



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

PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD

25th March 2018

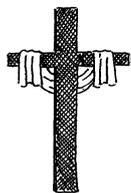
FAITH IN FOCUS: Walking the Walk What are we thinking when we pick up a palm and process into church on Passion Sunday? Perhaps we are wondering how those very clever people weave their palm into a cross. Or perhaps we imagine we are commemorating an historic event. When Jesus rode his donkey into Jerusalem all those centuries ago, he was the centre of attention. Some thought he would be a powerful leader who would lead the people in an uprising against the occupying Romans. Others were just swept along in a sense of pageant. Few had grasped the true significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Jesus had not come merely to overturn the Romans. Jesus' picture was a much more universal one. Jesus' mission was the salvation of the whole world for future generations. How many of us would remember Jesus today if his mission had been simply to lead an uprising against a Roman occupation? Jesus was riding into Jerusalem to meet his destiny. He could have heeded the warnings of his disciples and bypassed Jerusalem altogether. He could have continued his ministry of teaching and healing into old age; but whatever else Jesus was about, he certainly wasn't about compromise. In riding into Jerusalem, Jesus was telling us that his mission to save each and every one of us was more important than life itself.



We can all walk into church waving our palms. We can all commemorate an historical event, but the more discerning of us know that this day is about 'walking the walk'. We are the reason Jesus rode into Jerusalem. On this day we honour him not with palms but with the quality of our lives.

Chapel Bell.

THIS SUNDAY is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Morning Mass at St Peter's **begins in the parish hall** with the blessing of palms and the Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. This is followed by the procession to church for the Mass. ✠ The Chrism Mass on Wednesday **28th March**, 11.30am at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. means that there will be a Service of the Word and Holy Communion at Good Shepherd that day. ✠ **Maunder Thursday Liturgy:** If you are willing and able to take part in the foot washing part of the liturgy please give your name to Deacon Cyril as soon as possible.



THE GREAT WEEK ✠ **Please take a Holy Week poster and display it in a prominent window.**

✠ **Holy Week**, the seven days before Easter, comes as the climax of the 40 days of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday. Those who took the ashes on their foreheads agreed to spend six weeks trying to deepen their relationship with God by prayer, fasting and good works. When the ashes are washed off the commitment remains. Christians are called to a daily conversion. We never fully finish our work of overcoming sin within us. Lent recalls us to our task of becoming the baptized people that we really are, and it comes to an end when we baptize new members into our community at Easter. The **Thursday, Friday and Saturday** which come immediately before Easter are called the **Triduum**, from the Latin word for "three days". It is not really three separate feasts, but more of a "three-day" feast, an extended preparation for the great event of Easter. That's why, wherever possible, Christians try to be present on **each day**, taking up where they left off the day before. It is like the three acts of a single play. In our celebration of these three days which changed the world we use symbols which both remind us of what happened at the first Easter and help us to understand how they affect our lives today. With these symbols we remember, re-enact and recommit ourselves.

FASTING and ABSTINENCE Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are observed as days of fast and abstinence. Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence means that we give up a particular kind of food (usually meat, unless one never eats meat) or drink, or form of amusement.

St FRANCIS' Deanery Penance Service at St Francis', today (**Sunday**) at 4pm (<http://stfrancisparish.org.uk>).

EASTER COFFEE Back yet again (by popular demand): coffee and tea after Mass at Good Shepherd on **Easter Sunday, 1st April**. Many thanks to our organizers!

DIARY for the WEEK BEGINNING 25th MARCH 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **PALM SUNDAY of THE PASSION of THE LORD (B)** ✕

Sun 25th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummy RIP
Mon 26th	Monday of Holy Week	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 27th	Tuesday of Holy Week	10.00am	✕ Mass: Hilda Gibson RIP
Wed 28th	Wednesday of Holy Week	(H) 10.00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 29th	Maundy Thursday	8.00pm	✕ Mass of The Lord's Supper <i>(followed by watching until 11pm)</i>
Fri 30th	Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday) <i>(Day of Fasting and Abstinence)</i>	11.00am	Stations of the Cross, especially for children <i>(followed by Confessions)</i>
		(H) 12noon	Stations of the Cross
		3.00pm	✕ Solemn Liturgy of The Passion of The Lord <i>(followed by Confessions)</i>
Sat 31st	Holy Saturday	<i>5-6.00pm</i>	Confessions

✕ **EASTER SUNDAY of THE RESURRECTION of THE LORD (B)** ✕

Sun 1st April	Saturday	8.30pm	✕ Easter Vigil Mass: David Urch, welfare
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass

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

CONFIRMATIONS If you are in year 9 or above, and would like to be confirmed in October, please speak to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. Deanery confirmations are in **October**.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March** – formation in spiritual discernment: that the Church may appreciate the urgent need for formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and community levels.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for our new Dean, Fr Peter Soper, for all our relatives and friends; and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **For those areas of the world where war and violence are a daily reality.** We remember especially the people of Syria: may reconciliation and peace come to all troubled countries.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Ann Keegan, John McCarthy and Hilda Gibson. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£293.87** (Gift Aided, **£133.50**; 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. ♦ The retiring collection to help with the **cost of flow-ers** for Holy Week and Easter amounted to **£128.00**. ♦ On **Good Friday** there will be a **papal collection for the Holy Places** (see below). ♦ The **Easter Collection** next Sunday is your **personal offering to the priest** (it is not for parish expenses). *Envelopes are available for your convenience.* Along with the Christmas Col-lection this is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. Thank you.

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION In parishes around the world, a **Good Friday** Collection will be taken up to aid Christian parishes and their outreaches in the Holy Land. This initiative has been an annual tradition in the Church since its institution by Blessed Pope Paul VI. According to Paul VI, the collection was created "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities." The unforgettable faces of thousands of children and teens, fleeing violence and persecution in Syria and Iraq, continue to challenge us. The small Christian presence in the Middle East has great need of the support and attention of the entire Church.

MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday **16th June**, 3pm. If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, **please give in your names by the end of April** so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is well received; all are welcome to attend.