



# 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)

## The EXALTATION of THE HOLY CROSS

14th September 2014

### **FAITH IN FOCUS: THE SMILE**

Human beings are naturally optimistic. We are born with the spark of God's boundless creativity and it takes an awful tragedy or a chronic mental debilitation to rob us of this birthright. And even in the depths of our depression we cling to the hope that things can only get better. Somehow, in the tangled mess that can become our lives, God's smile never changes.

It's this wisp of God within us that allows us to see that what sometimes appears to be nothing more than tragedy can turn itself into triumph. For the darkest moments in history can become the springboard for rebirth, reconstruction and reconciliation.

To the casual observer on Calvary it must have seemed that a troublesome preacher had finally said too much and was paying for it with the loss of his life. Even his close disciples lost heart and wondered why they had given the best part of three years of their lives to his cause. They ran away as he died.

Yet God never stopped smiling. And today's feast continues that smile as we recall that by dying on the cross Christ conquered death itself. By taking the insults and sin of the world upon himself Christ conquered sin. He was victorious not simply because he died, but because he was raised to life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

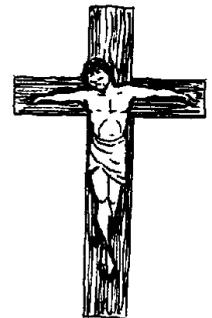
It was a scandal that we nailed God's Son to a tree; it was a triumph that he shared in our pain. It was an outrage that he endured suffering innocently; it was a victory that he learned the depths to which we are tempted to stoop. It was a cause for dismay that pain, sin and death should try to hold him bound; it was a reason for exultation that he should prove the conqueror over evil.

So we continue to look at the cross with mixed emotions. After all it was the gallows of its day. Yet at the same time we boast about the cross because despite humanity's best efforts to place obstacles in the way of God's designs, God proves victorious. The cross reveals God's judgement on this world and the kingship of Christ. That's what the smile's about. *(Author unknown)*

**RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** This **Sunday** the Church in England and Wales celebrates Racial Justice Sunday. It is a day on which all Christians are called earnestly to pray for an end to racism and racial inequality. The theme for 2014 is 'Combating Human Trafficking'. The Church is committed to supporting vulnerable and marginalised people and the Bishops' Conference's Office for Migration Policy takes the lead in our work to address the horrors of this modern-day form of slavery. There is an optional retiring collection in support of this; envelopes are available. Please be generous.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

**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. *Volunteers still needed; please see the attached.* The church will be decorated with floral displays reflecting the diversity of parish life over the years. *See the notices in the various local periodicals.* 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 14th SEPTEMBER 2014**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **The EXALTATION of THE HOLY CROSS** ✕

Sun 14th	<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: Ernest Titchmarsh RIP
Mon 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass
Tues 16th	SS Cornelius and Cyprian	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Celebrant's Intention
Wed 17th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass
Thu 18th	Feria	<b>SORRY: NO MASS</b>	
Fri 19th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: In honour of the Sacred Heart
Sat 20th	St Andrew Kim	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY (A)** ✕

Sun 21st	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Henry and Marjorie Poole RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Terry Connor RIP

**LOURDES REUNION** There will be Benediction followed by tea and slide show at St Peter's on Sunday 19th October at 3pm.

**CHOIR NEWS** Next rehearsals: Sunday **14th September** after our 10.30am Mass; Tuesday **30th September**, 8 - 9pm. Sung Mass, Flower Festival, Sunday **28th September** at 10.30am. Come and have fun and learn some new rounds. Please come and help get our music ready for Flower Festival Sunday and our anniversary Mass on **4th November**. Thank you - all are very welcome!

**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 Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead especially Jeanne Adam; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends.
- **For the religious sisters** working in our diocese, especially those who serve the needs of the sick and the elderly. *May their example of love and service inspire us to give ourselves generously to those in need.*

**Thank you:** the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£470.85** (£301.15 was Gift Aided). ♦ **This Sunday** there is an optional retiring collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice: [cbcew.org.uk/human-trafficking](http://cbcew.org.uk/human-trafficking). ♦ **Next Sunday** is Home Mission Sunday; there will be an optional collection for the Bishops' Conference Home Mission Team.

**CONFIRMATION** Sessions continue **this Sunday** at St Francis' during and following the 6pm Mass: *letters, prayers, names and practicals*. 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 Thomas More, West Malling**.

**WANTED: POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER for BEARSTED** Following the retirement of the current organiser a volunteer is urgently required to ensure that poppies be available in Bearsted this year. Interested persons should contact Jane Ayers, Community Fund Raiser, tel. 01622 793194.

**A LIFELINE for MARRIAGE** Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is not counselling but provides the tools and skills to help you get your marriage back on track. Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels from disillusionment to deep misery. The next programme commences with a residential weekend on **19th-21st September**; email [info@retrouvaille.org.uk](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk); call or text 0797 338 0443 or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk). Confidentiality assured.

**SITE and FACILITIES MANAGER** The Diocese is looking to recruit a Site and Facilities Manager to maintain all the buildings and outdoor space at our St George's Road/Westminster Bridge Road site for the efficient and safe use of staff, residents, parishioners and visitors. The site includes the Cathedral, meeting rooms, diocesan office and residential accommodation. It will also be responsible for the facilities management of events within the site, especially in the Cathedral and Amigo Hall. This is a full time job - 35 hours per week Tuesday to Saturday. Occasional evening or Sunday work will be required for which time off in lieu will be offered. Salary £28,000 - £30,000 per annum depending on experience. Full details and how to apply are on the Diocesan website [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)