



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

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Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

Webmaster: webmaster@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)

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

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Year B

*Good Shepherd Sunday: World Day of Prayer for Vocations
to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life*

25th APRIL 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS *The Good Shepherd* Today's gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant. Today's gospel is for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much. At some time or another that probably means most of us. In biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Herds might consist of thousands of sheep, and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending for the sheep and protecting them from wolves and robbers. The shepherd's care and courage were legendary. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's gospel. He is the good shepherd. His leadership is a mixture of tenderness, strength and self-sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that he would lay down his life. That's a powerful belief to take out into the world!



But what if we don't quite believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually. People fall by the wayside all the time. We hear tragic stories of elderly people who die alone and are not discovered for days because no one cares enough to visit. We see down and outs sleeping in subways because their family and friends have given up on them. Can God really be looking out for each and every one of us? Surely there are too many of us to look after – to love individually. Not so! Jesus we're told would not let even one of his sheep stray without coming to the rescue. He knows each and every one of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with. The next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.

Chapel Bell

WORLD DAY of PRAYER for VOCATIONS *For each one of us the Lord has a vocation, that place God wants us to live our lives, but we must seek it.* "The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch." God in fact desires that our lives not become banal and predictable, imprisoned by daily routine, or unresponsive before decisions that could give it meaning. The Lord does not want us to live from day to day, thinking that nothing is worth fighting for, slowly losing our desire to set out on new and exciting paths. If at times he makes us experience a "miraculous catch", it is because he wants us to discover that each of us is called – in a variety of ways – to something grand, and that our lives should not grow entangled in the nets of an ennui that dulls the heart. Every vocation is a summons not to stand on the shore, nets in hand, but to follow Jesus on the path he has marked out for us, for our own happiness and for the good of those around us. *Taken from the Message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Vocations.*

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 25th APRIL 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ 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
Mon 26th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Fr John Cairns CP, RIP
Tue 27th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Faithful Departed of Delost and Turner families (followed by Adoration until 11.30am)
Wed 28th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Patricia Czerniawski RIP
Thu 29th	St Catherine of Siena	No Mass	
Fri 30th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Melissa Holden RIP
Sat 1st May	St Joseph the Worker	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✠ FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B) ✠

Sun 2nd	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Christine Durbin RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Henry and Eliza Martin RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

EASTER IMAGES St George's Cathedral was fortunate to have the Bishops' Conference photographer, Marcin Mazur, present during Holy Week. For those that wish to view some beautiful professional images of the Triduum and Easter services with Archbishop John at St George's Cathedral, please visit the [CBCEW Flickr site](#):

JUSTICE and PEACE in CREATION *Annual Migrants' Mass*. In the Year of St Joseph, and in honour of St Joseph the Worker, the London dioceses of Southwark, Westminster and Brentwood will celebrate the 16th Annual Mass for Migrants on Saturday 1st May at 11.20am. This year the Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan and live-streamed from St William of York Roman Catholic Church, Forest Hill. Although we cannot welcome the faithful in person this year, this lively online service will still celebrate of the significant contribution made by migrants to life of our dioceses. All are welcome. Please visit: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/migrants-mass>.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY This weekend there is a second collection in support of the Priest Training Fund, also known as the Ecclesiastical Education Fund. The Archbishop has asked us to do three things: **PRAY, ENCOURAGE, DONATE**. Indeed, contributing to this fund is of enormous value. However, no amount of funds will achieve what only a response to a call can. Sixty years ago our diocesan training college, St John's Seminary at Wonerish, near Guildford, was extended to accommodate an *increase* in vocations. This autumn it is to close because local *answered* vocations have dwindled dramatically. Please *pray* for vocations to the priesthood, to the permanent diaconate, and to the religious and consecrated life, while at the same time listening to that 'still, small voice', perhaps calling you!

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 all those the Good Shepherd is calling to the priesthood, the diaconate and the religious life.** *May those being thus called listen to his voice, so that there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.*
- **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):** ✠ *Ginetta Bellini, Sylvia Clifton, Ursula Schreiber, Mary Duerdon, Lydia Iloenyosi and Audrey Allan.* ✠

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.

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER *1st May* In response to the 'May Day' celebrations for workers, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St Joseph the Worker in 1955. In an effort to keep Jesus from being removed from ordinary human life, the Church has from the beginning proudly emphasised that Jesus was a carpenter, obviously trained by Joseph in both the satisfactions and the drudgery of that vocation. As Christians and as workers, we are reminded on this day that we have an obligation to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ as true brothers and sisters. ■ On the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, the Church asks us to pray for those looking for work, for those who feel underemployed or undervalued, and for those in jobs where they feel pressured or trapped. We are also asked to pray for the fruits of work and for the stewardship of creation.

Bite Size "Sometimes it seems like God is difficult to find and impossibly far away. We get so caught up in our small daily duties and irritations that they become the only things that we can focus on. What we forget is that God's love and beauty are all around us, every day, if only we would take the time to look up and see them."

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and loving God,
we thank you for the gift of our priests;
help them to be strong in their vocation
and become instruments of your love and grace.

Send your Holy Spirit to give courage and guidance
to all you are calling to the priesthood,
diaconate and religious life in our Archdiocese.

May those called hear your voice
and respond wholeheartedly
to become the person you created them to be.

Heavenly Father, form us in the likeness
of your Son, Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd,
so that we may love you more deeply
and serve you more faithfully.

Through Christ your Son,
the Eternal High Priest.

Amen.