



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:

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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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

13th July 2014

Sea Sunday

FAITH IN FOCUS: TIME TO SOW

Sometimes when a person dies young, people say that although they had a short life they nevertheless managed to pack a lifetime into it. What they mean, of course, is that the person lived their life in such a way as to make the most of every opportunity.

Today we are reminded in our scripture readings that God never lets anybody pass through this world without giving them the opportunity to know him and to make the decision to love him in return. His word is efficacious: it does what it sets out to do; it always has an effect. So when we hear the parable of the sower we once again hear God telling us that each day he speaks to us and waits for a response on our part. It would be a pointless exercise for God to create people and then never give them the chance of knowing him. We presume that if someone lived all their life on a desert island and never heard of Jesus, God would use some other way of alerting them to his existence and would judge them according to the way they responded to their limited understanding.

Of course, it's different for us. We have chance after chance to hear the word of God and to know of God's plan for each of us in Jesus Christ. What matters for us is the sort of soil we provide that will either help the word to grow or will smother it. Do we live life on the edge of the path, never really letting the word get a hold? Are we on the rocks of life, where we are so absorbed in getting and having, in making a good impression and having a good time, that our response to God is soon forgotten? Or perhaps we would like to make a better start to things, but the people we are with make this difficult, like the thorns which choke the seed? Wherever we are, we can be sure that God gives us the chance to receive the seed of his word in rich and fruitful soil at some time in our life. But since we don't live for ever, it would be a pity to let the sower pass when we were otherwise engaged.



(Author unknown)

TODAY IS SEA SUNDAY, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. **Today's retiring collection is for The Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)**, the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This annual collection is absolutely vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank you. For more information on the work of AoS please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

FLOWER FESTIVAL St Peter's 30th anniversary festival of flowers, **26th – 28th September**. Next meeting, 16th July.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 13th JULY 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✕ **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY (A)** ✕

Sun 13th July	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass
Mon 14th	Feria	SORRY - NO MASSES	
Tue 15th	St Bonaventure		
Wed 16th	Our Lady of Mount Carmel		
Thu 17th	Feria		
Fri 18th	Feria		
Sat 19th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✕ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY (A) ✕			
Sun 20th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Truda and Joseph Ryans RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Dominick Fanning RIP

ASSISTED DYING BILL A message from Archbishop Peter: **Please write to a member of the House of Lords.** The Bill to legalise “assisted dying” - meaning assisted suicide - will be debated in the House of Lords on 18th July. There will be a free vote because it is not government legislation. If passed, this Bill would place vulnerable people at serious risk. Especially if you have direct experience of caring for a dying person, either as a family member or as a health or social care professional, please write before 18th July to a peer to express your views. For more information, including details of how to write to a peer, please visit www.catholicchurch.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill. **It is very important to write as soon as possible and certainly before 18th July.**

DEANERY CONFIRMATION This year’s Confirmations are on Sunday **12th October**, probably at St Francis’. This weekend the candidates are on retreat at Whitstable.

BEARSTED CHURCHES: PRAYER VISITING- The prayers requested are listed in full on the notice-board.

CHOIR NEWS Rehearsal **Sunday 20th July**, after our 10.30am Mass; sung Mass on **Sunday 27th July**. *All are welcome!*

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for July:** *that sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth; and that the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.*
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially Pierre Niebergall, Cyril and Jean Adam and Barbara Casey; for those recently dead; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **For vocations:** *for all the priests and religious who celebrate a jubilee of ordination or profession this year. We give God thanks for their fidelity and ask the Lord to continue to bless their ministry*

<p>Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was £537.17 (of which £246.50 was Gift Aided). ♦ Today there is a retiring collection for the Apostleship of the Sea (see after 'Faith in Focus' overleaf).</p>
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THE PILGRIM This month’s edition of the diocesan newspaper is available. Please take a copy.

THE FRIARS Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pilgrimage, **today**. See posters.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION Following the successful Deanery Consultation Day in February all Extraordinary Ministers are invited to a **Deanery Training Day** on Saturday **13th September** at St Thomas More, West Malling, ME19 6HN, 9.30am – 12noon. More information soon.