



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

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

9th MAY 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: Love's Guarantee Do you jump out of bed in the morning with feelings of purpose and joy, or do you drag yourself out of bed with feelings of boredom or even dread? Today Jesus is giving us a recipe for joy. If we determine to love our neighbours, our lives will inevitably be filled with huge purpose and great happiness. That's a guarantee! This is another guarantee. If we all knew how to love, the world would be a happier place, and as a happier place it would also be a more peaceful and a safer place in which to live.



We probably think we already know what love is, but today's challenge is to think of how many ways in which we can love. We are encouraged to think of love in practical terms. Perhaps we could start with our families, letting them know how much we appreciate them and how proud we are of them. Do we need to think of people we haven't forgiven, or wrongs that we haven't put right? Perhaps there are people we have given up on instead of seeking to understand. Do we tend to put ourselves first on a regular basis? Are there people we have overlooked or ignored? Are we lazy about educating ourselves as to the way other people live and the problems they face? Do we remember to love the strangers that we meet every day, offering them respect and a helping hand? Do we share love in the workplace, remembering not to gossip and to pull our weight? Do we remember to share our time, our money, our skills and our talents? Most importantly do we ever stop and imagine what it would be like to walk in someone else's shoes.

The gospel's promise is that if we start each day determining to spread God's love, we will start to feel more complete. We will be filled with a joy for life. That's a guarantee! *Chapel Bell*

CAFOD and INDIA As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, *Caritas India*, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID and vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation and quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give. Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

THE ASCENSION of THE LORD: Holyday of Obligation, this Thursday, 13th May On this day Jesus tells us, "Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind." We are reminded that it is our job to make God known to everyone. Making God known to the whole world might feel like a bit of a tall order, but we need only start with our own corner. Like weeding a garden ... if we each concentrate on our own patch the garden will soon be a small paradise! **Please note times of Masses.**

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY, 16th May Please pray for all communicators on World Communications Day and please give generously to the **second collection**. The Communications Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales supports the mission of the bishops to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ. More information: www.cbcew.org.uk.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 9th MAY 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ 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
Mon 10th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Deacon William Boyd RIP
Tue 11th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Fr Kevin Alban, O.Carm. RIP <i>(followed by Adoration until 11.30am)</i>
Wed 12th	✠ THE ASCENSION of THE LORD (B) ✠ <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	(H) 7.00pm	✠ Mass: Mary Ellen Ryan RIIP
Thu 13th		10.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		8.00pm	✠ Mass: Marion Nash RIP
Fri 14th	St Matthias <i>(Begins Novena to the Holy Spirit)</i>	10.00am	✠ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Sat 15th	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B) ✠ <i>World Communications Day</i>			
Sun 16th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: John Derek Warren RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Len Watson RIP

WATER LEAKAGE The leak at St Peter's was located and stemmed after 2 hours last Friday without too much disruption. Our thanks to Waterlink.

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.
- **For the people of India, Brazil and all countries where Covid-19 seems to be outstripping people's ability to cope with its effects.** May the world come together in generous solidarity and bring help to the helpless and struggling, whoever and wherever they might be.
- **For those who have asked prayers;** for the sick; for those who have died recently, especially Fr Kevin Alban, Deacon William Boyd, Mary Ellen Ryan and Marion Nash; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Marguerite Davis, Charlotte Button, Tony Moritz, Reginald Hayes and Eric Bailey. ✠

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 Communications 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.

MARY'S MEALS is a charity whose vision is to provide daily meals to children in their place of education worldwide, and to enable people to offer their money, goods, skills, time, or prayer, and through this involvement, provide the most effective help to those suffering the effects of extreme poverty in the world's poorest communities. See the notice about how you can help, especially in May, Mary's month.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK (From 'Marriage and Family Life, Kent') "Dear husband and wife! An **online** 'Building a Better Marriage' opportunity is being held on 10th July running from 9am -1pm. The course offered means that you can attend the course from your own living room and **there is no group sharing!** A recent Building a Better Marriage course received the following comments from married couples who logged on ... 'The topics were chosen well and we could really relate to them. The personal stories you shared were very insightful and helped us to reflect on our own relationships more deeply... It was relaxed and you put us at ease, being friendly and personable...' 'We thoroughly enjoyed attending the course and have certainly been practising a few of the things we learnt already. It puts a smile on our faces when we do because we know that we are certainly richer from participating in the course.' **For further information contact: Carole - Tel: 07983 524727 - email: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk.**"

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME: Walk to Work Week, 10-16th May Jumping into the car or onto a bus can be little more than a habit. More often or not, walking is just as easy an option. The benefits are obvious. Feel healthier and burn some calories, blow away the cobwebs and relieve your stress levels, save money, and most importantly, cut your environmental footprint. Remember to involve the whole family; next week is 'Walk to School Week'.

INTERNATIONAL DAY of FAMILIES: 15th May It's within our families that we first learn the values that stick with us for the rest of our lives. The problem is that nowadays, we are so busy, that we hardly get time to talk to our children. Half the time we don't even sit down to eat together. A typical family meal time might see children eating with one eye still on the iPad and one or both parents working late. Children aren't going to adopt strong values by magic! Today is an invitation to work out how much more time we should spend with our children and how we are going to achieve it.

Bite Size To love as Christ loves is to let our love be a practical thing and not a sentimental thing.

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford