



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 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

SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

16th MAY 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS WANTED: PEOPLE TO SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE In our current situation of pandemic and climate change, we are probably all feeling in need of a little love. Across the globe there is unprecedented need. There are millions in need of a little love. Today Jesus is telling us that it is up to us all to spread that love in as many practical and prayerful ways that we can think of. Are we up for the job? Today we hear of Jesus' prayer for us. As Jesus was sent, so too we are sent to continue his mission and spread his love. Key to continuing Jesus' mission we are told that although we are of this world we must not to be possessed or tied down by worldly concerns.



How should it feel to be entrusted with such an important job? Well for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world. We spend most of our lives worrying about work, money, illness, relationships and commitments. It's very hard to rise above worldly concerns. In fact for most of us it just seems impossible.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we know Jesus' name throughout the entire globe two thousand years down the line. We have a much easier job than the early disciples had. Now all we need is a little bit of their drive and passion. So how can we capture some of that motivation?

For most of us, the day-to-day job of putting meals on the table takes up more of our time than the vital job of continuing Jesus' mission. Yet we all know someone who manages to strike that all important balance. We all know at least one person who sets a shining example. Perhaps it's here that we will find our motivation. Perhaps the people we most admire provide us with a model of who we ourselves would like to be. With a good example to emulate and our twenty-first century means to spread God's love, the job is not beyond us.

Chapel Bell

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY Come and See *"The invitation to "come and see", which was part of those first moving encounters of Jesus with the disciples, is also the method for all authentic human communication. In order to tell the truth of life that becomes history (cf Message for the 54th World Communications Day, 24 January 2020), it is necessary to move beyond the complacent attitude that we "already know" certain things. Instead, we need to go and see them for ourselves, to spend time with people, to listen to their stories and to confront reality, which always in some way surprises us." From Pope Francis' World Communications Day Message.* Pope Francis warns us of the great issue of reporting. Investigative reporting is sometimes sidestepped in favour of faster means. Some reporters are coming to rely on creating stories without ever 'hitting the streets', creating stories in front of computers and social networks. We in turn learn about the world from newscasts and the internet without ever meeting people face to face. Today's invitation is to learn about the world through genuine encounter.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th MAY 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ **SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)** ✠

World Communications Day

Sun 16th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: John Derek Warren RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Len Watson RIP
Mon 17th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Mary Jenner RIP
Tue 18th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Welfare of Brenda Sanders <i>(followed by Adoration until 11.30am)</i>
Wed 19th	Feria (<i>St Dunstan</i>)	(H) 10.00am	✠ Mass: Peter Ryans RIP
Thu 20th	Feria	No Mass	
Fri 21st	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Christine Thompson RIP
Sat 22nd	Feria	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ PENTECOST SUNDAY (B) ✠			
Sun 23rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Donna and Family
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Deacon Fintan Phelan RIP
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

KEEPING in TOUCH We now have a parish mailing list which we are using to send parishioners a weekly email, including a direct link to the newsletter. Joining the mailing list is straightforward - just follow the link on the parish website and fill in the short sign-up (<http://eepurl.com/hslo6T>) to keep up to date. Please pass this link on to anyone else who might be interested or email news@catholic-bearsted.org.uk.
Singing: Please remember that when you hear a popular hymn played for Mass we must refrain from singing. We are still not allowed to sing as a congregation yet; we will keep you updated when the situation changes.

COFFEE'S BACK! We are restarting coffee after Mass at St Peter's next Sunday (23rd May). You are all welcome to join us immediately after the 10.30 Mass - but outdoors (subject to weather). Please collect your cup of coffee from the table in the parish room, but in line with current restrictions you must go outside to drink it!

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.
- ***That the conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis will swiftly come to an end*** before more people, including innocent children, are killed. May those in positions of power make compassionate decisions to prevent the killing of many more innocents.
- ***For those who have asked prayers;*** for the sick especially Brenda Sanders; for those who have died recently especially Deacon Fintan Phelan; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- ***Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):*** ✠ James Mahon, Douglas Tozer, Antonella Bellini and Peter Ryans. ✠

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.

There is an additional collection today for World Communications.

PENTECOST NOVENA Day 3: Intercession for the unity of Christianity.

Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost.

Grant to your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of Blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth. Come Holy Spirit, unite your church – ‘Father, make them one that the world may believe.

Prayer Intention

Pray for reconciliation, the purification of memories and the healing of the Christian body – in the world, in

your nation and in your own life. (<file:///D:/Downloads/pentecost-novena-booklet.pdf>)

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.

PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOLS It’s exam season again, but because of the pandemic and exam cancellations, the onus of assessing our children’s achievements falls squarely on the shoulders of our schools. This month we are asked to pray for senior leaders, school governors, teachers, parents, and of course our children that they may all negotiate uncharted waters with resilience and confidence.

MARY’S MEALS Mary’s Meals provides one good meal to some of the world’s poorest children every school day. The charity’s work is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. Mary’s Meals consists of, respects, and reaches out to people of all faiths and of none. In Ethiopia £15.90 is all it costs for ‘Mary’s Meals’ to feed a child for a whole year. In the month of May (Mary’s month) the charity is reaching out to us all for prayer and financial support. You can donate online at www.marysmeals.org.uk/donate.

WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY 21st May We all have affection for our own culture, and perhaps it’s our human need for roots that makes us overly nostalgic of our own culture and even a little resistant to the culture of others. Today we are asked to look at other cultures and see what is important to our neighbours. Appreciating cultural diversity is the first step in creating a healthy society.

Bitesize

You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget this errand.

Woodrow Wilson

SUNDAY MASS

The following will probably be used:

Preface: II of the Ascension of the Lord

Eucharistic Prayer: II

Mystery of Faith: Save us, Saviour . . .