



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

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

28th September 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: ONE STRIKE AND YOU'RE OUT?

Over the past few weeks St Matthew, aided and abetted by the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel, has been hammering home one of the most basic points of the Good News. The thrust of his teaching has been that God is so utterly different from us that we cannot reduce him to our petty ways of thinking and acting. For God is kindness itself. And nowhere is this more obvious than in the area of judgement and forgiveness. Our legal and societal codes are loath to give people the benefit of the doubt. Second chances are few and far between.

Lock them up and throw away the key is the order of the day when we find people guilty of transgressing our system of justice.

What Jesus shows is an extraordinary willingness to go the extra mile with those whose lives clearly contradict the mores of the time. And so the gospel pages show him much more at ease with sinners and outcasts than with lawyers and religious leaders. We know what mercy is, but we often forget that God is pure mercy. Our idea of mercy is only a shadow of God's. That is because God so loves us that the last thing he ever wants is for us to be condemned and put outside the bounds of reconciliation. Whereas we feel civilised when we operate a three strikes and you're out system, God only feels civilised when he is still offering a person the chance to change their mind and return to the straight and narrow.

That's why God never gives up on us. God is not lenient with crime and sin, but he is unconditionally lenient with sinners. The arrogance of those in society who would claim to be upright citizens when in their hearts they are only too aware of their own deceit is what angers Jesus. When people recognise their transgressions and genuinely turn to God they are always assured of a welcome. But those who have no time for giving people second chances Jesus calls hypocrites. Those you consider to be the scum of the earth, he says, will make it to heaven before you. (Author unknown)

FLOWER FESTIVAL TODAY!

St Peter's 30th anniversary Festival of Flowers. The festival concludes today (Sunday) at 4pm. Entry is free

with refreshments available. The church has been spectacularly transformed with floral displays reflecting the diversity of parish life over the years. Our



thanks to all the organizers and those who have welcomed our visitors and provided the refreshments. See this week's KM (with any luck!). ✕ 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.

CHURCH WEBSITE Please take the opportunity to look at our parish website. We have included some picture of our recent successful pilgrimage to Lourdes and hope to upload views of this week's flower festival: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk. See **October's Bearsted and Thurnham magazine for a Lourdes write-up.**

ROSARY SUNDAY Next Sunday is Rosary Sunday. The first of four national Mass counts is to be taken. **Collectors, please note.**

MISSIO RED BOXES Please bring in yours so that they can be counted by our promoter.

DAY for WEST KENT CATECHISTS Saturday 4th October at West Malling. See poster.



DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 28th SEPTEMBER 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✧ TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY (A) ✧

Sun 28th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Charles Ubogu RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Caitlin Lynch RIP
Mon 29th	SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels	4.00pm	<i>To receive body of Jeanne Adam</i>
		7.00pm	✧ Mass
Tues 30th	St Jerome	1.30pm	✧ Requiem Mass: Jeanne Adam
Wed 1st Oct.	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass: Cenwein Cannavina
Thu 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	7.00am	✧ Mass
Fri 3rd	Feria - CAFOD Fast Day	10.00am	✧ Mass
Sat 4th	St Francis of Assisi	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✧ TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY (A) ✧

Sun 5th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Cenwein Cannavina
		10.30am	✧ Mass: Henry and Margaret Pinto RIP

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY This Friday's CAFOD Harvest Fast Day appeal is focused on raising funds to enable CAFOD's partners to work with communities living in poverty. This money enables projects which tackle the causes of hunger and provide the means or techniques for families to grow their own food. This Harvest, CAFOD is asking people to make a place at their table so that everyone has enough to eat. We produce enough food every year, yet 870 million people are going hungry because of food being wasted, or more extreme weather making it harder to grow food in many countries. When we leave Mass today, there is a good chance we'll go and eat. For some of us, it might be to share food with family and friends. For others, it will be a quiet meal alone. Either way, it will give us the strength and energy to continue with our lives.

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

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for October:** *That the Lord may grant peace to those parts of the world most battered by war and violence; and that World Mission Day may rekindle in every believer zeal for carrying the Gospel into all the world.*
- **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 Michael Bouchier; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **For the men of our diocese who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood.** We ask God to give them the courage to contact the Vocations Director so that they can meet with other young men and realize that they are not alone.
- **For all those kept as hostages or slaves:** *may they be comforted by God's presence and retain hope that they will be reunited with their loved ones.*

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£443.93 (£262.50** was Gift Aided). ♦ The retiring collection for the Bishops' Conference Home Mission Team brought in **£118.62** ♦ **This Friday** is CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: envelopes are available for your savings which you can put in next week's collection.

CONFIRMATION The Deanery Day in preparation for Confirmation day will be on **Sunday 5th October** at Holy Family, Park Wood. Emily Jones from our parish is to be confirmed. Please remember all the candidates 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.**

CANON LUKE SMITH Canon Luke's induction as parish priest of St Francis' is at 7pm on Friday **17th Oct.**

DIARY DATE for READERS There is to be a deanery day for readers at St Andrew's, Tenterden, on **Saturday 29th November**. It will start at 10.30am and finish at 1.30pm. The day will be lead by Fr David Gibbons, the Director of the Southwark Diocese Centre for Catholic Formation. It is planned as a day of reflection and guidance and whilst it is aimed specifically for parish readers - it is open to everyone.

St FRANCIS' PARISH: caretaker needed, 10 hours a week (Monday – Friday 2 hours per day); contact June in the parish Office: 01622 756217, e-mail stfrancis_parish@yahoo.co.uk.