



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

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

2nd MAY 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS *Branching Out* There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio brings terrible news of atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news and to feel powerless to do anything. We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.



We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principle. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome the final result.

Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people, the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning we, as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action. Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone; we branch out as a team.

Chapel Bell

THE DAY OF THE LORD Please find attached a copy of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Statement '*The Day of the Lord*' which was released after their recent meeting. The Archbishop has asked that we share it as widely as possible. It addresses the challenges we all face in the practice of our faith as we emerge from the pandemic and can gather again safely to worship the Lord. The bishops speak particularly to three groups: • those **fearful**, weary and anxious about coming into the enclosed spaces of our churches; • those who have found that the **practice of faith** within the community of the Catholic Church may not be the priority that it was; • the '**Covid curious**' who may have encountered the Catholic Church through our presence on the internet and wish to know more.

COVID 'WEBINAR' A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organized for the faithful in the southeast of England with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May from 10am to 11.30am and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof. Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> • Passcode: 546617.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd MAY 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ **FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✠

Sun 2nd May	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Christine Durbin RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Henry and Eliza Martin RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 3rd	SS Philip and James	10.00am	✠ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Tue 4th	The English Martyrs	10.00am	✠ Mass: Faithful Departed of Delost and Turner families <i>(followed by Adoration until 11.30am)</i>
Wed 5th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass
Thu 6th	Feria		No Mass
Fri 7th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Dring and Teresa Carriere's intentions
Sat 8th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✠ **SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✠

Sun 9th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Anne Dengler RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Christine Durbin RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

WATER LEAKAGE The water meter at St Peter's is measuring a great volume of water, suggesting that there is a leak somewhere. South East Water have investigated and say it is a problem on our property. As a consequence, and following a visit by 'Waterlink', we must now pay to get this further looked into and rectified. Watch out for updates.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY Thank you for your donations so far of **£94** to the diocesan priest training fund.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for May:** for those responsible for financial services, that they may work together with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.
- **As Coronavirus devastates India,** we pause to remember the many families that are left alone, abandoned with deeply unwell family members, unable to reach or receive medical care. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers and pledge to support them in whatever way we can.
- **For those who have asked prayers;** for the sick, especially Fr Kevin; for those who have died recently; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Michael Greenrod, Paul McLaughlin, Patrick Mulloy and Alan Betts. ✠

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 Good Shepherd Sunday collection.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK Christian Aid Week this year is **10th-16th May**, and the need for our support has never been clearer. We have a climate crisis that is threatening many of the world's poorest communities with extreme weather patterns, famine or forcing them from their homes. We have conflict such as in Ethiopia and Syria, and of course we have Covid, cases of which, in so many developing countries, are still increasing. Churches in Bearsted have long come together to support Christian Aid Week, and so we can this year. In previous years we have done house to house collections together, but this year, at a time when we are still socially distanced, we have set up a specific giving page, an 'e-envelope', for our churches so that all the donations from our congregation can be counted together so we can see how much we as an ecumenical community are able to give to support our brothers and sisters in the developing world. Please consider make a donation using the link:

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/bearsted-churches-together?channel=copy>. (Please note the site will list the number of donations and the overall total – it will not show individual gifts.) Please hold Christian Aid, and all whom it works with and for in your prayers at this time. A fitting way to celebrate the 25th anniversary, on 26th May, of the signing of our Covenant (see the illuminated copy at the back of St Peter's)!



GLOBAL PRAYER MARATHON for the MONTH of MAY Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic. "The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world" in promoting the initiative so that individuals, families and communities all take part in reciting the rosary. It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God.' The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the

Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.

PEACE ACTIONS FOR MAY

- There are a couple of dates coming up where we are invited to think of the planet: *Walk to School Week*, **17th-21st May**, and *World Environment Day*, on **5th June**.
- There are a couple of dates coming where we are asked to consider our neighbours: *World Fair Trade Day**, **8th May**, *World Day for Cultural Diversity*, on **21st May**, and *World Hunger Day* on **28th May**.
- And a couple of opportunities to think about the ways we work to keep the peace: *World Communications Day*, on **16th May**; and the *International Day of UN Peacekeepers*, on **29th May**.

***World Fair Trade Day: Do Your Bit** The pandemic has made it clear, the world needs Fair Trade more than ever. Lockdowns are happening the world over, with many communities fending for themselves. Economically marginalized communities face a particular challenge, with the combined threat of the pandemic, alongside the destruction of their livelihoods. Fair Trade Enterprises remain deeply committed to these communities. To support them, Fair Trade Enterprises are innovating and persevering. They are paying their workers, making masks, creating new plans and connecting the world over. During the pandemic and beyond, they put artisans, farmers and workers first. Through thick and thin, these enterprises continue to stand in solidarity with their communities. Do your bit and pick up Fairtrade items in the supermarket on **8th May** and consider making small shopping changes a regular habit.

Bite Size

None of us is as smart as all of us.

Ken Blanchard