



# 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](mailto: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](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**

**TWENT-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**24th August 2014**

**FAITH IN FOCUS UNLOCKING POTENTIAL** Today's scriptures are all about keys. Keys are taken from Shebna and given to Hilkiyah, a sign that God is transferring authority from one man to another, and Peter is promised the keys of the kingdom of heaven by Jesus. Keys, of course, symbolise authority. And when we listen to Jesus' words we are left in no doubt that Peter, and in fact the Church itself, is being invested with an enormous responsibility, that of exercising authority over the things of God on earth. Whatever you decide, says Jesus, will be agreed in heaven too. And the powers of hell will never get the better of you. Our experience of authority is often so negative that we think about it only as people telling others what to do, what not to do, how to behave, where not to go etc. Authority becomes one person exercising control over another, being the boss and giving the orders. But true authority is very different. The word authority comes from a Latin word that is all about growing and increasing (*augere/auctoritas*). If I exercise authority properly then I deal with people in such a way as to help them reach maturity, so that they grow in stature and increase in wisdom or skill. The temptation for the Church is to use its authority to castigate others. History has seen periods in which we have excommunicated those who opposed us, and even today there are those who speak about the moral authority of the Church as if it were some sort of set of beliefs to whip people into shape with. If the Church has the keys of authority, then it is so that the door of salvation may be opened to those who seek it. Our authority should consist in helping people to see that the gospel message is the one sure way to grow humanly, to increase in love and compassion, to mature in wisdom. The keys of authority work much better when instead of closing doors they unlock potential. *(Author unknown)*



**PARISH PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES** 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. **They are reminded that they need to be at St Peter's in time for a 6.45am departure on Monday 1st September;** feel free to stow suitcases at St Peter's the evening before. Pilgrims are further reminded of the need for a passport, a European Health Insurance Card, euros and travel insurance.

**A Novena Prayer** (to be said daily ahead of our departure): O Mary, who appeared to Bernadette in the hollow of the rock, in the cold and shadow of winter, you brought the warmth of a presence, the friendship of a smile, the light and beauty of grace. In the hollow of our

often obscure lives, in the hollow of this world where evil is strong, bring hope, give more trust.

You who said to Bernadette "I am the Immaculate Conception", come to help us sinners. Give us the courage of conversion, the humility of penitence, and the perseverance of praying for sinners, that we are. We confide to you all whom we carry in our heart, and especially the sick and those who have lost hope, you who are "Our Lady of Good Help".

You who guided Bernadette to discover the spring, guide us towards him who is the source of eternal life, who gave us the Holy Spirit that we can dare to say: Our Father...

*Say the novena prayer; recite a decade of the rosary followed by the following invocations:*

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

Saint Bernadette, pray for us!

O Mary, conceived without original sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 24th AUGUST 2014**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY (A) ✕

Sun 24th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: John Kimber RIP
		<b>12noon</b>	<i>Baptisms: Amanze and Thomas</i>
Mon 25th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 26th	Bl. Dominic	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Wed 27th	St Monica	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Fr Michael Gibbons RIP
Thu 28th	St Augustine	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Fri 29th	The Passion of St John Baptist	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Sat 30th	SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY (A) ✕

Sun 31st	<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: Mary Westby RIP
		<b>(H) 1.45pm</b>	<i>Baptism: Imogen Wheeler</i>

**St PETER'S CHURCH ROOF** It is hoped that work to repair the leaks will begin this week

**FLOWER FESTIVAL** St Peter's 30th anniversary Festival of Flowers, **26th–28th September**. ☀ The festival will run from 10am–4pm on the Friday and Saturday and from 12noon–4pm on the Sunday. Entry will be free with refreshments available. The church will be decorated with floral displays reflecting the diversity of parish life over the years. Children are reminded to let us have their drawings of Jesus decorated with paper flowers once they are back off their holidays. There will be an art session after Mass at St Peter's on 14th September. ✕ The 30th Anniversary Mass is **Tuesday 4th November** at 7pm followed by refreshments. Bishop John Hine, our first parish priest, will be celebrating the Mass. We plan to get the carpets cleaned in preparation for the event.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of COMMUNION** The Maidstone Deanery has arranged a training session for all Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. This will take place at St Thomas More Church, West Malling on **Saturday 13th September** from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The programme for the day will be: 9am Coffee; 10 to 12noon group discussion - topics to be discussed will include: roles and responsibilities; Communion Services; taking Communion to the sick (including safeguarding issues); general discussion on distribution of Communion at Mass; 12noon: Celebration of a Communion Service.

**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 Jeanne Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead especially Fr Michael Gibbons; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for Amanze and Thomas being baptized today and for their parents and godparents.
- **For God's loving care** on all those affected by the recent landslide in Japan: may his blessing be on those who have lost loved ones, suffered injury or lost their homes.
- **Conscious that prayer** must be the bedrock of all vocations work, we thank God for all the parishioners who have committed themselves to praying for vocations in our diocese. We remember those attending the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this week.

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£413.44** (of which **£284.64** was Gift Aided).

**GIFT AID £4,620.83** was recently received representing our Gift Aid tax refund for the last financial year. Our thanks to Mark Smith who runs the scheme on behalf of the parish, and to all our parishioners who are in the scheme and use the envelopes or give to the parish through monthly direct debit to enable us to claim back the tax paid. The sum received helps offset our annual insurance bill and diocesan development contribution (a tax from the diocese in all but words) but in no way meets these demands. ☺ Thank you for your generous support!