



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

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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

✠ PENTECOST SUNDAY ✠

23rd MAY 2021

FAITH IN FOCUS: Over To Us The disciples who for weeks had hidden away for fear of the Jews suddenly started behaving in an astonishing way. They came out of hiding and started teaching in many languages. What had got into them? Quite simply, the Holy Spirit had got into them as Jesus had promised. Those previously terrified people were suddenly filled with courage, energy, inspiration, purpose and conviction. What is truly exciting about the Pentecost story is that we too have been given that very same Spirit in our baptism. So if we have received the same Spirit as was breathed into those first disciples, why can't we rush round doing amazing things too? One answer might be that we haven't really tried yet. One answer might be that to date we haven't really been tested. Another answer perhaps is that we can't quite place our faith in it. How sad though if the Pentecost story is simply a story contained by the past. How sad if we don't believe the men and women of our own time whose inspirational lives and huge courage point to the work of the Holy Spirit ... men and women who far from being superhuman were born just the same as the rest of us. The Holy Spirit is given to all of us, and with it comes the power to transform the world ... the first disciples knew it ... now it's our turn.



Chapel Bell

SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST This week sees the return to Ordinary Time after Easter, we are in the 8th week with weekday readings at Mass following Cycle 2. From Monday, the Paschal Candle, which has stood by the ambo (lectern) throughout Easter, is kept by the font, and the candles of the newly baptized are lit from it. It is also used at funerals, being placed near the coffin during the Requiem Mass as a powerful symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body. And our Easter Garden is stored carefully away for another year. Please see information about the 'Cycle of Prayer'* during the summer of Ordinary Time at the end of the newsletter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH

- The Feast of Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church. It's called that because Pentecost is when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading Jesus' message, thus establishing the beginning of the Church. On this day we are asked to pray for the Church and her continued growth.
- Pentecost, Greek for 50th day, is celebrated by Christians fifty days after Easter. Originally it was a Jewish feast that concluded the fifty days of Passover.
- In Britain, Pentecost is also called Whitsun, because on this day new Christians used to be baptized. Often they wore white, so Pentecost was known as White Sunday. White Sunday was then shortened to Whitsun.
- To celebrate Pentecost, read the Acts of the Apostles. Find out what happened to the Church following the events of Pentecost.

BRENDA SANDERS Please pray for Brenda, who died after a short illness last Wednesday. Remember too her husband Dick and her son Guy and all the family.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd MAY 2021
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✠ 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
Mon 24th	Mary, Mother of the Church	10.00am	✠ Mass: Brenda Sanders RIP
Tue 25th	St Bede the Venerable	10.00am	✠ Mass (followed by Adoration until 11.30am)
Wed 26th	St Philip Neri	(H) 10.00am	<i>Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 27th	Christ the High Priest	No Mass	
Fri 28th	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass
Sat 29th	St Paul VI	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✠ THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (B) ✠

Sun 30th	Saturday	6.00pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Conchita Allende RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✠ Mass: Brenda Sanders RIP

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 **this 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 ceasefire between the Palestinians and Israelis will hold.*** May those in positions of power make compassionate decisions to ensure justice for the good people in those lands.
- ***For those who have asked prayers;*** for the sick especially; for those who have died recently especially Brenda Sanders; and for all those troubled in heart, mind and body.
- ***Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):*** ✠ June Locke, Jack Hayward, Alice Mulvihill, David Sugar, Joanna Gale, Winifred Hampton, Frances Connor and Bryan Roycroft. ✠

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.

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP Covid-19 Route Map: *Step 3 Guidance*. A summary of Archbishop John's message to parishes.

- We must continue to use hand sanitizer, wear face coverings and maintain good ventilation.
- A good general standard of routine cleaning using usual cleaning detergents is sufficient for regular use.
- It is possible and advisable now to make a reassessment of the covid-secure capacity of churches based on the above principles of combination prevention. In some churches, this reassessment may bring the covid-secure capacity up to 50% of that of the building.
- Indoor congregational singing is still prohibited at Step 3; further guidance from Public Health England is expected before the 21st June Step 4 date is reached. The use of small cantor groups and other small choirs is now permitted. This should be limited to groups of no more than 6, with social distancing being maintained at all times.
- The physical exchange of a sign of peace remains suspended at this time. This will be kept under review as we continue the journey towards easing restrictions.
- Holy water stoups remain unfilled.
- Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and the minister will continue to wear a face covering, although it is permitted to announce "The Body of Christ" for each communicant. Communion is recommended to be distributed in the hand.
- Social activities can be resumed in line with latest guidance providing a risk assessment for both the activity and the space is completed.
- Catechetical groups for under 18s may meet indoors or outdoors without limitations on group size. It is recommended that parish groups review their risk assessments for these groups.
- Our insurers have provided a set of guidance for the safe use of parish halls which sets out the obligations on both church authorities and groups and hirers.

Mention is also made of the bidding prayers and 'offertory procession' at Mass, which we may reintroduce in the runup to Step 4, next month.

CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE END to VIOLENCE in the MIDDLE EAST Even with a ceasefire, we need an enduring end to violence in the region, and a renewed commitment to peace, justice and human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory. A lack of international action has failed to prevent this latest spate of violence or address the underlying causes, including the creeping annexation of land and homes in the occupied Palestinian territory enabled and encouraged by successive Israeli governments. The right to a home is a fundamental human right, and it is a question of justice for Palestinian inhabitants in the region to be able to live, work and pray with dignity. We must speak up now to urge the UK government to move beyond statements and take concrete action to support an immediate end to all violence in the region before any more lives are lost. Consider writing to your MP today, asking them to raise these concerns with the Foreign Secretary on your behalf. To find out how, visit: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/82660/action/1>.

MASS TEXT on THE INTERNET Ever wondered why some people seem glued to their smart phone during Mass? No, they're not playing patience, but reading along with the Mass on the 'Universalis' app. It's easy to use, just click on the Universalis website icon and it opens at the current day's readings, or the full Mass text including the readings. It's very clear, well laid out and easy to read. The app costs a one-off £9.99 to download. Just go to the 'PlayStore' (or Apple equivalent) and search for Universalis (pick Universalis Publishing, not Catholic Calendar). If you need help, just ask Terry Kinsman or Mary Hannant at Sunday Mass.

WELCOME BACK to MASS It is good to see so many returning to Mass as the lockdown eases. We have studied the latest recommendations from the diocese on how to get the best use of space, and we will bring in a new seating plan on Sunday 30th May. You will see that on Sundays we will have to separate people into groups in order to achieve our best capacity. It means that you will see that sections of St Peter's will be allocated to **a)** individuals on their own, **b)** couples, or **c)** families. Please bear with us while people get used to it, but ushers will help direct you. It is important that you sit directly behind the numbers indicating seats, as they are measured to give full Covid distancing protection. Please also note we are now again leaving the church by the main doors. See more in the *Covid-19 Route Map* at the end of the newsletter.

THE PASSAGE Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Patron of The Passage, will celebrate the 5.30 Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 25th May to mark 40 years of service to homeless people. The Mass will be broadcast live online, so if you would like to follow the service from home, the link is:

<https://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/>. If you would like to attend the Mass in person, this may be possible, but the Cathedral has a strict limit under the current Covid regulations. Please register your interest with The Passage and they will let you know on Monday 24th May if a place is available. Please contact andrew.h@passage.org.uk.

UNLOCKED Fr Geoffrey is grateful to Deacon Cyril and Fr Liam Gallagher from St Francis who will be covering for him while he takes a short break from Monday.

Bitesize

We all have the extraordinary coded within us, waiting to be released.

Jean Houston

* **CYCLE OF PRAYER** - Ordinary Time (Summer):

For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.

For those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights

especially on 22nd June, the Feast of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More.

For Human Life

especially on the third Sunday in June.

For Seafarers

especially on the second Sunday in July, Sea Sunday.

For Europe

especially on the Feasts of Saint Benedict, Saint Bridget and Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Patrons of Europe.

SUNDAY MASS

The following will be used:

Preface: The Mystery of Pentecost

Eucharistic Prayer: I

Mystery of Faith: We proclaim your death, O Lord. . .