



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

TWENT-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

31st August 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: HEAVEN PRESERVE

Does your faith cause you any inconvenience? I'm not talking about having to walk to church in the rain, or the fact that the Summer Fair clashes with your golf club's annual outing. But do you actually suffer for your faith? In some countries people are passed over for promotion at work if it is known that they believe in Christ. In other places they are watched closely by the local authorities, and sometimes if they get a bit vociferous about their religious beliefs then they are even killed. That's because authority is only prepared to be challenged up to a point by characters like Jeremiah and Jesus.

Jesus knew that he was going to suffer and probably die for teaching what the Father had told him to say. "Heaven preserve you...this mustn't happen to you," said Peter. It shows how little he had taken in what Jesus was saying. For Jesus said that anyone who follows him must take up their cross daily. We can turn this "take up your cross" business into a nice cosy idea. We can reduce it to being nice to nasty people, helping old ladies across the road and keeping quiet when everyone disagrees with our choice of hymns for the Remembrance Day service. What a cross to bear!

But the fact is that if we keep quiet about our faith, if we consider it a private matter, a choice we have made that is no one else's business, something we don't bring up with the neighbours because we don't want to embarrass them, then we probably won't be troubled with much of a cross. However, if we believe passionately that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the only person who can save the world, and if that belief shines from all our actions and our words, then we're probably heading for a bumpy ride in a society where it is fashionable to pooh-poo religious belief in favour of an enlightened humanism. So the degree to which we take a knock for our faith is probably the degree to which we are seen to be proclaiming it. Heaven preserve us from making a fuss. (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 this 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**. † **Follow our itinerary on the notice board and website** (sadly not on *twitter*..).

FLOWER FESTIVAL St Peter's 30th anniversary Festival of Flowers, **26th–28th September**. ☀ The festival will run from 10am (*Mass on Friday*)–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. *See the notice in the Harrietsham village magazine*. Children are reminded to let us have their drawings of Jesus decorated with paper flowers. 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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 31st AUGUST 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY (A) ✕

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Sun 31st | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Charlotte Hunt, welfare |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: Mary Westby RIP |
| | | (H) 1.45pm | Baptism: Imogen Wheater |
| Mon 1st September | Feria | LOURDES PILGRIMAGE SORRY – NO PARISH MASSES | |
| Tues 2nd | Feria | | |
| Wed 3rd | St Gregory the Great | | |
| Thu 4th | Feria | | |
| Fri 5th | Feria | | |
| Sat 6th | Feria | | |
| ✕ TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (A) ✕ | | | |
| Sun 7th | Saturday | 6.00pm | ✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo |
| | Sunday | (H) 8.45am | ✕ Mass: Ray Smith, welfare |
| | | 10.30am | ✕ Mass: John and Elizabeth Drummey RIP |

St PETER'S CHURCH ROOF Work to repair the leaks is near completion; a lot of silt had accumulated over the years and we hope to keep a regular eye on this in the future. Our thanks to Patrick Flynn and his helper for braving the rain and the heights!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Sessions will begin again next Sunday, 7th September, at St Peter's during the Sunday Mass *Liturgy of the Word* (see rota). This is an opportunity for our younger members to receive a short session delivering them the Gospel of the day at a level they are able to understand through readings, discussion, art and craft, etc. Please come and join in the fun! If any parents feel able and willing to joining the children's liturgy team please could they speak to Angela Dixon or Fr Geoff. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September:** *That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life; and that Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.*
- **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; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends; and for Imogen being baptized this Sunday and for her parents and godparents.
- **For all who suffer because of religious extremism:** *may they know the Lord's peace, freedom from oppression and liberty of mind and heart.*
- **Mindful of the Lord's word** that anyone who wants to be his disciple must pick up his cross and follow him, we pray that those called to priesthood or religious life not hold back through fear of the sacrifices it may entail. May they ever be reminded that the Lord is not outdone in generosity.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£430.43** (of which **£179.56** was Gift Aided).

CONFIRMATION Sessions resume **next Sunday** at St Francis' during and following the 6pm Mass. Please remember the candidates both from our parish and from the deanery. Confirmation Mass, which we always jointly celebrate with West Malling, St Francis and Holy Family parishes, will be on Sunday 12th October at 3pm at St Francis'.

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.