



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-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

12th October 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: RETURN TO SENDER

To understand the parable about the wedding invitations we have to look back to Jesus' time and then forward to our own day. The parable, about guests who turned down the invitation and about people off the street being welcomed in their place, was an explosive and revolutionary piece of preaching. It angered the chief priests and elders because it was clearly intended to point out that if the Jews refused to believe in Jesus, then their invitation to the kingdom of heaven would be sent elsewhere.



When we come to our own day we can rush in and think that we know what it's all about. Surely we are the people called in off the street who are given that chance of salvation which some of the Jews rejected? Maybe. But don't we run the same risk of being invited and failing to turn up for the wedding ourselves? We could be the original guests! None of the invited guests refused the invitation because they couldn't be bothered. They each had a plausible excuse: the farm needed tending, a pressing business appointment clashed with the date, etc. Our greatest danger is not that we will send the invitation back marked "Return to Sender", but that we will never quite get round to answering it. And as the card stands on our spiritual mantelpiece we will glance at it from time to time and keep telling ourselves that we really must do something about it. Perhaps doing something about it might be going to see that person we know is sick and would love a visit, or curbing our sharp tongue, or stopping being slack at work, or taking the family out for once, or saying those prayers we know we need to, or... Whatever it is, we are unlikely to give God a flat refusal. We are more likely to "mean" to get round to it.

And what about that poor guest who was invited and then thrown out for not having the right wedding clothes? The only garment we are required to put on for the wedding is conversion. To turn up to the feast with no intention of changing our ways will simply get us ejected. Conversion, yes, I "meant" to get round to that too. *(Author unknown)*

PRISONERS' SUNDAY TODAY. *From Pact:* "This is a special Day of Prayer for prisoners and their families. The Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) is a national charity working in 50 prisons and in every diocese in England and Wales. Originally known as the Bourne Trust, named after Cardinal Bourne [RIP 1935], we have been helping prisoners and their families since 1898. Our President is Cardinal Vincent Nichols and our Vice-President is Archbishop Peter Smith. Pact supports prisoners, ex-offenders and their children and families to make a fresh start and helps to reduce the harm caused by imprisonment, particularly for the children and families who are left behind. We would be extremely grateful for your support so that this much needed work can continue. We rely on donations from Church communities to make our work possible..." Pick up a prayer card and donate by visiting: www.prisonadvice.org.uk/donate.

CONFIRMATION Please remember all the candidates from the deanery. Fr Paul Mason, Episcopal Vicar for Kent, will be confirming Emily Jones from our parish, along with other candidates from West Malling and Maidstone parishes, **this afternoon at 3 o'clock at St Thomas More, West Malling.**

YOUTH GROUP Monday **13th October:** swimming. Consent forms needed, please. Drop off and pick up at Leisure Centre Mote Park (reception), 7 - 8.30pm. Please let Erika (Tel 739361) know you are coming, so we know numbers. Thank you. We welcome young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers feel free to join in as young leaders.

MISSIO RED BOXES Please bring in yours so that they can be counted by our promoter (thank you if you have). • There will be a cake stall **next Saturday and Sunday** (World Mission Sunday) at St Peter's in support of Missio.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 12th OCTOBER 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY- EIGHTH SUNDAY (A)** ✕

Sun 12th <i>Prisoners' Sunday</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Robert Poole RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Colin Otterson RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Jacob Watts
		3.00pm	Confirmation Mass at West Malling
Mon 13th	St Edward the Confessor	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Canon Michael Howard RIP
Tues 14th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: In honour of St Anthony
Wed 15th	St Teresa of Jesus [of Avila]	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr George Gerry RIP
Thu 16th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Terence Fleming RIP
Fri 17th	St Ignatius of Antioch	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr David Walford RIP
Sat 18th	St Luke	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY (A)** ✕

Sun 19th <i>World Mission Day</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Gwyneth Birchall RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Nicol Family
		3.00pm	Rosary and Benediction

MASS COUNT Today: the second of four national Mass counts is to be taken. **Collectors, please note.** (Last week there were **41** on Saturday evening; on Sunday morning there were **25** at Harrietsham and **98** at St Peter's.)

CHOIR NEWS Next rehearsals: Tuesday **14th October**, 8 - 9pm; Sunday **19th October** after out 10.30am Mass. Please come and help get our music ready for our anniversary Mass on Tuesday **4th November**. Thank you; all are welcome.

CHURCH WEBSITE Please take the opportunity to look at our parish website. We have included some picture of our recent successful pilgrimage to Lourdes as well as views of last week's flower festival: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk. **See October's Bearsted and Thurnham magazine for a Lourdes write-up.** ♦ **LOURDES RE-UNION:** Benediction and tea, next Sunday, 19th October, 3pm.

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

FLOWER FESTIVAL There will be a get-together for helpers at the **end of the month**. Contributors, watch out for more information coming into your 'inbox'!

30th ANNIVERSARY ✕ The 30th Anniversary Mass is **Tuesday 4th November** at 7pm followed by refreshments. Bishop John Hine, our first parish priest, will celebrate the Mass.

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; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **On this day of prayer for prisoners and their families,** we pray that compassion and understanding may guide the actions of all who are responsible for their care.
- **For all our seminarians** preparing for priestly service in our diocese, that they may persevere in their studies, opening their hearts to God's grace. We ask God's blessing on their families.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£478.15** (**£274.34** was Gift Aided). ♦ Yours savings from the recent CAFOD Harvest Fast Day may be placed in this week's collection. ♦ This Sunday there is a collection for the **Needs of the Diocese** which helps the Archbishop make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the diocese. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for **Missio**, the Church's official charity for overseas mission. Envelopes are available.

ANNUAL DISCOVERING PRIESTHOOD DAY An opportunity to explore a vocation to the priesthood as well as a chance to visit St John's Seminary and meet our seminarians. There will be times of prayer, discussion, relaxation and Mass, Saturday **1st November 2014 at St John's Seminary, Womersley, GU5 0QX, 10am – 5pm** (Lunch and refreshments provided) Open to **Men aged 16 – 50** who want to know more about a vocation to the priesthood. More details from Fr Terry Martin, 07545 576627, vocations@dabnet.org.