



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: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

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

Year B

FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

28th January 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Lessons to be Learned

How many people, years after their driving test can still hear their driving instructor loud and clear in their mind's ear every time they take a corner.

"Slower.... Slower.... Slower... Whoa! Slow it right down!"

A good teacher is very powerful. The words of a good teacher are with us forever. A good teacher opens up our eyes and helps us to understand. A good teacher adds something to our world and changes us forever.

Today Mark tells us how Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. He tells us how amazed the people were at how he taught and at the authority in his teachings. His authority was powerful enough to expel demons even.

You'll notice that Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus taught but only how he taught and the impression he made. He taught in a way that was to change all our lives. It is testament to his skill as a teacher that news of him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

We do not have the benefit of listening first hand to Jesus' teaching, but it is testament to his authority that we still read his words twenty centuries after he spoke them. There are still demons in our lives, and Jesus' teaching still has the authority to drive them out. There are still lessons to be learned for those who believe Jesus can add something to our world and change us forever

Chapel Bell.



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY The theme this year is "Belonging", emphasising that we are called not only to ensure our parishes welcome newcomers, strangers, and those from different backgrounds, but also that all people will know they will find a welcome in our parishes. ★ A retiring collection to support the work the Church does in this endeavour.

FAMILY FAST DAY this Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February) is on Friday **23rd February**. *Match Funding* means that the government will double any donations to CAFOD, so please be sure to donate online or by using the envelopes provided between **13th February** and **12th May**.

CAFOD How you are making double the difference: Since 2012, your generous donations have been doubled three times with match funding from the UK government. Together, we have improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across the world. Match funding has helped to...bring drinking water to 400,000 people, support 11,000 families to grow a new crop, provide toilets for 166,000 people, teach 174,000 people good hygiene such as hand washing, bring weather forecasts to 99,000 families to keep themselves safe from extreme weather, train 35,000 farmers to change their farming techniques in response to weather forecasts. Thank you for your donations and prayers. For more news go to <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Latest-news>.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 28th JANUARY 2018
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕
Racial Justice Day

Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: George and Mary Combes RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Hilary Ashdowne RIP
Mon 29th	Feria	Sorry, no parish Mass	
Tues 30th	Feria	10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Wed 31st	St John Bosco	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 1st February	Feria	Sorry, no parish Masses	
Fri 2nd	Presentation of the Lord		
Sat 3rd	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B) ✕			
Sun 4th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Len Richardson RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Jovita Schumann's intention

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2018 Applications have now closed. Preparations for those parents who have enrolled their children continue on **Fridays** at 4pm. Parents will be updated by email.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for January** – that Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially** ; for those who have died recently especially ; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Eileen Clinton, Arthur Wood, Barbara Amos, Annie McCarthy, James Holland, Murray Fraser, Trixie (Lily) Stewart-Day and Theresa Hamilton. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£362.57** (Gift Aided, **£161.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£158.00**). ♦ This Sunday is **Racial Justice Day**, focusing this year on 'Belonging: All are Welcome'; **a collection will be taken** to support the work of the Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

CALLED by NAME RETREAT *Message from Worth Abbey:* "Called by Name is a vocation retreat for young adults (aged 18-35) being held 9th - 11th February at Worth Abbey, Crawley. It offers an opportunity for you to tune in more deeply to the call of Christ in your life, to discern his will for you, discover deeper meaning and direction in your life, and to grow in the trust and freedom to respond generously to the Gospel. The weekend will include talks from a range of speakers from different walks of life, spiritual accompaniment, and space for prayer and reflection. The retreat is not aimed only at those discerning a possible call to religious life/priesthood, but to every young person seeking to know and live the call of Christ. The cost is £63 for students/unwaged, £105 waged, and includes meals and accommodation. To book, or for more info, please contact Katrina on TOC@worth.org.uk / 01342 710318."

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION The diocese is setting up a Diocesan Adoration Lay Committee to develop the practice of Eucharistic Adoration throughout the diocese. You are welcome to attend an Information Meeting at St Thomas More Church, West Malling on **Saturday 3rd February** at 3pm (finishing at 4.15). Refreshments will be served. See the poster; contact Deacon Cyril if interested.