



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

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

25th February 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Quick Fix Remedy?

Do you bound out of bed each morning eager to get to work enthusiastic about all the challenges that lie ahead? Well probably not! Life is a series of highs and lows, but we all know that the 'highs' are few and far between. For most of us life is a series of chores and we can often feel burdened by drudgery and frustration.

In today's gospel reading, Peter James and John are feeling demoralised and fearful about talk of Jesus' imminent death. Perhaps the disciples felt that the goal they had been working towards was not the goal of which Jesus is now talking. We have all felt like this at some time.

Even the most motivated amongst us will slump from time to time. We might all have felt at some point debilitated by fear and anxiety, or overwhelmed by tiredness. At times like these, a life mentor might advise us to re-visualise our goals. We might be advised to find inspiration and get excited. We might be advised to focus on our most important priorities and not set too many goals which will eventually sap all our energy. Funnily enough, two thousand years before the terms 'life mentor' or 'life coach' were coined, these were exactly the strategies that Jesus used to motivate Peter James and John in this difficult period of their discipleship. Jesus leads them up a high mountain where they see a vision of a transfigured Jesus in dazzling white accompanied by Moses and Elijah.

Peter, James and John had a moment of revelation that day on the mountain top, and although they could not capture that moment by erecting tents as Peter proposes, they had that glimpse of glory to remember and keep with them forever through the testing times ahead.

Christians do not have a quick fix remedy for making problems in life go away, but we share the same motivating vision of God's kingdom as we struggle with life's 'lows'. *Chapel Bell.*

LENTEN LITURGY (*directory*) During Lent the Gloria is not used, except on Feasts and Solemnities; it is not permitted to decorate the altar with flowers, and the use of musical instruments is allowed only so as to support the singing (Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Solemnities and Feasts are exceptions to this rule); Alleluia is not said, even on Feasts and Solemnities: care should be taken in this respect in the choice of hymns and gospel acclamation.

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ("PRAYER : FASTING : ALMSGIVING") ✘ Try to get to Mass at least once during the week. ✘ Attend Stations of the Cross* either at St Peter's or Good Shepherd on **Friday evenings**. ✘ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✘ Contribute to CAFOD, our parish Lenten Appeal. ✘ Give up a favourite luxury *but keep it between you and the Lord (don't tell people what you have 'given up' for Lent)*. ✘ Over the weeks of Lent Southwark's Stewardship Team, in collaboration with the diocesan Spirituality Commission, will send out daily reflections featuring thoughts, scripture and prayer; to subscribe visit: <http://eepurl.com/dcNmsv>. ✘ Try to get to the Bearsted area **Lent Lunches on Fridays** at 12.30:

2nd March:	Bearsted Methodists:	<i>Mencap</i>
9th March:	St Peter's:	<i>Age UK</i>
16th March:	St Mary's, Thurnham:	<i>Guide dogs</i>
23rd March:	St Mary's, Langley:	<i>Royal British Legion</i>

***STATIONS of THE CROSS** On **Fridays**: John Greenrod will lead our devotions **this week** at St Peter's; do join us.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS The children celebrated First Reconciliations on Saturday. They are now preparing for their First Eucharist on **Sunday 20th May**, Pentecost Sunday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting **this Monday** at the presbytery.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting **this Tuesday** at St Peter's, 7.30pm.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE Meeting **this Tuesday**, usual place, usual bunch.

St PETER'S CHOIR Next rehearsal, Tuesday **13th March**, 8pm.

St PATRICK'S DAY See the notice about an event on **17th March**. Tickets readily available.



CONFIRMATIONS If you are in year 9 or above, and would like to be confirmed in October, please speak to Fr

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 25th FEBRUARY 2018 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ SECOND SUNDAY of LENT (B) ✕			
Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Charles Ryan
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Eric Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 26th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 27th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Eric Nimmo RIP
Wed 28th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 1st March	St David	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 2nd <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i>	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Adriana Bullock RIP
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 3rd	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (B) ✕			
Sun 4th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Ignatius Botelho and family RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Enid Greenrod RIP

Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. Deanery confirmations are in **October**.

PEACE ACTIONS • Family Fast Day (last Friday): *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 right up to **12th May**. ♦ **Social Justice**: From time to time people meet to discuss progress upon issues such as reducing poverty, persecution, conflict, discrimination and environmental degradation - all dear to the heart of the Pope. The next such meeting will be from 2.00 to 4.00pm this **Sunday, 25th February**, at the Area Bishop's house (More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN - near the Catholic Church and school). All are welcome.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for February** – saying “No” to corruption: that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist the lure of corruption.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes**; for those who have died recently especially Rita Kimber and Fr Eric Nimmo; 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.
- **For the people of Syria** as they suffer further catastrophic bombing. We ask that families receive the practical help and support that they need and that decision makers be guided by a sense of urgency and wisdom.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Stanley Brennan, Charles Tipper, Carmel Laylor, Roma Bate, Adrian Bullock, Terry Scuse and Elsie Donlon. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£416.38** (Gift Aided, **£230.60**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes: simply drop them into the collection bag at the offertory.

CAFOD 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>.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM In Bearsted and Thurnham we are marking the centenaries of those from our villages who died in World War One. Wherever possible we meet outside their home on the anniversary of their death and hold a short act of remembrance and lay a wreath. All are invited to join us. ♦ We next meet on **Saturday 24th March** to commemorate and pray for: ✕ **Leslie Watkins**: ✕ 21st March 1918. 3 Ware Street, 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Posted as missing, presumed killed. Commemorated Panel 58 and 59, Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme. ✕ **Frederick Wilkinson**: ✕ 22nd March 1918. 1 Mote Villas, The Green, 2nd also 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Missing, presumed killed. Commemorated IV J 36, Pozieres British Cemetery Ovillers la Boisselle, Somme, France. ✕ **Reginald Allcorn**: ✕ 23rd March 1918. 1 Acacia Villas, Willington Road now 7 Willington Street, 10th (Service) (Kent County) Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Service Number G/10495, Private. Missing, presumed killed, aged 21. Commemorated Bay 7, Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. We will begin at **Noon** outside 1 Mote Villas,

The Green. This is on the east side of The Green to the north of Bearsted House and we will then proceed to the other sites.

Fr JOSEPH Thanks to a donation from Bearsted Choral Society at Christmas we have been able to help Fr Joseph and his African community in Rome to update their music resources. He is so grateful and sends good wishes!