



# 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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Diocesan Website:** [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

**The Catholic Church in England and Wales:** [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

**Prayer:** [www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk); [www.holyspiritinteractive.net](http://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**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**3rd August 2014**

### **FAITH IN FOCUS: ALL YOU CAN EAT**

Forget the 5,000. It's not important how many people ate from the five loaves and the two fish that Jesus multiplied. If he'd managed to feed 500 it would have been a miracle, and even 50 would still have been wonderful. It's not the quantity but the quality that's important. There's a very telling sentence at the end of Matthew's gospel story today. He says that when everyone had had enough, there were 12 basketfuls of scraps left over. And that, surely, is the point of the story. Everyone had had enough. They were satisfied and no one was left with that empty feeling in their stomach.



When Jesus preached he was feeding the hearts and minds of his hearers, but unlike other preachers he was able to target the deepest hunger within his audience. He knew what people really longed for out of life and his message was no empty promise, no mere intellectual system to play with, no clever set of rules and regulations. For Jesus told his listeners that he was sent from God and that if they followed his teaching they would know God as their Father and would be empowered to live life to the full in all its glorious promise. It was the quality of Jesus's message that struck people. This was no fast-food preaching. It was gourmet stuff.

Don't get caught up, says Jesus, in things that don't really satisfy when you have the chance to sample the feast of life. Don't waste your money on food and drink that may look good on the outside but which tastes insipid. For Christianity is about the things in life that matter. It's about the way we love and are loved, how we relate to even the most powerless of individuals, the manner in which we respond to the needy, the lonely and the unloved. The 12 basketfuls of scraps were not there because people didn't like the food. They were there because God always gives us much more than we can ever dream of and would dare to ask for. Don't waste your money on what can never satisfy when Jesus offers you the food of eternal life. Yes, all you can eat. *(Author unknown)*

**HIROSHIMA REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** Aylesford Priory, Wednesday **6th August**. For the past 29 years the Kent Justice & Peace Group have organised a commemoration service in the Choir Chapel at Aylesford Priory to mark the anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bombs in 1945. *"Remembering the past, we commit ourselves to the future."* (St John-Paul II, at Hiroshima). Join in prayer as the nuclear stockpile gets no smaller and more nations develop weapons. For information call John Caruana 01634 864179. Starts at 8.20pm with a simple service of prayers and readings, followed by a short walk to the river where flower petals are strewn, and then return to The Priory for refreshments. All most welcome. ✖ **This Monday marks 100 years since Britain declared war.**

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 3rd AUGUST 2014**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (A)** ✕

Sun 3rd August	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Ersilio Ortenzi RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Family Schreiber RIP
Mon 4th	St John Vianney	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: For the Dead of the Great War
Tues 5th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 6th	<b>The Transfiguration of the Lord</b>	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 7th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 8th	St Dominic	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 9th	St Teresa Benedicta	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ <b>NINETEENTH SUNDAY (A)</b> ✕			
Sun 10th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Joyce Otterson RIP

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE** Monday **1st September** to Friday **5th September**. Please pray for a safe journey and for the success of our pilgrimage. We take the thoughts and prayers of all parishioners with us. If you have any intentions that you would like us to deliver at the shrine please let us have them in a sealed envelope and we will make sure they are left at the shrine.

**YOUTH GROUP** starts again **Monday 8th September** from **7-8.30pm** in the Church Hall. Open to young people aged 10-15, older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders; new members welcome!

**FLOWER FESTIVAL** St Peter's 30th anniversary Festival of Flowers, **26th-28th September**. Please sign up if you would like to be involved in any way leading up to and during the three days. ☀ The festival will run from 10am-4pm on the Friday and Saturday and from 12noon-4pm on the Sunday. Entry will be free and refreshments will be available. The church will be decorated with floral displays reflecting the diversity of parish life over the years.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for August:** *that refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights; and that Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all the people of that region.*
- **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 Anna Magee and Christopher Demetriou** married last Friday at St Peter's; may the Lord continue to strengthen them and fill them with his blessing.
- **For all the people affected by the Israel-Gaza conflict:** *for the men, women and children caught up in the violence; for the troops fighting; for the powers that need to find a solution to the differences; God bless them and support them in their suffering and troubles.*
- **For the newly ordained priests of our Archdiocese.** *We ask God to bless them in their ministry and to give them an awareness of our gratitude for their dedication.*

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£509.22** (of which **£367.79** was Gift Aided). ♦ Last Sunday's retiring collection to support Life amounted to **£167.70**.

**DAY of RENEWAL** at Aylesford Priory on Saturday **6th September**. For more information, including itinerary, see the poster on the notice board.

**SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE** invites you to its AGM and commissioning of its new peer ministry team at St Vincent's Centre in Whitstable on Saturday **20th September** starting at 5pm, followed by Mass and a buffet at 6pm. For more information, including RSVP details, see the poster on the notice board.