



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME
Day for Life

27th July 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: NONE THE WISER?

There are lots of jokes about the genie in the bottle who offers people three wishes. Whatever the joke, the punch-line is always the same: the people end up squandering their good fortune or getting more than they bargained for.

What made Solomon wise was the fact that he knew his own weaknesses and sought to make himself a better person. He didn't ask for fame or wealth. Knowing that he was young and unskilled in government, he asked God to make him into a really good king for his people.

For wisdom isn't about being worldly wise or streetwise. It's not a question of intelligence or even being a clever person. Wisdom is about looking at yourself and the world and seeing what God sees. And when you look at yourself and see what is missing, it's about doing something to make up the gap.

Jesus knew only too well that people set their priorities in all sorts of different directions. Yet he tells them that if they were really wise they would forget about all the trivialities of life and seek to live in the kingdom of God. To know the importance of this is to possess a pearl of great price. A pearl of such price, he says, that we ought to be prepared to lose everything else in order to possess it.

Some people don't know where to look for this pearl of great price. So their search takes them to Tarot cards and Feng Shui and they end up none the wiser. Others have glimpsed the pearl but were unaware of its value, so they stop going to church because they have to take their children to sport on Sunday mornings. And then there are those who know how valuable a gift lies within their grasp and they struggle daily to possess it. Which are you? *(Author unknown)*



DAY FOR LIFE Today is the day in the Church's year dedicated to celebrating the dignity of life. This year the Church calls upon young people in particular to protect and cherish life from conception to natural death. *This is particularly relevant in the light of the recent debate in parliament on so-called assisted dying.* www.dayforlife.org.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE Pilgrims will already be aware of our timetable: depart from St Peter's on Monday 1st September at 6.45am, arriving at Stansted at 8.30am, Titan Airways Aircraft departs 11am arriving into Lourdes 1.50pm. The coach will arrive at the hotel about 3.30pm. The return is scheduled for Friday 5th September, leaving the hotel just after lunch and arriving back at St Peter's approximately 8pm. 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.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th JULY 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY (A)** ✕
Day for Life

Sun 27th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Jim Nolan RIP
	Sunday	<i>(H)</i> 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Trixie Hall RIP
Mon 28th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tues 29th	St Martha	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr Joseph Aduse Poku, Silver Jubilee of Ordination
Wed 30th	Feria	<i>(H)</i> 10.00am	✕ Mass: James Hamilton RIP
Thu 31st	St Ignatius of Loyola	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 1st August	St Alphonsus Liguori	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 2nd	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (A)** ✕

Sun 3rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	<i>(H)</i> 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Family Schreiber RIP

GOOD SHEPHERD Please have a look around: the carpet has been cleaned; see if you can spot any other small modifications and improvements.

CHOIR NEWS Sung Mass today; next rehearsal **Tuesday 29th July, 8–9pm**. Come and have fun, and learn some new rounds! *All are welcome!*

FLOWER FESTIVAL St Peter's 30th anniversary Festival of Flowers, **26th–28th September**. Please sign up if you would like to be involved in any way leading up to and during the three days. ☀ The festival will run from 10am–4pm on the Friday and Saturday and from 12noon–4pm on the Sunday. Entry will be free and refreshments will be available. The church will be decorated with floral displays reflecting the diversity of parish life over the years.

YOUTH GROUP starts again **Monday 8th September** from **7 – 8.30pm** in the Church Hall. Open to young people aged 10-15, older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders; new members welcome!

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for August:** *that refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights; and that Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all the people of that region.*
- **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 those murdered in the Malaysian aircraft** brought down over Ukraine; those who died in the recent air crash in Taiwan; those who lost their lives as a result of the Air Algeria incident in Mali, and for the victims of the indiscriminate bombing in Gaza, especially the little children.
- **For all those who share in the vocation to married life.** May husbands and wives love and cherish each other as Christ loves the Church, and may they be an example of joy to their families and friends.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£401.00** (of which **£233.20** was Gift Aided). ♦ **Today** there will be a **retiring collection to support Life** (see above). The proceeds of the collection will go to the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY resumes in **September** at the 10.30 Mass at St Peter's. Our thanks and love to Therese Hammond who has been running the programme for the last eight years and is now hanging up her chalk and easel. We welcome Angela Dixon who is stepping into Therese's shoes.

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to Deacon Ian Black from St Francis', ordained to the Permanent Diaconate last Saturday by Bishop John; we keep him and his family in our prayers: may God bless him and us in his ministry.