



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

Contact us:

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St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

More information:

Parish Website: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Diocesan Website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: www.catholicchurch.org.uk

Prayer: www.life4seekers.co.uk; www.holyspiritinteractive.net

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)



SAINTS PETER and PAUL, APOSTLES

29th June 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: MARTYRS? She's a martyr to her corns, we say. Or perhaps we think that we shouldn't give publicity to terrorists because they'll become martyrs. We use the word martyr in a different way from the way it was thought of in gospel times. For us, martyrdom means suffering, like the woman with her corns. And when we hear of the death of various holy people we call it martyrdom. But in fact the word martyr doesn't necessarily involve suffering or dying. The word martyr means a witness. If you are a martyr to the cause, then you are a good advert for the cause, a good example or a witness to what the cause is all about. In fact, although Sts Peter and Paul were both killed for their faith, they are really martyrs because they both witnessed to it. In an obvious way we can say that dying in order to witness to your faith is the ultimate martyrdom. Yet what's important about Peter and Paul isn't that they died but that they spent their lives passing on the message of Jesus Christ. The ancient Preface prayer for today's feast speaks of "Peter, foremost in professing the faith, and Paul, its outstanding preacher." If we want to emulate the two saints of today's feast then we don't have to seek out death before our time; we have to be martyrs by witnessing and passing on what we have been taught and believe. In fact that's how Christian faith survives. Faith, they say, is not taught but caught. We catch it at our mother's knee, at the feet of good teachers, from the lips of holy people we come to meet in life. It's easy to bypass our job of transmitting the faith by saying that this is the task of others, of clergy and catechists, of teachers and preachers. But the truth is that the only reason why we can celebrate today's feast is because of generations of mothers, fathers, grandparents, uncles and aunts who accepted the responsibility of handing on their faith to their own families and friends. Peter and Paul would be happy to accept praise for their martyrdom, for the way they transmitted their faith, but they'd probably be even happier if they thought we were also joining the martyrs' queue ourselves.



(Author unknown)

PARISH BARBECUE : today. One of the first events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of St Peter's Church, and so we are holding it today, the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul. 🌸 **FLOWER FESTIVAL** St Peter's 30th anniversary flower festival, **26th – 28th September**; more information soon. Next meeting, 16th July.

ASSISTED DYING BILL A message from Archbishop Peter: **Please write to a member of the House of Lords.** The Bill to legalise "assisted dying" - meaning assisted suicide - will be debated in the House of Lords on 18th July. There will be a free vote because it is not government legislation. If passed, this Bill would place vulnerable people at serious risk. Especially if you have direct experience of caring for a dying person, either as a family member or as a health or social care professional, please write before 18th July to a peer to express your views. For more information, including details of how to write to a peer, please visit www.catholicchurch.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill. **It is very important to write as soon as possible and certainly before 18th July.**

DEANERY CONFIRMATION This year's Confirmations are on Sunday **12th October**, probably at St Francis'. Preparations continue **this Sunday** at St Francis' with Mass at 6pm followed by group session. ✨ **Next Sunday:** Enrolment Mass.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 29th JUNE 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **SAINTS PETER AND PAUL** ✕

Sun 29th June	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Veronica Aniemeka and Agnes Adibe RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Frank Wrennal RIP
Mon 30th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 1st July	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 2nd	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 3rd	St Thomas	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 4th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Bernard Clarke RIP
Sat 5th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY (A) ✕			
Sun 6th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Celebrant's Intention
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Margaret Smith RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		2.30pm	Rosary and Benediction

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM Meeting **this Wednesday** in the parish room at St Peter's at 7.30pm.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE BENEDICTION Sunday **6th July**, 2.30pm. Two months to our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes (1st – 5th September), and next Sunday we will hold a **Benediction Service** at St Peter's with prayers for the success of the pilgrimage. This service is not just for those travelling to Lourdes - it is a parish pilgrimage, and those who travel will take your prayers to Lourdes with them on your behalf. So please come along to the Benediction (with tea and cake after!).

BEARSTED CHURCHES: PRAYER VISITING Prayer visitors will be going out on **Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th** and **Wednesday 9th July**; we hope to collect some prayers to be offered the following Sunday.

CHOIR NEWS Rehearsal **Sunday 20th July**, after our 10.30am Mass; sung Mass on **Sunday 27th July**. *All are welcome!*

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for July:** *that sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth; and that the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially Pierre Niebergall, Cyril Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **For the clergy and religious** working in our Archdiocese, that their example may be an encouragement for young people to respond generously to a call to priesthood or religious life.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£415.13** (of which **£269.00** was Gift Aided). ♦ **This weekend** there is a retiring collection for the **Peter's Pence**, our traditional offering to the Holy Father which assists him and the Apostolic See to exercise their service of the Universal Church.



PETER'S PENCE By reason of the bond of unity and charity, the bishops of the Church, with their people, join together to produce those means which the Apostolic See needs to exercise its service of the Universal Church. Originally a tax, paid in England to the Pope from the 8th century, then a levy, collected at midsummer, it was finally taken on by the bishops. Abolished by Henry VIII, its restoration after penal times is seen as a sign of the loyalty and affection in which the papacy has always been held by the English.

THE FRIARS Young Adults' Festival, **today**; Grandparents' Pilgrimage, **12th July**, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pilgrimage, **13th July**. See posters.

DIFFERING NEEDS A day for celebrating the love of God for all, **Sunday 6th July**, 12 - 4pm, Aylesford Priory.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION Following the successful Deanery Consultation Day in February all Extraordinary Ministers are invited to a **Deanery Training Day** on Saturday **13th September** at St Thomas More, West Malling, ME19 6HN, 9.30am – 12noon. More information soon.