



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

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

10th August 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: WALKING ON WATER

From time to time God calls each of us to walk on water. Physically, of course, it's impossible, but symbolically it's something we have to do to prove our faith in Jesus. Not that these occasions are simply all in the mind; they are very real and demand that same leap out of the boat and into the water that Peter had to do on Lake Galilee. By walking on water we mean that sometimes things are demanded of us that require a superhuman effort, that seem absolutely impossible by human standards or that just appear to be plain foolhardy or beyond what anyone could ever expect of us. But it is at these moments that we show whether our faith in Jesus is just words or whether, when necessary, we can translate it into action. Walking on water is not always a headline grabbing event. Does the car mechanic have the guts to put his faith first and not ring the vehicles or give false test certificates just to earn a bit more? Does the husband away on business have the strength of character not to get involved with the woman eyeing him up on the other side of the bar? Does the young widowed mother of three have what it takes to carry on doing her best for her children when life seems to keep slapping her in the face? Does the criminal have the moral fibre to admit guilt and accept the consequences of the law? Is your faith strong enough to e poor preaching, indifferent worship or inadequate pastoral care? Do you walk on water in the face of friends and family who mock you for trying to be a Christian in a world that has little time for God?



Fortunately these walking on water incidents don't happen to us every day. But by being faithful in the small things of life we train ourselves for when our faith is tested at its roots. Peter eventually sank beneath the waves, not because of the storm but because he was all-show and little faith. Whatever storms come our way we know that God will never let us drown, but we can be sure that he will give us plenty of opportunity to get our feet wet. *(Author unknown)*

HOLY DAY of OBLIGATION Parishioners are reminded that the Feast of The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary (this Friday) is a holy day of obligation. They are further reminded that the Mass at Good Shepherd, Harrietsham, on that day, and on other such holy days that fall during the week, is now a **Vigil Mass** (the evening before) at **7pm**. ✕ A Novena prayer for the Assumption of Our Lady: *Loving God, you have revealed the beauty of your power by exalting the lowly maiden of Nazareth and making her the Mother of our Saviour. May the prayers of this woman, clothed with the sun and with the moon beneath her feet, bring Jesus to the waiting world and fill the hearts of all with the presence of her Child.*

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. ♦ By now pilgrims should have received their travel documents.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 10th AUGUST 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ NINETEENTH SUNDAY (A) ✕

Sun 10th August	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Joyce Otterson RIP
Mon 11th	St Clare	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 12th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: For peace in Gaza and Iraq
Wed 13th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 14th	St Maximilian Mary Kolbe	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 15th <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	✕ THE ASSUMPTION of THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ✕	(H) 7.00pm (vigil)	✕ Vigil Mass (<i>Thursday</i>)
		10.00am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		8.00pm	✕ Mass
Sat 16th	Feria	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ TWENTIETH SUNDAY (A) ✕			
Sun 17th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

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. ✕ (The Anniversary Mass is **Tuesday 4th November**, 7pm.)

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 Christians and other faith communities in Mosul and elsewhere in Iraq:** *may their faith help them in their suffering and in their search for sanctuary, so that they may receive compassion and care. We remember also the people living in Gaza, and for all those forced to emigrate in order to survive.* (<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Cardinal-on-Iraq>)
- **In this holiday season** for the families of our parish, that whether at home or away they will be united with us in prayer and that God will bless them and keep them safe.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£557.27** (of which **£274.28** was Gift Aided).

CAMPAIGN ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT The Clergy Support Fund Campaign is looking to recruit a Campaign Administration Assistant on a fixed term basis until December 2015. Based in Southwark, this is an administrative job which involves a large amount of data input. IT literacy and attention to detail are the most important attributes. Up to 17½ hours per week – actual days/times to be mutually agreed. Occasional weekend/evening work may also be necessary. Salary: £9.00 - £10.50 per hour depending on experience. Holidays and pension. If you would like to apply for this job please email your CV to sarah.wood@finance-rcdsouthwark.org. Closing date **Friday 29th August 2014**.

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.