



# 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:

**Parish Priest:** Reverend Father Geoffrey Pointer: **01622 736100**, email: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

**Parish Deacon:** Reverend Cyril Durbin: **01622 630055**, email: cyrildurbin@btinternet.com

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)

**Year A**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**6th July 2014**

### **FAITH IN FOCUS: DON'T BE FOOLED**

A pensioner waiting at the bus stop with several heavy bags of shopping noticed a young man whose face was covered in tattoos and whose ears, eyebrows and nose were pierced with rings. When the bus arrived, the man helped her on with her shopping.

When she got off, he did the same before getting back on the bus and continuing on his journey. She commented how ashamed she felt at forming a bad opinion of the man from no evidence other than his looks. And looks, of course, can easily fool us.

No doubt some of the Jews under occupation thought it farcical that their liberator would come riding on a donkey. And when Jesus started talking about being gentle and humble of heart it probably seemed as if he had lost the plot. Yet it was this very gentleness and humility that would win over the hearts and minds of even the hardest sinners. For they recognised that Jesus was not there to create an atmosphere around himself. He had no edge. His words brought an inner calm. He invited them to look into their own hearts and to respond accordingly.

For gentleness is not the same as weakness. Ask any doctor. The gentleness of the surgeon's hands produces the most amazing results. Ask those who follow Gandhi. His peaceable style brought about a cultural and political revolution. Ask conscientious objectors who serve on the front line of battle as medics. They can be powerful witnesses. And humility is not the same as self-deprecation. It means boasting about God rather than ourselves, giving the credit to the true source of all our gifts, the origin of our successes. Being gentle and humble of heart means that we still find ourselves in the thick of things. But what we don't do is to bully others into doing what we want them to do or go around blowing our own trumpet and looking for accolades. Don't be fooled by Christians who are gentle and humble. They are among the most effective of people. But their daily yoke is shared by an unseen helper; and their burdens seem lighter. *(Author unknown)*



**PARISH BARBECUE** By good management, generous donations and willing support we can announce a welcome profit from last Sunday's barbecue of **£195.90** (*safely banked..*). Many thanks to our barbecue-ers, our barbecue queue-ers and all our helpers.

**FLOWER FESTIVAL** St Peter's 30th anniversary festival of flower, **26th – 28th September**. Teresa Poole will be speaking about the festival at all Masses **this weekend**. 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](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill). **It is very important to write as soon as possible and certainly before 18th July.**

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 6th JULY 2014 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ FOURTEENTH SUNDAY ✕			
Sun 6th July	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
Mon 7th	Feria	<b>SORRY - NO MASSES</b>	
Tue 8th	Feria		
Wed 9th	Feria		
Thu 10th	Feria		
Fri 11th	St Benedict		
Sat 12th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY (A) ✕			
Sun 13th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE BENEDICTION** today at 2.30pm at St Peter's with prayers for the success of the pilgrimage to Lourdes (1st – 5th September). 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!).

**DEANERY CONFIRMATION** This year's Confirmations are on Sunday 12th October, probably at St Francis'. Preparations continue **this Sunday** at St Francis' with the enrolment Mass at 6pm.

**BEARSTED CHURCHES: PRAYER VISITING** Prayer visitors will be going out this week on **Monday, Tuesday** and **Wednesday**; we hope to collect some prayers to be offered next 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 and Jean Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.*
- *For vocations: we ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest as we make a humble petition: "Lord, send us more priests".*

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£363.83** (of which **£229.90** was Gift Aided). ♦ The collection for **Peter's Pence** amounted to **£115.56**. ♦ **Next weekend** there is a retiring collection for the **Apostleship of the Sea** (see below).

**SEA SUNDAY** is next week, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church in Great Britain. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. Please give generously to support its important work. If you regularly Gift Aid your offerings please pick up an envelope. For more information visit [www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk).

**THE PILGRIM** This month's edition of the diocesan newspaper is available. Please take a copy.

**THE FRIARS** *Differing Needs*: A day for celebrating the love of God for all, **today**, 12 - 4pm; Grandparents' Pilgrimage, **12th July**, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pilgrimage, **13th July**. See posters.

**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.