations to all our very worthy prize-winners. You will be contacted individually in due course. Special thanks go to our 'remote parishioners' for sending in their entries, and especially to Susan Jamieson in New Zealand, who won first prize.

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 the Queen and Royal Family as they mourn the death of Prince Philip.** May the joy of the resurrection comfort and support them at this time. May the Duke of Edinburgh be enjoying the fulness of eternal life.
- **For those who have asked prayers;** for the sick, especially Fr Kevin, Teresa and Keiron; for those who have died recently; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Calerine Weeden, Margaret Richardson, Julia Lawrence and Patrick Macklin. ✠

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.

See above for information on our traditional Good Shepherd Sunday collection. ☺ Fr Geoffrey is very grateful to those who have contributed to the **Easter Collection** – especially those from our 'remote' community who have not provided any contact information! **Thank you!**

CARE for OUR COMMON HOME: EARTH DAY 22nd April Together, we can prevent the coming disasters of climate change and environmental destruction. Together, we can restore our Earth. On this year's Earth Day the hope is to see a billion 'Acts of Green' across the planet. From students in classrooms to organizers in their communities to officials in government there are ways for anyone of any background to make a difference. Start small and go big — or start big and stay big. Either way, create a green action on this day.

St GEORGE 23rd April It's highly unlikely that St George ever killed a dragon, or for that matter that he ever arrived on the shores of England. But perhaps we could use the feast day as a 'prompt' to slay our own dragons whatever they might be laziness, greed, the need to gossip or put people down. Happy St George's Day!

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.

GIVE THANKS for YOUR VACCINATION As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK. For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare. Our aid agencies are already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but with your gift of thanks they can do more. **Donate online at CAFOD, Trocaire, SCIAF and Christian Aid.**

RECOMMENDED Brilliant! 24 Catholic Scientists, Mathematicians, and Supersmart People. *David Michael Warren*. In an effort to help children learn about the relationship between faith and science, the Daughters of St Paul, a premiere publisher of Catholic children's books for over seventy years through Pauline Books & Media, have partnered with the Word on Fire Institute to present an exciting new book for children: 'Brilliant! 25 Catholic Scientists, Mathematicians, and Supersmart People'. The book introduces children to many of the Catholics who have been behind ground-breaking discoveries in science and math for centuries. Children will embark on an adventure through history where they'll meet faith-filled pioneers in every field from anatomy to astrophysics. They'll walk in the footsteps of these supersmart Catholics who changed the world and learn how brilliant they can be when they unite faith and science! *Order online at <https://www.paulineuk.org/browse/Books/item/Brilliant-24-Catholic-Scientists-Mathematicians-and-Supersmart-People/9780819812483>* (ISBN:9780819812483).

"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>.

Bitesize

God understands our prayers even when we can't find the words to say them. *Author Unknown*